

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on February 27, 2012

Members present:

Greg Johnson
Jim Madsen
Deb Nelson
Chris Schiltz
Jean Crowe

Members absent:

Julie Johnson Dresbach
Megan Myers

Public in attendance:

Charles Santee

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Randy Hartman, Assistant General Manager
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager

Call to order

Greg Johnson, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. **Approval of January 23, 2012, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Chris Schiltz made a motion to accept the January 23, 2011, PTAB meeting minutes as written. Jean Crowe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Public input on non-agenda items:**

Charles Santee commented on how Route 3 and 7 have been late when he has tried to take it lately. Karen Walton responded that her statistics indicate that those routes have not been a problem with on-time performance. Charles also commented that he is worried that the busses are getting closer to capacity and that some busses may need additional room for wheelchairs. Karen Walton responded that Charles is correct that the busses are getting more use, but they are not yet at a point where more busses are needed on those routes which includes additional wheel chair capacity.

3. **Public Hearing: Proposed Program of Projects**

Greg Johnson opened the public hearing. Debra Gaikowski explained to the Board that 5307 Program funds in the amount of \$1,057,658 have been appropriated to the City of Sioux Falls. She explained that the City intends on using the funds for transit operating assistance. There were no questions or comments from the public. A motion was made by Deb Nelson and seconded by Jim Madsen to make application to FTA to utilize the awarded grant funds for transit operating assistance as stated in the Notice of Proposed Program of Projects.

4. **Old Business:** None

5. **New Business:**

a. Paratransit Bus Request for Bids

Bill McCarty presented a report on the status of the Paratransit Bus RFB. All specifications have been completed but there will be a waiting period before it is released to finalize the securement of funds for the buses. Chris Schiltz asked how many busses are being purchased. Bill responded that three busses in total are being purchased. Two are replacement busses and one is a new paratransit bus to expand the fleet. Charles Santee said that the paratransit busses ride rough. Bill responded that the new busses will have a medium-duty suspension system. Greg Johnson asked when the busses should be available for use. Bill responded that the goal is to have them here in the next six months. This item was informational.

b. Occupational Therapist Request for Proposals

Karen Walton said that the RFP for the Occupational Therapist is due to SAM on March 13. The Occupational Therapist will be either a contract position to help review persons' cognitive abilities as related to paratransit service eligibility appeals. Jim Madsen asked if this would unintentionally raise demand for agency transportation services. Jean Crowe thought that generally most agency riders are not appealing paratransit determinations of service eligibility. This item was informational.

6. **Reports:**

a. January Operations Report

Karen Walton presented a report on the January operations at SAM. She said that fixed transit ridership is up 7.5% and Paratransit is up 12.2%. Routes that have been seen very strong increases include routes 1, 3, 4, and 19. Evening service was up 16% in January. This item was informational.

b. Transit Marketing Committee Report

Karen Walton shared information on the transit marketing committee's activities during February 2012. Radio commercials this year will include two testimonial ads. Chris Schiltz PTAB Board member and long-time SAM rider will be included in one of the testimonial ads. Also, Karen said that she will be starting a process to brand the Paratransit and evening service with more marketable names such as the fixed-route system did a few years ago. This item was informational.



7. **Other Business:** Jim Madsen said there have been problems getting the snow cleared from some of the bus stops lately. Bill McCarty discussed the process of clearing snow from the bus stops which is completed with six SAM utility staff. Greg Johnson asked that Bill recognize and to please thank the utility staff for their efforts in snow removal at the bus stops.

Sam Trebilcock asked the board if there would be any support for sending out the PTAB agenda and the PTAB board packets by e-mail with a link to the city website. Most board members present seemed supportive knowing that anyone could still request a hard copy agenda and packet. This item will be discussed at future PTAB meetings also. Sam also asked if there was anything that PTAB board would like to include in future PTAB agendas. Greg Johnson responded that it would be nice to see a transit and/or transportation event calendar for the upcoming year.

Adjournment

Greg Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.