

Local Advisory Council

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, August 5th, 2008, 4:00pm

Location: Padnos Transportation Center, 171 Lincoln Avenue, Holland MI

Members Present:      Tony Harmer                      Elizabeth Ferry  
                           Lyle Sanders                    Renea Walkotten  
                           Ron Martin                      Gert Vos  
                           Richard Lichti

Meeting Agenda:

- Open discussion/immediate issues.

The conditions of the cushions on some of the bluebirds was mentioned. Some of the buses have “sunken” cushions from overuse in the first row of seats. Is there a way to replace them or add some padding? Checking with operations.

- Mike DeVries, now serving on the MAX Transportation Authority Board.

In September MAX will run a press release in attempts to recruit some additional members to the LAC. Will also run an ad (if available) in the Evergreen Commons publication in an effort to recruit additional seniors members. Renea has announced that she will be leaving the LAC after the close of the year. Thank you, Renea, for your past participation!

- Election of new vice chair.

Richard has volunteered to accept the role as vice chair for the LAC.

- Application for federal/state grant funding submitted.

- Operation of evening Reserve-A-MAX service, 7pm-12am (PENDING).

- Bus stops: Evergreen Commons/State St.

MAX will be relocating a bus shelter to the new Evergreen Commons bus stop along W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, and constructing an accessible sidewalk from the current sidewalk to the curbside. Details are being worked out with City of Holland and Evergreen Commons. Estimated completion date is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Route 7 to 16<sup>th</sup> St. Meijer (+/-:42), Route 1 & 4 transfer stops.

In response to rider inquiries, operations will be asked about the feasibility of running Route 7 into the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Meijer at around :42. A number of riders have cited a lack of shopping availability on Route 7. LAC agreed if the time allowed that this would be very beneficial to Route 7 riders as well as to Meijer patrons looking for a faster route back to the transfer center. Or, a run into Family Fare via US31 for Route 7 was considered.

Also, riders have asked about having Routes 1 & 4 meet at Northside Meijer for transferring, or just having Route 4 go into Meijer since it passes so close.

Route 3 was also under consideration for a run into Family Fare on S. Washington, if time permitted.

- Replacement of (4) MAX vans (Handout).
  - Replacement of general bus fleet. Low-floor model standard.

The LAC agreed the use of low floor buses is very beneficial to all riders whether with chairs, strollers, with grocery carts, and for seniors, and allow for less time boarding/less drivers time away from driving.

LAC approved MAX's plans to pursue the replacement of the four Ford Vans with the Arboc Mobility low-floor bus. Tony cited the "angled" low-floor entrance way on this model as very handy to riders with chairs, whereby they avoid having to make a hard "left" while boarding the bus.

- Grant Awarded - \$10,000 - for Purchase of 2-to-3 Bus Shelters.

East Middle School: Expressed interest for bus shelter. MAX is attempting to work out details. Current shelter has been given to Evergreen Commons, but could be first on the list for a new shelter when/if more requests are available.

- Allendale Township/MAX Transit: Allendale Township exploring running/funding a fixed route for its residents, asked MAX for info.

LAC was explained the meaning of the meeting with Allendale Township, in regard to some confusion over the facts and MAX's supposed planned "expansion" into that community.

- Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) 2008

LAC was explained LEP program update, and briefed on the availability of translation services via telephone language service MAX has adopted.

- Conclusion of Meeting.
- Next meeting, Tuesday, October 7th, 2008, 4pm.