

Local Advisory Council

Second Meeting: Tuesday, February 5th, 2008, 4:00pm

Location: Padnos Transportation Center, 171 Lincoln Avenue, Holland

Members Present:      x   Mike DeVries              x   Tony Harmer  
                            x   Elizabeth Ferry            \_\_\_\_\_ Lyle Sanders  
                            x   Renea Walkotten          x   Ron Martin  
                            x   Gert Vos

Meeting Agenda:

- NEW: Expanded Fixed Routes: Beginning February 4th, 2008.
- Ridership Numbers: 2007 (Stapled handout) & 2008 Route Schedule/Maps.
- Recent & Pending Upgrades/Improvements.
  - Automatic Door Service to install handicapped-accessible doors at Padnos Transportation Center, schedule pending. Doors mechanized: Main Office, Lobby, and Platform Entrances.

Installation is scheduled to begin on Feb. 13th, 2008.

- Application for Federal/State Grant Funding Opportunity. Areas of need identified:
  - Retrofitting one wheelchair lift to accommodate mobility aids that exceed the dimension/weight ratings of ADA.
  - Building accessible paths to bus stops.\*
  - Operation of Night Owl demand response service from 7pm-6am
    - 7-12am plan by group Pioneer, Disability Network, Max Board, felt to benefit most number of people.

LAC board members agreed that the Night Owl demand response service would be the best option to choose, and would serve the most people. Ron and Gert added it would allow not only workers to get to/from work, but allow folks to attend later-evening events/meetings/activities (church-related or church sponsored classes, civic/city council meetings, movies/dinners, etc.)

Tony wanted to ask again about the status of setting up Sunday or Sunday AM service, if it is being considered.

- MDOT FY09 Demand Response Accessibility Plan Update/Application:
  - Signature, Tony Harmer/LAC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Max Board: Addition of curbside ramps where needed.

- Areas in need identified by LAC:

Did not mention any places off hand in need of ramps. Going forward, LAC would observe/note key places and get back to Max.

- FaithInMotion: Seeking to sponsor/maintain shelters along routes.

LAC said this would be a good program to initiate with Faith In Motion, especially if part of the sponsorship of shelters included the volunteer wintertime removal of snow around shelter vicinity.

CV NOTE: If program of adding shelters moves forward, might be good idea to picture shelters in brochures with a “symbol” of some nature on all fixed route maps.

- Max Board seeking input/criteria to locating new shelters.
  - a. Age, ridership patterns, proximity to multiple routes, key commercial establishments, etc.

LAC mentioned medical facilities as a good place to locate shelters. Also schools were mentioned as a good place to locate shelters for the kids to catch max buses on the fixed route. Larger shopping areas also mentioned, for ease of carrying/waiting with groceries.

Locating a shelter downtown near 8th St. was mentioned. Possible location was near the city restroom across from the bowling alley on Central Ave.

It was cited that in some cases people will walk further to a stop with a shelter rather than wait where there is not one nearby, especially during threatening weather. Locating shelters/minor adjusting of bus stops where two routes cross/intersect would maximize use (Example: East Middle School and Century Lane).

- b. NOTE: Walmart and Barnes & Noble previously identified by LAC. Also, request for shelter at Windscape Apts.
- Mike to contact Katie Driesenga, Gen. Mgr. (928-2495) concerning addition of a shelter and bus stop on property.

Mike has begun contacting Barnes&Noble property management, and will contact Katie to continue effort to add stops/shelters at this site.

- LAC Group Photograph for new Max website. **Completed.**
- Reserve-A-MAX: Currently not available to able-bodied persons with origins and/or destinations within ¼ mile of a fixed route. Concerns/opinions about raising the requirement to ½ mile for able-bodied persons.

LAC did not like the idea of increasing ¼ mile limit to ½ mile. Reasons cited include the cold/wet Michigan climate (vs. a drier/warmer climate where the weather is less of a concern), the safety of younger school age riders having to walk further during the darker early morning/late evening hours of service.

- Open Discussion/Conclusion of Meeting.

A lot of concern was expressed about snow removal at bus stops. For those with limited mobility, the high volumes of snowfall greatly restrict accessibility to stops. Tony offered to spearhead contacting organizations/businesses to keep nearby stops clear of snow, or perhaps local civic groups to sponsor “a mile” of stops to keep clear (Similar to a highway pickup program). The length of South Washington mentioned as a particular area of snow problems with sidewalks and drives not being cleared.

Going forward, asked the LAC to identify any stops that might be moved to a nearby driveway and away from any curbs for better access to drives/sidewalks during snowfall days.

- Next meeting, Tuesday, April 1st, 2008, 4pm.