



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BOARD

ALD. ROBERT BAUMAN, CHAIR
ELIZABETH NICOLS, VICE-CHAIR

*John Doherty, David Jasenski, Sandra Kellner, Don Natzke,
Abdulkadir Omar, Jeffrey Polenske, Terry Radtke and Mariano
Schifalacqua*

*Staff Assistant: Joanna Polanco, 286-2366, Fax: 286-3456,
jpolan@milwaukee.gov
Legislative Liaison: Richard Withers, 286-8532,
rwith@milwaukee.gov*

Friday, August 10, 2012

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Nicols, Bauman, Kellner, Doherty, Loughran (Polenske), Schifalacqua, Radtke

Excused: Omar, Natzke

Also in attendance:

Richard Withers, Legislative Reference Bureau

Mark Rausch, Clear Channel Outdoor

1. Roll call and approval of previous meeting minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.

2. Communication from Milwaukee Downtown Business Improvement District, Yellow Cab Co-Op, Shuttle Services, Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Public Works-Infrastructure, Transit Express, Legislative Reference Bureau and Clear Channel Outdoor related to Public Transportation.

Ald. Bauman said that the committee was going to get information from MCTS, but there is a delay in the information regarding the ridership on Metro Express. Ms. Kellner said that after MCTS has the chance to present information to the County Board an update will be given to the committee. She did say that ridership is about what was expected.

Regarding the bus shelters, Clear Channel Outdoor has now reset 27 shelters that are either on city streetlight or BID circuitry. There are four private power shelters that have been set up. Out of the four private power shelters, one is illuminated. Out of the 27 shelters, there were about four or five that were illuminated. Mr. Rausch

said that he has been in contact with the City Engineer and DPW has sent out two people to review the electrical connections from the city's side both on the streetlight and the BID circuitry. He added that Clear Channel has reached out to all the BIDs that still have utility agreements. Clear Channel is going back to amend each one of those utility agreements so they can be activated.

Out of the 31 bus shelters that were originally lit that were on the city streetlight or BID circuitry, 27 have been reset by Clear Channel Outdoor. Three of them have been removed due to development at the sites and one is on the near south side and needs to be reset. Mr. Rausch said that 14 were on private power and four of them had been reset, so there are ten more private power and two private connections to WEBCO through meters. All the original footprints would be reset on a Clear Channel Outdoor side of the connection.

Ald. Bauman asked for an update on the Valet Parking Ordinance. Mr. Withers presented a City Attorney opinion regarding the ordinance (please see the attachment "CAO Opinion RE: Valet-Only Parking Zones" to Council file 111433). He said that the opinion advises that the spaces that are set aside for valet parking should be treated the same way as loading zones, meaning made available to anyone in the public when they are set aside and made non-parking. The time frame would be late evening on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Mr. Withers added that there will need to be a discussion of moving ahead on an ordinance provision to add the spaces to parking controls. It also needs to be decided if the creation of these spaces should be a pilot program and whether each of the areas that might be set aside for valet parking should come separately before the council or included in the parking control ordinance. He added that businesses seem to be willing to cooperate. However, the designations of the sites and the numbers will need some negotiating.

Ald. Bauman asked if the businesses would simply apply for a loading zone. Mr. Withers said that that is one option; DPW could also simply make a designation on the street in cooperation with the police department based on traffic patterns. However, Mr. Withers said that there is some reluctance on the part of businesses to say that they want a spot in front of their locations. Ms. Nicols asked if the reluctance is the result of the cost involved or the removal of potential patron parking. Mr. Withers said that the businesses are wary of removing a parking space in front of their establishments. Ms. Nicols asked if the valet company could be responsible for applying for a loading zone with the approval of the adjacent property owner. Mr. Withers said that that option had not been explored, but it is a possibility. He added that there is not a process yet for officially recognizing valet companies. However, services that provide valet parking include businesses that have premises and it is possible that the City could work it out. The business would then be a necessary agent and part of the process. Ms. Nicols said that option gives the City some recognition of who is operating that business at that location. Mr. Withers said that it would also provide more support for putting up signs that say "valet parking", even though the space would technically be a loading zone.

Ald. Bauman asked for Mr. Withers' recommendation on how to move forward. Mr. Withers recommended that an ordinance, or at least a title, be drafted in September. He said that the primary issues that will need to be discussed will involve the police as well, so they should be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Withers said that there has also been a lot of discussion on the parking of food trucks and food vendors. He said that food trucks are currently treated as being parked vehicles. He said that the opinion of the City Attorney will have an effect on any attempts, through ordinance, to establish any specific areas for food vendors.

The trucks are currently treated as parked vehicles. Informal arrangements have been made with food vendors in order to avoid some of the issues that have come up. Ms. Nicols said that an exception to the food trucks being treated as parked vehicles is the designation of a special event, which is currently happening on Fridays at Red Arrow Park. Meters in that area are hooded so the trucks are not in violation of the parking regulations. She added that there have been ongoing meetings with DPW with food truck operators and with brick and mortar restaurant owners. There is an effort to provide a nurturing environment for food truck vendors while considering the concerns of the brick and mortar restaurants about the food trucks potentially infringing upon their businesses.

Ald. Bauman asked if a separate licensing, besides the food dealer license, has been considered for food truck operators since a vehicle could be licensed for a particular purpose. Mr. Withers said that the City can regulate the vehicles as part of a business regulation, but not as a traffic regulation. Ms. Nicols said that there is a push towards creating a licensing process that encompasses food sales and the sales of other items, since there are now trucks have been selling things other than food, such as handbags. There is an effort to create a license to regulate sales from trucks aside from the license issued by the License Division. Mr. Loughran added that DPW has been issuing Special Event permits so that parking can be reserved on Fridays for vendors at Red Arrow Park. Ms. Nicols said that a DPW representative should come to the next meeting to discuss those efforts.

Ald. Bauman asked what restrictions on food trucks are being established in other cities. Mr. Withers said that in Chicago, there are restrictions dealing with the distance of the trucks from brick and mortar restaurants. The City Attorney has informally suggested that the Milwaukee may not be able to establish such restrictions due to issues of favoritism and commercial competition, but it could be explored. He added that there are various regulations in other cities, some of them health-based and some public safety- and transportation-based. Mr. Withers said that a more detailed analysis can be provided by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Ald. Bauman asked about a timeline for getting proposals in place. Mr. Withers said that there was initially some intent to have something in place by the Summer, but there was an effort to see if special permits and other more informal arrangements would work before moving forward.

Mr. Withers said that the Council adopted a resolution on the Bikeshare Program. It calls for a report back in November with any recommendations with regard to ordinance changes or resolutions that might be needed to facilitate the establishment of a Bikeshare system that is largely coordinated by the non-profit that made a presentation to the Public Works Committee. Mr. Withers presented a Chicago Tribune article regarding the Chicago bike rental program, which is more city-sponsored and organized. (Please see the attachment "Chicago Bike Rental Program Pushed Back" to Council file 111433). The implementation of the program there will be put off until next Spring. Mr. Withers added that New York City continues to hold off on implementation of its program, although it may actually start the operation of its system in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Withers said that he will see if there are any preliminary updates that may be brought to the board's attention in September. At that time, if the local organizations have not made significant progress, it may take another year to implement the program.

For the next meeting:

Ms. Nicols asked for an update on the Downtown Streetcar from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Loughran mentioned the opening of Wisconsin Avenue due to the completion of work on the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge.

Ald. Bauman asked for an update on the installation of proposed bus shelters on Wisconsin Avenue in the Downtown Streetscape Project. A property owner protested the installation of a bus shelter in front of her property, and one was never installed. Ald. Bauman said that there should be an original plan that detailed where things would go in terms of things like planters and shelters. He said that some shelters were omitted for various reasons.

Ms. Nicols asked for an update on taxicab stands on Water Street. The police department was to report back on how that issue is working. Captain Steven Basting (MPD District 1) should appear at a meeting to update the board.

Ald. Bauman asked about the development of 3-Day passes. Ms. Kellner said that MCTS is in the planning and transition phase right now, but is looking at 2013-14. Ald. Bauman asked if there is a vendor under contract. Ms. Kellner said that a vendor is contract and MCTS has started designing.

Mr. Doherty said that the legal opinion regarding food trucks mentions restricting the use of certain types of vehicles and he asked how it relates to restricting the access to Water Street by limousines and taxis. Ald. Bauman said that the legal opinion has been hotly contested and is considered to be very conservative. He gave the example of an East Side neighborhood that has preferential parking permits. The State insists that statutory changes are not needed at the state level for that kind of program, even though the City Attorney's Office disagrees. Ald. Bauman said that the opinion is not applicable currently.

Mr. Doherty said that in most major cities, there are mobile device applications that allow one to call for a car service, and non-licensed vehicles are being used for the service. He said that the practice is not in Milwaukee yet, but the City should be prepared for it in the future. He added that the service will only serve individuals that have an account with them and they won't serve certain people based on factors such as lack of credit cards and geographic area. A fee is charged in addition to what the normal cost would be. Mr. Doherty added that cities have tried to restrict the service, but it is very difficult. The City of Milwaukee will have to prepare to do aggressive enforcement of city ordinances. Ald. Bauman asked Mr. Doherty to provide more information on it.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.
Staff Assistant Tobie Black**