

Friday, September 5, 2008

MEETING NOTES

In attendance: CAB members Brad Chase, Marty Golob, Carol Johnson, John McGovern, Vince Reddy, Mary Vada Reese, and George Zeller; RTA staff members Erica Arnold and, for most of the meeting, Beth Long; and visitor and regular attendee Ron Jackson

- **Farewell to Rip:** Rip Ruhlman's dependable and active participation in VAC activities during the past several years was made note of at the beginning of the meeting. We will miss him.
- **Presentation on schedule-posting graphics for the TWE program (Beth Long):** Beth presented on a proposed schedule-posting pilot project that will be rolled out within the next few months. RTA is planning to post Mobius Grey-designed vinyl posters on shelter walls in a few test locations. The posters will have full schedule information and route maps for routes served by the shelters; the vinyl will be durable and designed for relatively easy removal. RTA will contract out maintenance of the poster system.

CAB members were strongly in support of this initiative and had much commentary, including wondering whether it would be better to simply list times of service and approximate frequencies (RTA prefers the full schedule and that seemed to be the prevailing view at the VAC meeting), suggesting ways to make the posters more readable, adding a 24-hr.-svc. indicator of some kind to the all-night lines, adding surrounding-area map information, including fare information, and assuring that riders were kept aware of changes to schedules, such as by the use of yellow stickers that would alert riders that a specific schedule had changed and that a new schedule would be posted soon. There was also discussion about how coordinating stop numbers to information would be helpful. This may require a software upgrade; stop numbers are not static at the present time and change when schedules change.

The pilot project will take place at a few key bus stops, including Market Square and probably the end of the Blue Line.

In other TWE news, RTA has received 12 applications for grants to assist with community participation in the TWE program. Four grants will be awarded.

- **Discussion of VAC priorities (draft of priority list was circulated before meeting):** A discussion of VAC priorities took place; the following list of priorities was drafted to guide the discussion (some of the items listed would be high priorities, while others would be less pressing, and some are more statements of intent rather than calls for specific activities):
 - Recycling
 - Support of multimodality, especially in terms of accommodating bikes, both at transit stations and centers and on transit vehicles
 - Support the work of the ADA committee
 - Build capacity for citizen input into and advocacy of transit funding and other transit-related issues

- Build capacity to advocate for transit in state and local government
- Support RTA in continuing to provide as much useful information as it reasonably can to riders and potential riders
- Support the TWE program
- Work with staff to identify service priorities and problem areas
- Establish contact with other citizens' groups and entities with roles and interests similar to ours
- Maintain a good working relationship with the Board of Trustees
- Maintain a cooperative and productive relationship with RTA staff
- At the meeting, coordination of transfers and connections and RTA finances were brought forth as logical items for the list.

The list has yet to be finalized. VAC members will be asked to take responsibilities for specific items on the list. Brad Chase is the lead on recycling, and Ron Jackson, who has applied for CAB membership, stated that he'd be interested in taking the lead on supporting the work of the ADA committee and working with staff to identify service priorities and problem areas.

In regard to recycling, Brad told about a city pilot program that we could support and about the possibility of cooperating with a recycling program that University Circle, Inc., may initiate.

- **CAB vacancies:** The desirability of filling the four openings on the CAB was discussed. The CAB has two new members, John McGovern and Johnny Brewington. Four additional slots—two appointed and two slated—remain. It was recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Carol Johnson volunteered to serve on the committee. Ron Jackson asked why he had not been appointed to the CAB. His application will be included in those being reviewed by the ad hoc committee and, ultimately, the Board of Trustees.
- A discussion on forming a 'Friends of RTA' or transit-supportive nonprofit group, listed on the agenda, did not take place.
- Adjourned at 10 a.m.

The next meeting of the VAC, which, based on the CAB's new operating guidelines will operated under the new name of **Transit Improvement Advisory (TIA) Committee**, will take place on Friday, October 3rd, at 8:30 a.m.