

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 27, 2021

Presiding: Chair Carol Luce

Committee Present: Elizabeth Chapin, Warren Holzem, Nancy Muller, Richard Stanton

Committee Absent: Paul Waterman and Alex Vice

Staff Present: Todd Wood, Jeremy Tanzer, and Heidi Muller

Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Luce called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. via Zoom.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Committee Member Stanton moved to approve the March 25, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Chapin and passed 4-0-1 with Committee Member Muller abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Operations Report: Jeremy Tanzer, MV Dispatch Lead, reported that ridership was steadily increasing both on the fixed route and para transit.

Committee Member Muller asked about the increase in ridership for general public and same day dial-a-ride from the 2020 numbers. Mr. Tanzer said it was due to Covid lockdowns. They should look at 2019 as comparable numbers to 2021.

- B. Bi-Monthly Report: Todd Wood, Transit Director, said they were coming to the end of a biennium and the beginning of a new one. All of the grants had been submitted for the next biennium. None of them had been decreased. Ridership was coming back, however they were still 20,000 riders short from 2019 numbers. A site review for the new transit offices would soon be completed and would go to Council for discussion.
- C. Contractor Update: Mr. Wood said they had to go out for bids in February for the operator contract. First Transit had been chosen as the new contractor. They were currently in the process of transitioning from MV to First Transit. All of the current employees would remain in their jobs except the General Manager. First Transit would be bringing in a Road Supervisor and they would have to fill a few open positions. Costs had gone up by about \$150,000 per year, although all of the

contractors came in at roughly the same ballpark. This was a three year contract with the opportunity to extend for up to three more years.

There was discussion regarding the experience of the new company.

Committee Member Stanton was not in favor of this change. He thought there would be the same problems as there were with MV.

Mr. Wood said they only had three bids and had to choose from those. They followed the procedure to pick the most competitive bid.

- D. City Circulator Discussion: Mr. Wood discussed the potential route and times for the new city circulator. The goal was to begin service on October 4. They had used a program called Remix and drove the possible routes to develop what was proposed. They had also taken into account poverty level, minority population, and business areas as well as the original circulator routes. They tried to keep the running time below 35 minutes and account for driver break and lunch times. He then explained the proposed route streets and stops.

There was discussion regarding coordinating the circulator with the fixed route and schools, access for minorities, spacing for bus stops, stops at stores, elderly walking from the stops, fares, monitoring and making adjustments to the route, Saturday service, and getting the word out to the community.

Mr. Wood noted that the bus would go on Third Avenue, but not directly downtown due to traffic and in the summer people were out on the sidewalks eating. Hope Village and Village on the Locks were not able to have stops due to the timing. He was trying to access as many apartments as possible and major parks. They could also pick up school students.

The Committee was in favor of the proposed route.

CITIZEN INPUT: None

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Luce thought they might need additional meetings to give more input on the circulator. Mr. Wood said they could meet in August if needed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

The next meeting would be held on July 22 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Assisted with Preparation of Minutes – Susan Wood