



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BOARD

May 26, 2015

7:00 p.m.

The George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

AGENDA

1. Approval of the April 28, 2015 Minutes Sharonlee Vogel
2. Announcements John Powell
3. Public CommentsSharonlee Vogel
4. Board Discussion Sharonlee Vogel
5. New BusinessSharonlee Vogel
6. AdjournmentSharonlee Vogel

Future Projected PTB Meetings Dates

- June 23, 2015
- July 28, 2015
- September 22, 2015
- October 27, 2015

For confirmation, please call the Office of Transportation at 410-313-3130.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BOARD MINUTES

May 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair
Ron Hartman, Vice-Chair
Astamay Curtis
Jason Quan
Larry Schoen
Alice Giles

Staff Present: John Powell, Executive Secretary
John Ainsley, Recording Secretary

Absent: Hector Garcia

Approval of the April 28, 2015, Minutes

- The Minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0. Ms. Giles abstained from the vote.
- Ms. Vogel welcomed Ms. Alice Giles to her newly appointed position on the PTB board.

Announcements – (John Powell Office of Transportation)

- The RTA has completed the move to the new Maintenance Facility on Corridor Rd and is fully operational.
- The Board will be invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony when the Facility is officially opened.
- Approval of the Electric Bus Project has been completed by the County Executive’s Office.
 - Mr. Powell will be traveling to California to visit BYD where the electric buses are manufactured.
 - The trip will include a site visit and demonstration of an installed conductive charging unit.
 - It has not been determined where the electrical charging unit will be located at The Columbia Mall.
 - FTA has funded the Electric bus project, but is the intent of OoT to use clean diesel buses for the remainder of the fixed routes.
 - The Sears parking lot has been sold for redevelopment and may require the current bus stops to be relocated in the near future.
 - Mark Thompson will be contacted to request any update regarding the location of the future Transportation Center and bus stop locations at the Columbia Mall.
 - Mr. Powell advised the location of the Transportation Center would likely be on the “ring road” and not be at the center of the Mall.
- The Bridge Columbia Project Study has been completed and released for public review.
 - The County Executive was informed by Senator Mikulski that she is not aware of current funding available for this project at this time.
 - The Administration will be holding a meeting with all interested groups, villages and advocates of the project to discuss where funding could be obtained.
- The RTA Commission board has not met as of this date. Now that the budgets are completed, it is believed that the RTA Commission is on the County Executives priority list.

Public Comments

- There were not public comments.

Board Discussion - (Sharonlee Vogel PTB Chair)

- RTA Service Complaints were the discussion of board members and each made suggestions to address a perceived growing number of complaints even though the call center is receiving a lower number of calls.
 - Ms. Curtis advised that she has heard complaint’s of fixed route buses missing stops and running late. She feels riders may be frustrated and are no longer calling Customer Service.
 - Ms. Curtis suggested the RTA website market “we want your call” concept regarding rider feedback.
 - Ms. Giles suggested we advertise on the buses to receive rider feedback.
 - Mr. Hartman suggested the Board be provided a simple monthly RTA report with basic indicators such as ridership, complaints, etc. to help gauge the proficiency of the operation.

- Mr. Hartman suggested members of the PTB board ride the bus on a quarterly basis to observe the quality of service.
 - Mr. Powell advised that mystery riders have been utilized in the past and OoT would work with the board and come up with a plan.
 - Mr. Quan suggested a rider survey be implemented now that the transition is over and the RTA is completing its first year.
 - Mr. Schoen suggested a survey could be added to the customer service line "Would you take part in a short survey" and to possibly piggyback on "Tell HoCo".
- The PTB Board held the election and voted for the new board positions.
 - The vote was 6-0, electing Ron Hartman to the position of Chair of the PTB.
 - The vote was 6-0 electing Jason Quan as the new Vice Chair of the PTB.

Adjournment - (Sharonlee Vogel)

- Ms. Vogel adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm. The next Public Transportation Board meeting is scheduled for **June 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm.**



6/11/15

John Powell
Executive Secretary

Date



6/11/15

John Ainsley
Recording Secretary

Date