

**CITY OF LODI
INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING
"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, November 13, 2007, commencing at 7:01 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members – Hansen, Hitchcock, and Mayor Johnson

Absent: Council Members – Katzakian and Mounce

Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. TOPIC(S)

B-1 "Presentation on Proposed Americans with Disabilities Act Paratransit Services and Dial-A-Ride Changes for the City of Lodi"

City Manager King and Public Works Director Prima provided a brief introduction of the subject matter of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit services and Dial-A-Ride changes.

Transportation Manager Tiffani Fink provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed paratransit services for the City. Specific topics of discussion included what is paratransit, difference between Dial-A-Ride and paratransit, who can use paratransit, overview of the proposed paratransit services, recommended changes to Dial-A-Ride, and timeline for implementation.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated the qualification process for paratransit involves an application and a certification by a doctor of up to three years.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated Dal-A-Ride currently provides service to Woodbridge with a surcharge.

Discussion ensued between Council Member Hansen and Ms. Fink regarding service hours for the fixed route, paratransit, and Dial-A-Ride services and the levels of service for the same for the customers.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Fink stated permanent disability can qualify for the three-year period and temporary disability can qualify for any time period less than that.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the possibility of abuse may exist, as is the case with any similar program, but the criteria can be made more stringent if there is a need to do so.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated that, from an administrative standpoint, it is far easier to start with the lower level of review. Ms. Fink stated a higher level review may be challenging based on staff time, size of the entity, and a manual system. She also stated currently the system can accommodate everyone and bumping may only occur on Grape Festival days during peak hours.

City Manager King clarified that ADA compliance with paratransit service is required, while Dial-A-Ride is an optional service.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated it may be possible to check with the provider to see if it would consider different review approaches on an annual basis to determine which best fits the needs of the community.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Fink stated the standardized form and cover letter that is sent to the physicians when certification is sought was created by a committee of San Joaquin Council of Governments and has specific questions so as to reduce the likelihood of abuse.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the biggest challenge currently is response time because on any given day approximately 50% of the service is on demand and not by reservation.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the goal is to move as many people to fixed-route service as possible and operating Dial-A-Ride on a reservation basis with same day service on a space available basis.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated staff encourages riders to make realistic reservations, especially with respect to medical appointments so as to allow for more effective and efficient service.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Fink stated all the customers on fixed-route service are picked up; although, the timing may vary and subscriptions can be set up for multiple days.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated that, to determine the percentage of riders that may qualify for the paratransit, an evaluation would need to be made on a case-by-case basis of the riders as to where they are going, when they are going, and when they are returning.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Fink stated the cost to provide service for Dial-A-Ride is eighteen dollars. She also stated that seniors and disabled individuals can ride for approximately one dollar per ride.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the current dispatching system is manual and staff is looking at an electronic system to be provided by the contractor as part of the service agreement.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink confirmed that the City is not purchasing new vehicles to provide the ADA compliant service.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the city of Roseville does not have a surcharge, but it provides services only on a reservation basis with a space available option.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated the goal is to give priority to those who really need to utilize the service and assist them in obtaining the ADA certification if they qualify.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated approximately 90% of all riders are either senior citizens or Medicare based.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Fink stated students use the fixed route and the proposed service does not affect the express routes, which are funded by Measure K.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the next steps involve conducting public meetings, a public hearing at a Council meeting, and implementing the system around March 1, 2008.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated that the standardized forms walk through relevant questions so as to limit the potential for abuse and staff still retains the ability to review applicants as well.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fink stated the various levels for testing functionality and certification of applicants could include everything from doctors' notes and interviews to independent testing.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated the appeals process may start with an appeal to the ADA coordinator and work its way up to a committee of professionals. Both Ms. Fink and Mr. King stated they are not aware of any relevant litigation.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Ms. Fink stated the certification would ideally include an identification card and number.

In response to Mayor Johnson and Council Member Hansen, Ms. Fink stated the ADA compliance is a federal requirement and the City is the only local agency she is aware of that is not providing the relevant service. Ms. Fink stated there is a mandate to have the process regardless of whether anyone uses it.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Ms. Fink stated currently a driver will move onto another location if one location has been served or is not ready and then return at a later time. She stated the reservation process will allow for more coordination and effectiveness.

C. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

D. ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk