



PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on April 26, 2010

Members present:

Julie Briggs
Kate Heligas
Julie Johnson Dresbach
Thad Mooney (3:54 p.m.)
Deb Nelson
Chris Schiltz

Members absent:

Rochelle Hart

Public in attendance:

Chad Powell
Charles Santee
Joe Dvorak, DakotAbilities

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Karen Walton, General Manager

Call to order

Kate Heligas, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:46 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. **Approval of March 22, 2010, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Chris Schiltz made a motion to accept the March 22, 2010 PTAB meeting minutes as written. Julie Johnson Dresbach seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Public Hearing – Preliminary Proposed Program of Projects**

Debra Gaikowski discussed the Federal funding that has been apportioned to the City for Operating Assistance in the amount of \$876,360. She explained that this is a partial apportionment and that additional funding from this source should be forthcoming. Debra answered several questions from the Board and the public in attendance. Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to accept the Proposed Program of Projects as Operating Assistance. Julie Briggs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Input on Non-agenda Items**

Charles Santee had a question about two bus stops at 3rd and Bahnson and the location of the signs. He was also concerned about overcrowding on Route 7. Karen Walton said she would investigate the bus stop signs in question and confirmed that ridership is extremely high on Route 7.

4. **New Business:**

a. **March Monthly Report**

Karen Walton discussed the details of the March Monthly Report regarding transit ridership, revenue, costs, and general operations. The item was informational.

b. **Routes Update**

Karen Walton presented in detail the changes in ridership for each of the routes for the years 2005 through 2009. The Board was pleased with the information and requested similar data in the future. The item was informational.

c. **Transit Marketing Committee Update**

Debra Gaikowski discussed the Transit Marketing Plan currently being developed by Debra and Karen in conjunction with the Transit Marketing Committee. Julie Johnson Dresbach requested the inclusion of information on the Southwest Transfer Center in regard to the free parking and also the cost of parking in the downtown area. The item was informational.

d. **Bus Fare Options**

Debra stated that a first reading on the Ordinance Amendment to add fare options to the fare ordinance took place on April 19. Options include a one-day pass and a one-week pass. The amendment also changes the elderly age limit to receive a discounted rate on fares from 60 to 65 years of age or older. Second reading will take place May 3, 2010. The Board agreed that having more options is a positive step and will most likely be widely appreciated by the riders of the system.

5. **Other Business:**

Debra Gaikowski informed the Board that the Resolution to reduce paratransit service hours to 8 p.m. and to add a Demand Response Evening Bus Service between the hours of 8 p.m and 10 p.m. was passed by City Council on April 19. Implementation is tentatively set for June 1, 2010.

Karen Walton told the Board that managers, supervisors, and some lead staff were being trained this week on human relations, leadership, and supervisory skills by First Transit University instructors.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

