



**Parking & Transportation Committee meeting minutes  
October 25, 2017 at 9:00am  
549 Congress St.**

**Board members Present:** Peter Tousignant (Northland Enterprises), Mike McDonald (North River), Phil Haughey (MHR Management), Anastasia Contos (Top of the Old Port Parking) on phone

**Others:** Dawn Tully (volunteer), Todd Dominiski (East Brown Cow), Nancy Grant (Bicycle Coalition of Maine) on phone, John Peverada (City of Portland), Kevin Thomas (City of Portland), Denise Beck (METRO)

**Staff present:** Taffy Eaton, Amy Geren

**Minute 1.** Peter Tousignant opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

**Minute 2.** Review and approve September 27, 2017 minutes: Mike McDonald made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Todd Dominski seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Discussion:

Minute 3: Park & Work update - we will use HUD guidelines, 50% of the area median income

**Minute 3.** Committee goal setting for FY18: Peter Tousignant

Goal #1: Keep advancing the initiatives in the Parking & Transportation advocacy letter presented to the City

Goal #2: Oversee, support and implement the Multi-modal Marketing Campaign, adding a media buy

Goal #3: Parking study: Examine and determine what this committee can do to ease some downtown parking issues. Sections K and L refer to funding. Taffy will send the final draft of the study to those present so they can read those sections and be ready to discuss them at the November meeting....there might be a quiz!

**Minute 4.** Parking Study and Multi-modal Marketing Campaign updates: Casey Gilbert

1. Casey received the final draft of the parking study from Nell Donaldson and will distribute it to this group. Sections K and L are pertinent to this committee. It will be up to the committee to make recommendations to support and partner with the City, the Bike/Ped Committee, Sarah Cushman, etc.
2. Multi-modal Marketing campaign – the City only received 1 response to the RFP. It was not clear in the RFP that there was no media buy, only research and promotion. Jessica Grondin will edit the RFP and redistribute it. Casey and Greg Mitchell (Economic Development Director) will do personal outreach to marketing firms. Casey and the City are hoping for a Spring 2018 rollout. The aim is to educate people about travel options throughout the city and beyond. Casey will keep the committee updated.

**Minute 5.** METRO Bus presentation: Denise Beck

- Denise distributed a schedule book showing the larger maps and fare information. Tickets and basic bus riding information are available at the Elm Street METRO hub.
- The Breez is a pilot program running between Portland and Brunswick. Ridership is greater than projected.

- Many high school students use their bus passes outside of school hours
- Buses do have security cameras
- Upcoming:
  - Expanded service to Gorham and improved service in Westbrook
  - METRO is looking into electronic fare collection in a few years. A combination of federal, state and community funding and fares pay for ¼ of the costs.
  - METRO will be rebranding in Spring 2018
- Casey complimented Denise on the staff's knowledge and helpfulness. Texting the bus stop number service is very helpful.
- The METRO board is made up of members of all the communities METRO serves

Phil thanked Denise for coming to the meeting today. Denise mentioned that she is unable to come more often because the METRO Board meets at the same time as this committee.

**Minute 6. Other business:**

- Amy told the committee about the Portland Downtown staff's Way- 2- Go Maine Choice award for a Small But Mighty group in the commuter challenge
- John Peverada said they called all the names on a 3-page waiting list (compiled over a couple of years) and found only 10 people still interested in a monthly parking space in the Elm Street or Spring Street garages. Many had found a monthly spot elsewhere.
- Phil heard a rumor that the Casco Bay Parking Garage was opening 100 spaces to islanders, which is untrue. Islanders do not understand that they cannot have free parking in a garage because garages have costs for upkeep. Islanders think that because they pay Portland taxes, a garage space is a benefit they should have.
- John said they reserved 150 spaces in the Gateway Garage for islanders and only 40 were taken. The City opened 80 spaces in the East End for all day Islander Permit Parking.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am

Peter Tousignant asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05. The motion was made by Phil Haughey, seconded by Mike McDonald and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Taffy Eaton, Recorder