Portland Disability Advisory Committee
December 2, 2015
11 am – Noon
Room 24 Portland City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michelle Ames, Nicholas Smith, Michael Russell, Karen McPhee, Karen Perry, Bud Buzzell, Leslie Kerr, Roseanne Gray, and Jill Johanning.

Guests: Greg Jordan, and Glen Fenton Portland METRO

1. METRO Update

1. Bus computer system improvements for automated stop announcements coming 2017 or 2018, and will be funded with grant money; in mean time working with drivers for communicating stop announcements. Announcements will also be audible from exterior for people waiting at bus stops to know which route is at stop.

2. METRO communication card example shared by Michelle with pictorial images for bus drivers to have on busses and for riders to have own copy of (see attached).

3. There are separate signals on METRO buses for people in the wheelchair seating area to indicate that someone with a disability is going to get off.

4. METRO did a training review of tie down securement this spring with operators, reviewed policies on securement areas to move people when a mobility device is needed.

5. Walker/rollator securement concern was reviewed again by METRO for riders to hold onto it while seated, and to not block the aisle.

6. Compliments can be called in just like complaints; riders can use website or Facebook, all go back to same people, and just need the bus route number and the time of day.

7. What is available for people without smart phones? Busy stops will get electronic signs to announce arrival information. METRO is considering having schedules at all bus stops, the committee recommended that printed schedules at every stop would be a top priority.

8. Leslie offered to assist METRO for implementing more access on Metro.

9. Mayor makes recommendation and city council approves appointed members to METRO Board, PDAC still waiting on confirmation of a member to board.

10. Adopt a Stop Robert Wagner is volunteer coordinator for the bus stop snow removal program, but METRO thinks that there are only a dozen stops adopted by volunteers out of 450 stops in just Portland.
    a. Mike can reach out to Robert Wagner and offer PDAC's assistance with recruiting additional volunteers.
    b. The West End Neighborhood Association is thinking about taking on stops in their neighborhood.
    c. Priorities would be for stops off of sidewalk plowing routes.

11. Snow removal is a big priority for METRO, and 2015 winter was first winter that METRO shoveled stops. METRO has since met with Jon Jennings to have the public works department clear as many stops as possible and working on the most efficient approach to clear bus stops, with the intent to clear more stops this winter.
    a. METRO shelters around mall get cleared, and focus will be on clearing smaller stops around the city.

12. METRO rarely shuts down during storms; however they did once last winter during January blizzard. When METRO did stop running during the blizzard the announcement was made on media, their website, and at major stops trying to give ample notice to make sure people can get home.

13. The 2014 idea for free METRO ride on Election Day, and the location of bus stops to polling places in the City was presented again. METRO representatives like the free ride idea and will review with others at METRO. Awareness and education will be needed over the year to help educate public about access to voting using METRO.

14. METRO would like the committee to help collaborate on future training with bus operators.

1. **Parking Committee – No Update**
2. **Livability Survey – No Update**
3. **Snow Removal – No Update**
4. **Other business – No Update**

Announcements:

Cancelling meeting for January
Next meeting February

Attached: DRM METRO Communication Card
Follow-up from November 4, 2015 Chart

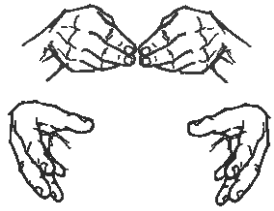
Metro Bus Communication Card

DISABILITY RIGHTS MAINE

Please

Thank you

Sorry



Lost

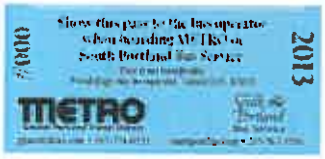
Pull stop

Bus Stop

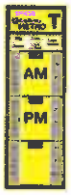
Seat

Seat belt

Money



Bus pass



Transfer

Wheelchair

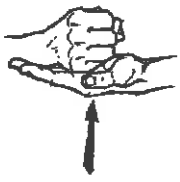
Wheelchair tie down

Walker

Emergency

Sick

Bother



Help

Monument Square Bus Stop – Congress Street, near Library

Metro Pulse *Downtown Transportation Center, Elm Street, across from Library*

Portland Jet Port

Maine Mall

MMC Hospital, Bramhall Street

Mercy Hospital – State Street

Mercy by the Fore

State office building – DHHS and DOL Career Center, Jetport Blvd