

# TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES

---

Date and Time: The Transit Commission met on Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 1:00 P.M. at the Metro Ride Office, 420 Plumer Street, in Wausau

Members Present: Sherry Abitz, Keene Winters, Robert Mielke, Keith Draheim, Txanj Hue Yang, George Peterson and Joan Joss

Members Excused: Daniel Guild

Also Present: Greg Seubert, Mary Foss

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Abitz after noting a quorum was present.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Winters moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2013 meeting. Mielke seconded. The motion carried.

## **Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda**

No comments were made.

## **Financial Report/Budget**

Seubert provided an exhibit prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, which shows the distribution of State and Federal operating assistance for 2013. He explained that Metro Ride is one of 24 entities in a funding tier and funds are distributed to all entities at an even percentage, pursuant to State statute. He noted that the exhibit illustrates why it is so difficult to predict state and federal funding levels each year. Funding levels vary based on the expenses of all other entities in the tier and the availability of state and federal funding and none of those amounts are known at budget time. Seubert indicated that State and Federal funding for 2013 will slightly exceed the amount budgeted.

Seubert presented a revenue and expense summary for the period ending April 30, 2013. He stated that revenues are a bit under budget and expenses are slightly over budget, but increased State/Federal funding makes up the difference at this point. Winters asked how our bus fares compare to other transit systems. Seubert stated that our fares have traditionally been on the low end, but they were raised by 33% in January of 2012. Abitz noted that she has been asked why Metro Ride doesn't increase passenger fares. Seubert stated that transit user fees pay a much higher portion of the overall cost, compared to user fees for other municipal services. Joss stated that she felt it was important to offer rates that are fair for the average rider, keeping in mind that many have low incomes. Seubert stated that he uses an elasticity model called the Simpson Curtain model to predict ridership losses associated with fare increases. The model assumes that for every 3% the fare is raised, 1% of ridership will be lost. The model has been reasonably accurate for previous Metro Ride fare increases. Seubert suggested that after cutting service significantly and raising passenger fares just a year ago, now may not be the time for another fare increase.

Seubert presented a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which is a 5-year capital budget required by both State and Federal DOTs. He explained that projects must be listed in the TIP in order to be eligible for State and Federal funding. Metro Ride projects will be included in a consolidated TIP for the urban area and submitted to the State by the Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Seubert stated that Federal funding has traditionally covered 80% of our capital purchases, but funding availability has declined dramatically in recent years. Some of the projects on the list may need to be funded entirely with local funding.

No Action was taken.

## **Bike Rack Procurement**

Seubert presented a price quote summary for the purchase of bike racks. He stated that there are only two manufacturers of commercial quality transit bike racks – Byk Rak and Sportworks. Quotes were received from both vendors. Seubert stated that the soft steel model quoted by Byk Rak did not meet our minimum specification. He recommended the Sportworks VeloPorter 2 model, because it was the lowest priced. Additionally, the flexible wheel tray material on that model will accommodate larger wheels. The total cost is \$10,865.60.

Winters moved to accept the price quote for the SportWorks VeloPorter 2 bike rack. Peterson seconded. The motion carried.

**Ridership Report**

Seubert provided exhibits detailing system-wide ridership and Route K ridership. No action was taken.

**Transit Director's Report**

Seubert stated that there may be no need for a meeting in July. He has no items in need of action at this time.

NAOMI is sponsoring a transit forum on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for Civic Engagement. All are welcome to attend.

The transit funding proposal previously discussed by the transit commission will be on the City of Wausau Common Council agenda for consideration on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Citizens will have an opportunity to speak for or against the proposal at the meeting.

No action was taken.

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Winters seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abitz, Chairperson

gs