

Public Hearing on Proposed Brattleboro Bus Route Changes

Town of Brattleboro Select Board Room

July 23, 2018 11:00 am

Six members of the public were in attendance. A sign-in sheet was distributed. Persons in attendance were Isabel Loudig, Elizabeth Kroll, Peter Vandigoes, Wendy Harrison and Joel Bluming (SEVT board members), and Erica Roper (Windham Regional Planning Commission).

SEVT employees presenting: Randy Schoonmaker and Rebecca Gagnon

The group was asked to introduce themselves and to give a brief statement of their interest in the project.

Peter was from Hayes Court, and would like to see more PSA's regarding the bus service. He feels this would increase ridership.

Elizabeth recommended videos that could be shown on BCTV.

Isabel loves the Red Line as drafted and has questions about the White Line.

Both board members and Erica introduced themselves as board members and a member of the RPC.

Randy presented the PowerPoint and fielded questions.

Main points of interest were:

Isabel liked the continuity and the fact that the bus arrives at the same time, the other schedule was very erratic. Great schedule and no more gaps!

Elizabeth had concerns with the three-hour wait time for the Walmart stop. The 12:44 pm to 3:19 pm is a concern.

Randy did identify that there are other times to Walmart with hardly any delay and shared with the group the Walmart schedule. Randy said he would look at the 12:44 stop and adjust if possible.

Peter noted that even though the White Line will no longer pull into C&S, the Route 53 bus does and he has seen riders get off there.

Erica recommended a "frequently asked questions" section on the route guide.

Wendy recommended that we overlay the Route 53 schedule with the White Line so riders can see the other options.

Erica suggested adding "if your bus isn't served by the White Line check out the 53".

Elizabeth and Peter thought the Cotton Mill stop was an excellent addition.

Elizabeth recommended a series of short videos of how to ride the bus, meet the drivers and interview a rider. She thought this would be a tremendous boost for new ridership.

Elizabeth and Isabel both recommend an extra run in the evening for special events like Gallery Walk. Even one evening a month for a few hours would help. Randy explained that it's a function of funding and that it was not highly noted in the surveys but it's something we could look at in the future if there was additional funding.

Isabel recommended on the last run into town from Hannaford's to allow passengers to disembark on Main Street rather than the Transportation Center, so they could shop on Main Street then honor a transfer ticket to get back on the bus when it headed to West Brattleboro.

The meeting ended at 12:00 pm.

Public Hearing on Proposed Brattleboro Bus Route Changes

Town of Brattleboro Select board Room

July 23, 2018 5:00 pm

Three members of the public were in attendance. A sign in sheet was distributed. Persons in attendance were Mollie Burke (state rep), Marilyn Pizziferri, and Peter Elwell (Brattleboro Town Manager).

SEVT employees presenting: Randy Schoonmaker and Rebecca Gagnon

The group was asked to introduce themselves.

Mollie Burke is a resident and district representative.

Marilyn Pizziferri is a rider and resident of Brattleboro

Peter is a resident of Brattleboro and the Town Manager.

Randy presented, fielded questions and took recommendations.

Peter asked if we were able to increase the number of busses. Randy stated that we will continue with three routes however he has increased the amount of service hours by having no more gaps in service throughout the day.

Peter asked if Putney Road service increased and if we were going into the police station on Putney Road. Randy mentioned that Putney Road will have more service and although the police station is not noted on the route, we can stop there upon request and will consider putting on the route map as a request stop.

Also discussed was no availability for pull off on Main Street going north. Marilyn stated that the bus has a hard time stopping on Main Street at the River Garden. Rebecca indicated it was difficult for the bus to pull over at the River Garden since there is no designated stop. Peter said he would investigate making a stop between Key Bank and the Aiken center. Randy suggested stopping near the Post Office for those coming from the north and Centre Congregational Church going north.

Marilyn suggested we add in-bound and out-bound to the schedules, stating not everyone knows North, East, South, West or carries a compass. She also thought the print was very small the hard to read. She thought the trip number was irrelevant.

The meeting ended at 6:00 pm.