

Local Advisory Council

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7th, 2009, 4:00pm

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

Members Present:	<u> x </u>	Elizabeth Ferry	<u> x </u>	Lisa Scherer
	<u> x </u>	Ron Martin	<u> </u>	Gert Vos
	<u> x </u>	Leigh Ann Bartels	<u> x </u>	Tony Harmer
	<u> x </u>	Eric Heiberg	<u> x </u>	Carol Rickey
	<u> </u>	Sandy Martin		

Meeting Agenda:

- Open discussion/Immediate issues.

LAC overwhelming believes the MAX drivers do a fantastic job and are extremely helpful at all times. However, a pattern of concern has been observed:

Bus driver distractions: Some fixed route drivers have been observed talking with passengers while the bus is in motion, in some cases not responding to the bus stop bell while in conversation. Drivers should not be talking to passengers while the bus is in motion, and passengers should respect this rule. Drivers should relay this rule back to passengers who attempt to distract the driver during the route. LAC thought posting stickers FOR YOUR SAFTEY - DO NOT TALK TO DRIVER WHILE BUS IS MOVING might be needed, whereby drivers can point to sticker should riders attempt to chat.

LAC did not think chatty passengers, whether or not they are riding fixed bus route “around” without getting off should ever become a problem to the drivers provided the drivers are enforcing this rule from the start.

Also, some passengers on Reserve-A-MAX have noticed some drivers going well BELOW the posted speed limits (in clear weather) during their rides, and some drivers have been observed trying to chat too much with passengers during ride.

- New Route 8 – Zeeland began Monday, April 6th.

LAC riders were eager to try the new route, for most once weather improves. Are glad to have option of going to Zeeland now on the fixed route.

- New route brochures are available. (Handout)

Some concern was noted (esp. for Seniors or visually impaired riders) over the use of the smaller font. They were expecting a larger font from the previous issue and thought it could be filled into the blank spaces in the new brochure. Otherwise, they liked the new layouts and schedules very much. LAC was glad to hear about lower printing costs and recycling of older schedules.

- Bus Replacement Plan:

- FY 2009: Five (5) Arboc buses, delivery in 2009.
- FY 2009: Four (4) Gillig buses, delivery in 2010.
- FY 2010: Funding in place for five (5) replacement buses.
- FY 2011: Funding in place for four (4) replacement buses.
- FY 2012: Two (2) buses eligible for replacement.
- FY 2015 & 2016: Four (4) buses eligible for replacement.

Everyone is excited about getting more low floors! Appreciate the speed and ease of use for wheelchair users and those with bags or carriages.

- Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 SDNT Grant Application: _____
 - Service Development & New Technology Program
 - Project Objectives:
 1. Information on Ottawa County transit providers will be compiled into a directory and distributed to social service agencies. These agencies will then use these directories to assist their clients. The directories can also be distributed to the general public through the agencies.
 2. The transit providers will also meet to discuss vehicle and maintenance needs, scheduling and other issues. The possibility of jointly procuring vehicles and/or services will be explored.

LAC was glad to see some coordination being developed between local transportation providers, and gave approval to recommend SDNT development.

- Conclusion of Meeting.
- Next meeting, Tuesday, June 2nd, 2009, 4:00pm.