

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on September 28, 2009

Members present:

Julie Briggs
Rochelle Hart
Kate Heligas (Chair)
Thad Mooney
Chris Schiltz

Members absent:

Julie Johnson Dresbach
Deb Nelson

Public in attendance:

Joe Dvorak
Chad Powell
Charles Santee
Donna Schumate

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Randy Hartman, DDS & Assistant General Manager
Karen Walton, General Manager

Call to order

Kate Heligas, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. Approval of minutes from the August 24, 2009, PTAB Meeting

With no changes, Rochelle Hart made a motion to accept the August 24, 2009 PTAB meeting minutes as written. Chris Schiltz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input on Non-agenda Items:

Charles Santee complained about the new fixed-route buses and that the room allotted for two wheelchairs is not sufficient. Randy Hartman stated that a person in a wheelchair has never been denied service on one of the new fixed-route bus due to the size of the wheelchair. Charles also said on Routes 5 & 7, many times there is an extended wait due to buses arriving that are full.

3. New business:

a. August Monthly Report

Karen Walton discussed the report numbers for the month of August. Ridership continues to increase and the net expense per passenger has decreased. Karen also reviewed some statistical information from other transit agencies of various sizes to give the board members a better idea as to how Sioux Falls Transit is doing in comparison to other agencies.

b. Marketing Report

Debra Gaikowski reviewed several current marketing strategies which include the renaming of the transit system, a blogging promotion, and Newbie passes. Debra also mentioned Karen's presentation to the Interagency Transition Council per Julie Johnson Dresbach's request. Karen will be joining the Council to add a transit perspective to the group.

c. Paratransit Bus Bids

Debra Gaikowski reported that the bids for the paratransit buses came in over budget. Because of this, a couple of other projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant will not be completed to allow the City to purchase 12 paratransit buses at \$105,651 per bus. The bid request was for 15 paratransit bus (13 replacements and 2 new).

4. Other Business:

a. Comparative Statistics

Karen covered this information when presenting the Monthly Report information.

b. ARRA grant information

Debra stated that the grant information is continually updated on Transit's website for public viewing as the projects are completed.

c. Non-ADA Pilot Project

Debra shared that the pilot project was coming to a close at the end of September but the City has applied for additional funding to make the Non-ADA Evening Paratransit Service part of its regular service provisions.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.