

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022  
3:30 PM

Staff Liaison:

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MEETING ASSISTANCE: UPON REQUEST, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEETINGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, CITY HALL, 224 WEST 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD AT 367-8745 (VOICE) OR 367-7039 (TDD) 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

*Public Transit Advisory Board Member Participants: Allen Svenes, Erik Nelson, Brett Glirbas, Sean Garney, Manny Gutierrez, Bailey Abbott.*

*Public Transit Advisory Board Members absent: Mike Lynch*

*Staff Participants: Sam Trebilcock, Jim Feeney, Robert Speeks, Glenn Wright, Karla Resendiz, Kevin Hansen, Tierza Lanham, Pam Jump, Bren Schweitzer, Jeri Reed.*

*Public Participants: Cathy Brechtelsbauer, Trevor Mitchell.*

### **Minutes**

Facilitator: Allen Svenes, Chair

Call to Order and Quorum Determination: Allen Svenes, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:35pm and welcomed all participants. Member participants represented a quorum.

1. Meeting Procedures: Sam Trebilcock read the meeting procedures for the PTAB videoconference meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sean Garney and a second by Brett Glirbas to approve the February 28, 2022 PTAB agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
3. PTAB Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Bailey Abbott and a second by Manny Gutierrez to approve the January 24, 2022 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public input on non-agenda items: None.

#### Unfinished Business

5. SAM Reduction in Service – Driver Shortage. (Informational) SAM fixed routes are currently reduced to hourly services. . Despite the adjustment made to compensate drivers, March is a difficult time to recruit. Last week SAM lost a number of drivers. more drivers will be coming. Drivers are not considered fully staffed until training is complete. There are qualified drivers applying, but additional CDL requirements will create future challenges to hiring. COVID has prevented these numbers from maintaining. SAM has entered into a partnership with Southeast Tech to collaborate on finding some entry-level drivers.

#### New Business

6. Transit Program Coordinator Introduction (Informational) Bren Schweitzer provided a brief description about herself and her professional accomplishments.
7. Remaking Transit in Sioux Falls (*Informational*) Sam Trebilcock indicated that the City is in the process of analyzing data from the SAM On Demand pilot project and automatic passenger counters to help remake transit routes and operations in the future. Sioux Falls follows nationwide trends and is growing while transit routes do not. 60% of the City is covered by paratransit or fixed routes. SAM revenue trends for 2021 were only equal to those in 1995. For SAM On Demand 18 minutes was the average wait time and 74% of trips were completed on time. The Depot and west and east side Walmarts are the only consistent locations for origins and destinations then the rest is very scattered. Destinations and origins are difficult to couple into one route. Overall, rides are generally scattered.

Riders are encouraged to schedule their ride before they get on the bus. Depot staff indicated that many people are still calling in for services. Riders tend to call in their ride because that is what they are familiar doing. There were questions from the Board as far as age break down of those who use the app. There were suggestions of creating a “how to” manual in order to make the app easier to use. Best results for instructing new app users is for Depot staff to work directly with the riders. The app allows riders to better track, know, and schedule their ride with more control.

Brett Glirbas asked if no shows are increasing. Trebilcock clarified that no shows were a major issue early in the pilot. Currently, SAM staff have been ending eligibility of some riders that do no show too often. Additional policies will need to be established in the near term.

Brett wondered how new affordable housing toward the edges of the City was being accounted for regarding route expansion. Trebilcock said that on demand services may be able to serve certain affordable housing areas in the future.

Cathy B. asked if additional fixed-route service Trebilcock clarified that at this time the only expansion for fixed-route services may be to Foundation Park in the northwest portion of the City. He stated again that the main goal for fixed-route is increasing the service level in areas with existing frequent ridership trends.

8. Transit Route and Operations Analysis Public Involvement Plan (Informational). The City is within the planning stages of implementing a new Transit Development Program. The goals are to amend routes. There will be significant effort to engage stakeholders, PTAB members, drivers, staff, new riders through community open houses, surveys, and focus group meetings. The City is committed to keeping record of comments and involving the public, City staff, and elected officials. The timeline for this task is to bring the operations analysis to board members for approval by the fall of 2022.
8. January 2022 Operations Report (Informational) – Robert Speeks informed the board that ridership was the same in the month of January compared to January of 2021. There were no complaints recorded this month.
9. Announcements: Next PTAB meeting: March 28, 2022 with both in-person and virtual options.
10. Adjournment – Allen Svennes declared the meeting adjourned the meeting at 4:29 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Karla Resendiz*