

**PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD**  
*Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues*  
Meeting Minutes  
for the meeting on August 26, 2013

**Members present:**

Minnie Bell  
Jean Crowe  
Philip Jacobson  
Greg Johnson  
Megan Myers (In at 3:47)  
Deb Nelson  
Erik Gaikowski (In at 3:47)

**Public in attendance:**

Brittany Foreng  
Kate Heligas  
Chad Powell  
Charles Santee

**PTAB Members absent:**

None

**Staff present:**

Mike Cooper, Director of Planning  
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG  
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM  
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager  
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager  
Eric Meyerson, General Manager  
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

**Call to order**

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

**1. Approval of Amended June 17, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Greg Johnson made a motion to accept the amended June 17, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes. Jean Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Approval of July 22, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Sam Trebilcock pointed out that spelling corrections were needed for Erik Gaikowski's name in the minutes. Erik Gaikowski and Megan Meyers arrived at this time. Minnie Bell made a motion to accept the June 17, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes with the spelling corrections. Greg Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Charles Santee told the Board that the bathroom doors in the downtown bus stop require ADA compliant door opener assists and the water fountains need to be rotated. Charles also told the Board that the surface on the bus ramps is not non-skid and that the incline of the bus ramps are too steep at stops where there are no curb ramps. Charles asked when there would be a bus stop on SAM Fixed Route 10 on S. Shirley Avenue near Batteries Plus. Randy Hartman stated that work is being done at the bus stops to bring them into compliance with ADA and that a stop would be added at the location on S. Shirley Avenue.

#### 4. New Business

##### a. 2014 Sioux Area Metro Budget

Sam Trebilcock reviewed the transit budget information that was presented to City Council. Sam stated that the projections included assumptions that FTA funding for operations would be maintained and FTA funding for capital would decrease from an average of \$2 million per year to about \$200,000 per year. Mike Cooper gave an overview of a Council work session, and efforts to find alternatives to some of the non-core services and better review new development projects for their proximity to transit service. In response to Chad Powell's question on Council meeting dates, Mike stated that although the date had not been set yet, the Council would likely be considering the budget during the first, second, or third Tuesday of September. Additional discussion took place. This item was informational only.

##### b. Paratransit Service Cap Beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile Service Area

Sam Trebilcock reviewed the previous options presented to the Board, and forwarded to Council, to reduce paratransit service beyond the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile service area. Council had requested a more comprehensive plan for the transit budget prior to reducing paratransit service. Sam reviewed a new option that has since been developed, which includes capping the number of paratransit rides to 550 rides per day to reduce paratransit service beyond the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile service area, and requested consensus from the Board on its preferred option. Additional discussion took place. The consensus of the Board was to forward the new paratransit service cap option to Council. This item was informational only.

#### 5. Old Business

##### a. Transit Fare and Operations Analysis Update

Sam Trebilcock gave an update on the Transit Fare and Operations Analysis. Once the transit budget is approved by Council, it will be incorporated into the analysis. This item was informational only.

##### b. Transit Coordination Activities

Amber Gibson updated the board on coordination activities. The Sioux Falls MPO is updating its Coordinated Plan and a stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Amber also informed the Board that there may be a change to the process in which applications for FTA 5310 funding are reviewed, which may include more local involvement. This was informational only.

#### 6. Reports:

##### a. July Operations Report

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for July. Fixed-route ridership is up 15.51% for the same time period last year. Also, paratransit is up 2.82% compared with 2012. Erik Gaikowski requested that an annual summary of the monthly fixed route and paratransit ridership be presented to the Board. This item was informational only.

##### b. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman reminded the Board that the Marketing Committee rode the Route 3 bus its July meeting. There was no August meeting held due to the late July meeting. This item was informational.

**7. Other Business:**

No other business was offered.

**8. Adjournment**

Megan Meyers made a motion to adjourn and Greg Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.