

Local Advisory Council

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008, 4:00pm

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

Members Present: _____ Elizabeth Ferry _____ Lyle Sanders
 x Ron Martin _____ Gert Vos
 _____ Richard Lichti _____ Tony Harmer

Meeting Agenda:

- Open discussion/Immediate issues.

Due to illnesses/absences this month, a more detailed minutes will be mailed to each member for review and is open for comment.

- Annual Report 2008 (Handout).

The 2008 Annual Report was mailed to LAC members. Please note that 15 months of data was used only to compare figures represented in equal timeframes. MAX has changed its fiscal accounting term to match the state/federal government calendars. The 2009 report and all subsequent reports will reflect the 12 months of data for the fiscal accounting year.

- 2008 ridership figures through October.
 - **October: 30,453 rides highest ever!** (Fixed: 19,335 / Reserve: 10,841 / Night Owl: 277)
- Zeeland MAX Service: service renewal by end of 2008.
 - “Deviated” fixed route service being explored.

MAX is evaluating the use of a deviated fixed-route system for the Zeeland city service area. One fixed route bus (Route 8) would be added to the current seven fixed route bus system with a route strictly to serve Zeeland, but this bus would “deviate” or drive away from the fixed route to pick up or drop off riders living or going beyond the ¼ (or perhaps ½ mile) buffer, or to pick up or drop off any of those with ADA and/or Senior credentials regardless of distance.

The deviated pickups and drop offs would have to be reserved the day before, just like the current Reserve-A-MAX system, but riders could catch the fixed route bus stops in Zeeland without reservations, just like how the current fixed route system operates.

- Bus shelter fund / funds for three projects for summer 2009/commitments:
 - APPROVED: CBI/Holland Mission on River Avenue, Holland.
 - Awaiting final approval: East K-8/East Middle School.

- PENDING: James Center.
- PENDING: Waverly Meadows, James Center, city to evaluate, possible line-of-site and utility issues.
- Brochure updates for 2009/minor route changes.

MAX has plans to make minor route changes to the current fixed routes:

- Route 2: Service to 132nd Via Riley St./James St.
- Route 3: Myrtle to Graafschap Road via 32nd St.
- Route 4: Service to Riley St. Meijer.
- Route 6: Hope College, Women's Shelter added.
- Route 7: Service to 16th St. Meijer added.
- Other Misc. changes.

Before the above changes are made, MAX is evaluating whether or not half-hour time windows can be added to the fixed route system.

- 0:30 & 0:60 minute time windows, 4 additional buses for fixed route.
- May require $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ (or $\frac{3}{4}$ mile) service area change.

MAX is exploring the following:

- 1. Keeping the current schedule of fixed route buses as is, running the same hours 6am-7pm.**
- 2. Adding an additional bus to Routes 1, 2, 5, 6, & 7 to run the same routes from 5:30am-6:30pm, Monday-Friday.**
 - a. Route 6 would be shortened to run with one bus making 0:30 minute routes.**
 - b. Route 7 would be lengthened to include a portion of Route 6.**

In a nutshell, the fixed routes would run with 11 total buses (up from 7), with $\frac{1}{2}$ hour service on Routes 1, 2, 5, 6, & 7. Sixty minute service would continue on Routes 3 & 4, which represent the bottom two routes in ridership. Eventually, all routes could be running on 0:30 minutes, including Saturdays, but this would just be a start.

The ability to provide even limited 0:30 minute service may hinge on the ability and willingness of the MAX system/board to increase the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile fixed route requirement to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or more. This could free up enough buses to implement the changes. MAX is still studying data to determine if this is possible.

- Conclusion of Meeting.
- Next meeting, Tuesday, February 3rd, 2009, 4:00pm.