

## Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission minutes

May 24

Present: Herb Asplund, James MacPherson, Sue Larsen, Karen Wagner(chair), Damian Humphrey.

Herb Asplund led the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was approved unanimously. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

1. Grants: Chairman Karen Wagner requested that everyone start thinking about ways to improve on last year's application for the federal RAISE grant. She will send around relevant documents that might need refining. New member Damian Humphrey shared his experience with the Magic Carpet bus service in Enfield. He said the South Windsor project could benefit from some of the Magic Carpet's reasonings. Karen will send Damian documents related to the Commission's work on the trolley. Karen reported that the South Windsor Greater Together organization rejected our grant application. It did not provide an explanation.
2. Trolley: Terry Hart was not in attendance, but earlier, he told Karen that the Greater Hartford Transit District is still not responding to his inquiries. Herb Asplund reported that he has learned about a twice-daily CT Transit bus run down Sullivan Avenue that stops at FedEx. It is a recent addition. Herb will investigate further.
3. Intersections update. The police department researched accidents at the Avery/Woodland/Beelzebub intersection. In the past three years, there have been four non-injury crashes and zero injury crashes at that intersection. Two were T-bone crashes. Two were rear-end crashes. Avery Street and Kelly also had four non-injury crashes. The intersection of Graham Road

and Ayers Road had four non-jury crashes and two injury crashes during the same time.

4. Free bus program: Scott Roberts has put information about the free bus program on the electric sign board at town hall and on a general alert for residents. There will be an announcement at the senior center as well.

### **New Business**

1. State budget: The Legislature has approved the state budget. There is money for increased public transportation, but there are no specifics available yet.
2. Focus groups: Karen suggested that we try a different approach to gauge interest in public transit by holding focus groups. There was discussion about how that would work. Another avenue would be asking Geissler's for permission to hand out surveys in person at their store.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 28 at 6:30 pm