

**COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SERVICES
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
Pine Conference Room
November 17, 2011**

A meeting of the **Subcommittee on Public Services** for the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened by Chairman Ron Aames in open and public session at 8401 West Monroe, Peoria, Arizona, on October 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Ron Aames, Councilmember Dave Pearson, and Councilmember Carlo Leone

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Carl Swenson, City Manager; Susan Thorpe, Deputy City Manager; Bill Mattingly, Public Works Director; Maher Hazine, Deputy Public Works Director; Dave Moody, Transportation Coordinator; Brenda Urias, Executive Assistant; Steve Burg, Chief Assistant City Attorney; and Terri Smith, City Council Assistant.

Audience: Approximately nine

NOTE: The order in which items appear in the minutes is not necessarily the order in which they were discussed in the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS:

2R DIAL A RIDE REVIEW

Staff reported on the current Dial A Ride service level and fee structure. Discussion ensued about the breakdown of types of riders classified as ADA Certified, Senior and Disabled, Children, and General Public (see attached presentation notes).

Staff reported a proposed revised rate structure, as well as a proposed rate adoption process, including the public involvement component. The staff recommendation is to increase the per trip rate for "Senior and Disabled (non ADA Certified)" and "Children" (age 5 to 12 years) from \$1.00 to \$2.00. This would increase the minimum trip rate for all clients to \$2.00 which is equal to the ADA Certified rate and would thereby eliminate the disincentive to become ADA Certified. The City's expenditures on ADA Certified trips are eligible for reimbursement from RTP, while Senior and Disabled are not. Staff discussed the Community Center and the Sunrise Library as possible locations for public meetings.

Discussion ensued about revenue sources that currently fund the Dial A Ride program. Staff will prepare documentation detailing the breakdown of revenue sources for the past fiscal year, as well as historical data over the past five years.

After Subcommittee members' discussion, Staff was asked to:

1. Provide the data from this presentation to the full Council in written format.
2. Provide information on an approximate geographical distribution regarding the variety of trip destinations for the past year, including any patterns for the destinations of the riders who use the service most often (using the top ten destinations / trip type).
3. Provide the last five years of data on budget and number of trips for the Dial A Ride program.

It was also suggested that, regardless of the fare increase outcome, the City should more strongly promote the benefits of ADA Certification to Dial A Ride participants.

Residents Frank and Linda Mazza, who reside in Sun Aire Estates, commented on the proposed fare increase, stating that it would be a hardship if the rate for Seniors and Disabled was increased by \$1.00 per trip.

Councilmember Pearson moved and Councilmember Leone seconded a motion to forward the staff report on a proposed fare increase and the public involvement component to a council study session with no recommendation from the subcommittee. The motion passed 3 – 0.

3R TRANSIT JURISDICTIONAL EQUITY POSITION

This item was presented for subcommittee's information at the request of Councilor Aames. Staff provided information about on current, past, and projected revenues from the Proposition 400 countywide transportation sales tax. There was a discussion of the Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP) and the regional efforts to balance the actual revenues available from Proposition 400 sales tax with the costs of the programs and services across all jurisdictions; including Peoria. Peoria's priorities for regional service were identified in the City's Multimodal Master Plan which was adopted by Council earlier this year. The priorities are to preserve fixed route bus service along 67th Avenue and Peoria Avenue and to implement Thunderbird Road Bus service as soon as 2015. The priorities also included preservation of the Grand Avenue Limited route and the two express Routes along Loop 101 with service to downtown Phoenix.

The item will be brought to the Council in a City Manager's Report for full Council.

4R FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS & NEXT MEETING DATE

Ms. Thorpe reported that a staff submitted item on Solid Waste Service is prepared to come before the subcommittee. She suggested a meeting date earlier than the normal scheduled meeting date of December 17, to discuss residential solid waste services. Commercial solid waste service will be a topic for a future subcommittee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council Subcommittee, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Ron Aames, Chairperson

Terri Smith, City Council Assistant

Attachments:

Dial-a-Ride Presentation Notes:

Peoria Dial-A-Ride

- Provides Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service per Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) requirements.
- Dial-a-Ride must be provided within three quarters of a mile on either side of a bus route
- Peoria also provides:
 - Dial-A-Ride services city-wide.
 - “Dial-A-Ride Plus” trips to medical centers (Thunderbird, Arrowhead and Boswell hospitals - outside the City)

City of Peoria Current Fares

General Public (over the age of 12)	\$3.00
ADA Certified Clients	\$2.00
Seniors and Disabled Customers (not ADA Certified)	\$1.00
Children (age 5 to 12)	\$1.00
Children under age 5 (Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult).	No Charge

Comparison of Dial-a-Ride Rates

	Peoria	Glendale	Surprise	Sun City	Phoenix
General Public	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	No Service
Seniors and Disabled Customers (not ADA Certified)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	No Service
Children (age 5 to 12)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	No Service
Children (under 5)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4.00	No Service
ADA Certified Clients	\$2.00	\$2.00	No Service	\$2.00	\$3.50

ADA Reimbursement

- Current rate structure does not encourage ADA Certification
- The City is eligible for reimbursement for each ADA passenger (\$30.72 per trip).
- Encourage ADA certification and maximize revenue reimbursement.

Staff Recommendation

- Increase the Rate to \$2.00 for:
 - Seniors and Disabled Customers (who are not ADA Certified)
 - Children (age 5 to 12)

Rate Adoption Process

1. Press Release and advertisements
2. Comments via email, mail, phone, public hearings and online (30 day comment period)
3. Review public involvement process and finalize recommendations
4. City Council consideration for approval
5. Start new fares (minimum of 30 days after approval).