

City of Sandy
Transit Advisory Committee
The Transit Office
16610 Champion Way
5:30-7:00 p.m. September 21, 2016

NOTES

Present: Heather Michet, Lois Coleman, Joseph Lowe, Roxanne Tolva, Caryn Topliff

Staff Present: Andi Howell, Muna Rustam, Joyce LeDoux, Nancy Enabnit

Neighboring Agencies Present: Margaret McNamara, Mt Hood Express

I. Introductions & Check-in

II. Approval of Agenda –unanimous approval with two additions to the agenda. Nancy requested that discussion about the Plaza (Transit Center) smoking policy be placed on the agenda for discussion and Margaret requested Mt. Hood Express surveys be added to the agenda. Andi stated she would put the smoking ban in the highlights section and the survey in the neighbor updates.

III. Approval of Meeting Notes 6/15/2016 – unanimous approval, no amendments or changes. Andi noted the June minutes discussed our entering the Sandy Mountain Festival Parade. As an update to that SAM won 1st place in the Sandy Mountain Festival Parade Civic Award.

IV. Neighbor Updates

Margaret gave news on MHX. Their regular meeting would be held next week (September 28, 2016 from 1-3 pm @ the Resort at the Mountain). Surveys are the main focus of her efforts right now. She will be strategically placing them in locations (public buildings and businesses) that riders may frequent. Andi asked if there would be a Spanish version. Margaret noted that the survey is available in several different languages upon request as well as an online version. Margaret will spend some time at various locations including the Sandy Community Center to answer any questions people may have about the service. Margaret welcomed any feedback or input to increase the success of the survey. Heather noted that Vista Apartments would be great to include.

V. Grant Updates

Discretionary Grant

The discretionary grant for the shopping shuttle is on hold until some financial details are revised by the state. In the meantime, preparations will be made in hopes that the Sandy

Shopping Shuttle will launch by December 1, 2016, in time for the shopping season. The shuttle bus will be painted Brittney Blue and mirror the look of our larger SAM buses. Nancy also shared that the Senior Center awaited the arrival of their MV1, funded via a grant. She mentioned that as an option for those that might need it in the future in lieu of STAR. Heather asked if there had been a decision made for the City's new branding strategy. Andi shared that they had just received the committee had just received the RFPs from the various vendors. Once a vendor was selected they would move forward with creating the new branding strategy.

Network Improvement Grant

The grant for Network Improvement was awarded! Once the paperwork arrives the process will move forward. This was a joint grant between SAM and MHX to provide a seamless online/onboard service for both employees and riders. It will provide online real-time data on bus location, bike and wheelchair availability, and schedule planning for both SAM and MHX with one website/app. Each bus will be equipped with a tablet, enabling drivers to keep more detailed accurate records of the ridership. The grant total is \$88,000, and the additional purchase costs will be distributed among existing grant funds that allow for preventative maintenance for the buses. A final cost has not been determined yet as we are still in the planning stages. SAM agreed to be the lead on the grant and pick up the necessary matching funds as well as house and maintain the license and software. Andi mentioned that this was a far greater value to everyone that adding Wi-Fi to the buses. Andi added the benefits of the online service included a great website presence and maintenance by the software provider. The onboard service could also provide automatic stop announcements as well as advertise local area events. There would also be the potential for a reader board at the Transit Center. Nancy asked if it could be solar powered and Andi said she would check on that. The general consensus agreed this was a better use of funding at this time.

VI. Highlights

Fare Change/Vote

Caryn asked what the fare change was and Andi responded that we would like to provide free in-town transportation. That would include the Transit Center to 362nd Avenue, the business corridor. While our ridership is strong, it has been steadily declining and now mirrors the typical rural system. The fare change would provide a necessary service to low-income and elderly citizens as well as support the businesses that pay taxes funding a portion of SAM. Lois wanted to know what the loss in revenue would total. Andi stated, based on recent surveys it will be about 4% loss in revenue but the potential increase in ridership is huge. Ridership is important in receiving federal funds which would amount to much more than 4% loss if the ridership continues to decline. In addition, the shopping shuttle would run in-between SAM's regularly scheduled 30 minutes, providing the Sandy community with a 3-hour window of buses running in 15 minute increments, or frequent service to citizens. Heather called for a vote. It was unanimous in favor of eliminating the in-town fare. This will be brought to the City Council meeting on October 3, 2016. With approval, it will go into effect November 1, 2016.

Service Changes/Estacada

In the recent SAM FLAP surveys riders asked for weekend service from/to Estacada. We currently have 5 runs a day Monday-Friday only. A potential schedule change that would modify the times of the runs but maintain 4 round-trip runs Monday-Friday would allow for 4 runs on Saturday or Sunday. A survey of Estacada revealed that it would work for the majority of riders and actually changing the times would benefit many commuter schedules. A brief discussion was held to determine if Saturday or Sunday would be the most beneficial. TriMet currently has service on Saturday but not Sunday. Typically, SAM coordinates its times with TriMet to allow (as much as possible) seamless service expanding beyond the immediate area. However, in this case adding Sunday service would provide a need that is currently unmet by anyone. Lois stated that it would benefit most shoppers/businesses if the runs were on Saturday when people generally frequented stores and businesses. After reviewing the needs of the general population as well as local businesses it was determined Saturday would be the most practical and beneficial. The decision to amend the weekday service to accommodate a Saturday service was unanimous.

Smoking at the Plaza

Nancy (Community Services Director) is currently working on an ordinance to ban smoking in the parks for the health and safety benefits to the community. She requested input from TAC as to whether she should include a ban for the plaza/transit center. Joyce stated that drivers take smoke breaks at the Transit Center and need an area where they can maintain proximity to the bus. Also complete prohibition of smoking would cause people to move across the street where there are no receptacles increasing littering of cigarette butts as well as potentially alienating the surrounding businesses. All shelters have a no smoking rule already in place, including the covered area at the plaza. The proposal was to designate a “smoking area” rather than completely banning it from the area.

VII. Calendar

October-December will be focused on the going fareless in-town and getting the shopping shuttle marketed and active. This would include door-to-door flyers that would be created. Heather also suggested

January-March will be focused on recruiting new TAC members.

VIII. Public Comment - Information

There was no further public comment.

In review of the recent FLAP surveys it was discovered that our ED population was at 19% rather than the 14% previous estimate. This would have a positive impact on funding from the government. More on the surveys after detailed analysis is complete.

Nancy brought up the recent integrated payment program with TriMet and Clark County bus systems. She asked if we could revisit that with TriMet (previous attempts had been rejected as too complicated to integrate). Andi stated that we had already entered a scope of work on the possibility of creating such a system and ODOT was funding the study. Andi will provide updates as they become available

Next Meeting/Adjourn The Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 21, 2016. Adjourn 7 :10 pm