

Better Bus Coalition weekly meeting, Room 3A Public Library

Attendance: Gus Ricksecker, Barb Wolf, Jim Farber, Kevin Shaw, Zane Lesko, Andy Shenk, Kevin Hengehold, Nathan Alley, Cam Hardy

Nathan: Based on levy outline, 25% of levy will go to infrastructure projects. Sierra Club and others want to know how projects will be approved. They will go through Integrating Committee, but they will be using a scoring rubric, which they are developing to score applications.

I have a draft of the rubric... criteria does not include environment. Does include health, but we would want to see something more environment-specific, like bus ridership>car ridership

In the presentation, it said roads and/or bridges must support bus network within .75 miles of bus route.

Various: Questions about which projects would fall within .75 miles. Should follow up with SORTA about this.

Cam: Celeste is sending out a new link for canvassing.

Early polling numbers look really good. A few people are opposing, but they haven't had much success.

6700 dem
3700 gop

2016 had 4000 dem and 4300 gop at this same time. Much higher dem turnout this year.

Right now, infrastructure mailers are going out. Bus mailers will come out a bit later.

There will be a push poll coming out to county voters.

Nathan: Going back to the infrastructure piece, do you know roadway projects can include up to .75 miles from bus route.

Cam: That's because of Access service.

Celeste: Projects will be approved by integrating committee, but SORTA will be dispersing money.

There are concerns from unions and minority businesses that they won't be included in the bids.

Cam: Greg Landsman is working to smooth things over with the unions.

Celeste: Elected officials are trying to join our canvassing.

On Saturday and Sunday, we're meeting to canvass from 11-3 at the Panera on Winton Rd. The old link I sent out for canvassing still works.

If you want to do it, send me an email letting me know that you're on the bus, and a picture from your ride.

People we've been talking to care more about the transit than the infrastructure piece, contrary to the polling.

We plan to do a phone bank on Thursday and Saturday (3/12 and 3/14) before the election.

March 9 at Mt Healthy City Hall, 6-8 pm, organized by Move Forward and hosted by Mayor James Wolf.

Nathan:

Kevin S: Why aren't SORTA records online immediately after meetings.

Cam: When SORTA moves offices, they will have live video of board meetings. They do have other issues like updating ridership and board minutes.

Celeste: Who will decide on board makeup and fare raises?

Cam: That's been decided already. It's going to go to county majority, etc.

Some improvements like 24-hour and crosstown will happen immediately. It will also take time to buy new buses and increase frequency/routes.