Grand Vision Transit Subcommittee Meeting 9-29-11

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Tom Menzel (BATA), Herb Limcol (Grand Traverse County), James Bruckbauer (MLUI), Connor Miller (Grand Vision), Doug Dornbos (Cherry Capital Cab), Jim Moore (Northern Michigan Disability Network), Bob Carstens (Acme Township Planning Commission), Vance Edwards (Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority)

Agenda:

I. Admin

 Intros

 Transit Agency Updates

II. Transit Committee In Action

 Fixed Route Flyer Distribution

 Bus Stop Signage Improvement

 Transfer Centers – Acme Township

II. Other

James – Rail and bus trip up from Detroit to Traverse City via the Greyhound for the purpose of learning the strengths and weaknesses of the rail and busing system

Herb – I get calls from people who want to know how to get from Detroit to Traverse City not by plane.

James – Northern Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance in having a Transportation event on October 3rd. Benzie Bus opening a Transit station in October near Honor

Bob – Acme Township plan is for a town center that is walkable and has Transit accessibility

Herb – Write a letter of support from the Transit Subcommittee to the Acme Planning Commission giving support for transit in the town center of Acme.

Bob – The Planning Commission wants a town center that is pedestrian friendly. Important to note that the Town Center will be built in phases, the first phase will include building the Meijer.

James – will draft a letter in support of transit incorporation into the Acme town center

Herb – Phase 1 should include transit center accommodations. TART trails should connect to the Acme town center as well

Bob – The Planning Commission would also like the TART trails to connect with the Resort.

James – Will bring up at the Transportation Network meeting giving the groups support for transit as well as multi-modal transportation planned for in the Acme town Center.

**Transit Updates**

Bob – When will BATA’s fixed-routes be determined?

Tom – End of November the plan BATA’s new fixed-routes will be determined. Their plan is dependent on whether or not BATA’s mileage passes in November election.

Tom – There will likely be development of cycle busing routes to increase efficiency

Tom – If the mileage doesn’t pass then plans might change.

James – What is the status of BATA’s work with NMC?

Tom – Have developed a detailed plan based on the Grand Valley model. Unfortunately talks with NMC have stalled. BATA’s plan was put on NMC’s board meeting agenda for September, but it was not discussed. The Action plan going forward after the mileage in November is BATA will be meeting with Tim Nelson to present their plan. The plan consists of 90 hours of service to 5 locations including NMC and Munson

Tom – Need students active and pushing the administration to fix the parking problem. NMC is currently considering a $9 mil parking deck

Tom – With more fixed-routes there would be more park and rides and not parking decks (which would be much cheaper), as people would feed into the system.

Herb – This Subcommittee should write a letter in support for Transit to NMC and make the Transportation Network aware of it as well.

Vance – In Bay City the Parking lot is where all their transportation issues come from, mainly security concerns. Parking decks add cost

Vance – Get on [www.cwta.us](http://www.cwta.us), Cadillac-Wexford Transit Authority’s (CWTA) new website. Check it out Vance would like to get people’s opinions on it.

Vance – CTWA has 36 months before their next mileage

Vance – Senate Bill 34 could take funding away from Transit

James – Got calls from locations to have fixed-route flyers delivered to them.

James – Wants to start a bus stop subcommittee (maybe better defined as a Task Force) of a couple people to talk about a community-based process for improving bus stops. For example, guidelines for what makes a good bus stop. Current likely members: Jim Moore, James Bruckbauer, Tom Emling, others?

Vance – We should get law enforcement involved. Someone who knows traffic counts as well

Herb – get a riders point of view on the bus stop task force/subcommittee

James – Tiger grant available for communities with shovel ready projects. This Transit Subcommittee should encourage organizations to have a transportation plan for the region to help get funding for projects.

Tom – BATA is working on a transportation plan and intends to include Benzie Bus in on this plan.

Herb – Traverse City, Garfield and one other Grand Traverse locality have components that make them eligible for Next Michigan (Economic development funding which includes Transportation) funding.

Vance – Coming from experience is important to have a lot of partners signed on to grants to help leverage funding, which can be done through the Grand Vision

Bob – the benefit of the Grand Vision is that we have a plan and the connection among organizations, which helps leverage funding

Herb – What should the take away from the October 3rd Transportation event be?

Vance – We can show that we are working together and collaborating