

MINUTES OF GALESBURG PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION (PTAC) MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017  
AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE  
TRANSIT MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Chairman John Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Linda Miller, John Peterson, Amy Rutledge, Patti Smith and Kevin Stone. Also present Ex-Officios: Wayne Carl, Director of Planning and Public Works, Kelli Bennewitz, City Clerk, Kraig McCluskie and Jeanine Beghtol from Galesburg Transit, Dedra Mannon from Handivan, and Julie Main, Associate Planner.

A quorum was present.

Public Comment

Chairman Peterson had everyone introduce themselves.

Kevin Stone moved, seconded by Patti Smith to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting. The minutes were approved.

PT-17-0301 Section 5311 and Downstate Operating Assistance Grant Applications for SFY 2018  
Chairperson Peterson opened the public hearing at 1:02 p.m.

Julie Main said the City applies to the Illinois Department of Transportation for two operating assistance grants. The State fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The first grant is the Federal Section 5311 Operating Assistance Grant which reimburses the City for 50% of the operating deficit (operating expenses less revenues) and 80% of administrative costs. The second grant is the State Downstate Operating Assistance grant, which reimburses the transit system for 65% of total expenses. This year's funding allocation for Section 5311 funds is \$304,335 which is 0% more than last year. The estimated Downstate Operating Assistance Grant allotment is \$2,285,200 which is 10% more than last year and is subject to State approval. It is anticipated that the actual amount of Downstate Operating Assistance will not exceed \$1,251,244. The overall budget is up approximately 2 percent from the previous fiscal year.

The public hearing was closed at 1:05 p.m.

Patti Smith moved, seconded by Amy Rutledge to recommend approval of the Section 5311 and Downstate Operating Assistance Grant Applications to the Galesburg City Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

Items from the Chairperson

Chairman Peterson said the Galesburg City Council approved the Target Bus Transfer location at

their March 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Today is the second day for the new transfer location. Jeannie Beghtol said that transit ridership was up in February compared to January, 11,797 rides versus 11,984 rides.

Amber Connour presented preliminary findings from a transit ridership survey. She surveyed 200 bus riders and 91% responded to the survey. All 91% of the riders want extended hours. Some want the bus to start earlier in the day while others wanted later hours or Sunday service. Most riders wanted Sunday service for shopping/social needs (37%), work/school (26%), church (20%) and other needs (17%). If the bus fare were increased, 87% of those surveyed would not stop riding the bus if the increase was reasonable such as \$.75 for adult fare and \$.50 for student/disabled fare. Over 90% of the respondents rated the bus service as good to excellent. Kraig McCluskie said they will continue the surveys. He will have more results for the next meeting. John Peterson would like 1,000 survey responses. Amber said she plans to go to additional locations to receive more survey results.

Kraig McCluskie said he has developed costs for various service extension alternatives. Any of the alternatives would result in a larger City match to implement. Kraig said his costs did not include the additional hours that would be needed to run the Handivan program.

Dedra Mannon said that there were 1,500 trips in February with 9 evening trips and 1,500 trips in January with 13 evening trips.

John Peterson still wants pricing to add a rolling LED screen on each transit vehicle to have more advertisers. Kraig McCluskie has not looked into those costs.

Bill Morris was asked if there was anything the transit service could do to help the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Bill Morris said that there were 3,100 visitors at their location last year.

Linda Miller moved, seconded by Kevin Stone to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

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Julie R. Main, Associate Planner  
Acting Executive Secretary