

Transcript

Worcester, MA

November 5, 2007 @ 12:00PM

Foundation Room

Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Business Empowerment Center

Public Hearing
Martin Luther King Center
12:00 PM
Richard Glavin, WRTA Presiding
Jim Parker, RTA
John Carney, RTA

Q= Question
A= Answer
S= Statement

Richard Lagoeux

- Q:** Is it true that for years there has only been cutbacks and in 5 years there will be no bus service.?
- A:** Without further funding
- Q:** Can we get more funding?
- A:** The Administrator is at the Statehouse as we speak seeking help from your legislators.
- Q:** Is Pioneer Valley having the same problem?
- A:** Yes
- S:** I couldn't take night classes at Quinsigamond College
- Q:** If they cut back would it not mean less passengers?
- A:** Yes
- Q:** Elder Shopper would be eliminated?
- A:** Yes

Beverly Bemis

- S:** There are people with a job, how are they going to get home. Jobs don't pay as well, cannot afford a car.
- Q:** Is it their problem?
- A:** We would look at everything if the funding was made available.
- S:** Weekend service affects job as well.

Connie Trombley, Colony Homes

- Q:** What can we do to keep Elder Shopper going?
- A:** One of the questions we have heard at the hearings
- S:** We will be providing a petition.

Sally Swift, Community Enterprise

- S:** Our clients need service and current service hours to maintain jobs
- S:** Elimination of Holiday Service would affect employees who have to work on holidays

Jamie Haber

- Q:** How does funding work with state? Can we solicit private funding?
- A:** Yes

- S:** Have used bus for 5 years but still do not know how to get other places.
- A:** We are looking at systems like Google to enhance our information on the Internet.

Bill Coleman

- S:** Are you looking at going green due to the price of gas. Mass demand for buses; marketing should be a key. This should be a great opportunity for expansion. When there was a trolley system we could get anywhere. We should go to our state delegation and see if they will make a commitment.
- A:** Can't speak for all RTA's, but Steve O'Neil is in Boston as we speak.
- Q:** How much of our funding comes from state and federal grants?
- S:** The cut is huge. Is there an incentive to go green. People want guarantee that they can get to and from their destinations. We should have free transportation. I have talked to foundations about paying for a bus and then could we give free fares.

Theresa Kelly

- Q:** Is the WRTA based on grants?
- A:** No, the funding formula was explained. We also have some grants, JARC
- Q:** I have a problem when we spend money on Union Station
- A:** WRTA just a conduit for FTA on Commuter Rail funding
- Q:** I do not understand Commuter Rail Funding.
- Q:** In 2004 I went to another meeting such as this and they cut service.
- S:** Loss of jobs due to the budget cuts if people cannot get around the city they will not stay.

Stephanie Katz

- S:** There is a whole city of people who could use the system if they were educated in its use. I wasn't able to understand bus system. You should have a map showing all stops. Some people are just frustrated. Would hope that anyone involved in running this transportation system would spend a week using the transportation system. We need a model for the transportation system. The system does not provide service required by the people.

Kathryn Kerns

- S:** You are eliminated stops at colleges and you want college kids to use the system.
- S:** Cannot understand why cutting services on Shrewsbury Street. If you add service how long will it take?

Dan Habs?

Q When did we do last survey?

A FTA Triennial

Dorothea Simmons

1. Having system maps available
2. Impossible to know when bus stops
3. Have input on ongoing basis
4. People have to get to school and work cannot make connections
5. Get feedback from customers
6. People have to get to rehab
7. Strike lost customers

A: City has been responsible for bus stops; we are taking over. In the process of signing a contract to replace signs and poles.

S: Have a Google site where we can get more information

Lucy Kontac

Q Elder shopping may be streamlined

A: Yes it could be streamlined

Jo Hart

1. I was unable to go to the Clinton meeting. After the strike you now have to take the bus out of Walmart. Since that time there has been a world class museum we can not go to.
2. Holden has a great library also they have a wonderful celebration on Tolban? Day.
3. You can readjust the schedules but do not deny us to be able to go somewhere
4. Don't cut off access to major destinations
5. Simply don't do it. Wait until July.

Richard Laquere

Q: Are you going to postpone?

Sally Swift?

Q: Ho do we contact schools?

A: Through the consortium

Jo Hart

S: Outreach there was no community. Solomon Pond shopping center. Changes to schedule for no reason. People give up.

Adjourned at 1:35pm.

John F. Carney

