

## PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

*Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues*

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on September 23, 2013

### Members present:

Philip Jacobson  
Deb Nelson  
Erik Gaikowski  
Megan Myers

### PTAB Members absent:

Jean Crowe  
Greg Johnson  
Minnie Bell

### Public in attendance:

Bob Bohm  
Joe Dvorak  
Janelle Atyeo  
Charles Santee

### Staff present:

Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager  
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager  
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM  
Eric Meyerson, General Manager  
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

### Call to order

Deb Nelson, Vice-Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. and made introductory comments.

### 1. Approval of June 17, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Phil Jacobson made a motion to accept the August 26, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes. Minnie Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Charles Santee told the Board that a bus stop on 18<sup>th</sup> Street about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a block from Grange Avenue (near Sanford) has a difficult approach sidewalk that needs to be fixed to create a better slope for wheelchairs. Also, Charles informed the Board that riders on the bus need to be more cognizant of allowing wheelchair users more room to get on the bus. This includes moving their knees if needed. Eric Meyerson told the Board that he would add this issue to the next available SAM safety meeting.

### 3. New Business

#### a. Bus Stop Signs

Sam Trebilcock provided the Board with an update of the new proposed bus stop signs. The changes are to reflect the needs of the City traffic engineering standards. The Board asked if something could be added to the signs to indicate which bus route the sign is on. Sam indicated that might be possible. Sam also said that it is planned to install the new signs by next Spring. This item was informational only.

#### b. How to Ride the Bus

Randy Hartman told the Board that Sioux Area Metro provides travel training services which help people learn how to ride a fixed route bus. Randy then played a 10 minutes video that shows people how to ride the bus. This item was informational only.

#### 4. Old Business

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

Sam Trebilcock updated the Board on the recently adopted 2014 City of Sioux Falls budget. The budget will not include trolley service or special services for city department transportation needs. The draft budget originally did not include night demand service. The final budget was amended to include instead an evening fixed-route service for five routes (routes 3,6,7,9,10). Paratransit service will be available during this time  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from these five routes. This item was informational only.

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

Sam Trebilcock told the Board that it was decided to defer the public hearing for a change of services for the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile paratransit service area until the October meeting of PTAB. The proposed change will limit paratransit service by not scheduling additional rides that begin or end outside the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile federally-required service area when Sioux Area Metro Paratransit has reserved at least 550 rides for any given day. This item was informational only.

##### c. Transit Coordination Activities

Sam Trebilcock told the Board that the Sioux Falls MPO is updating its Coordinated Transportation Plan. This plan update will include some very specific priorities including organizations that are responsible for implementation of the priorities. The draft plan will be available for review in the next couple of months. Sam also said that this plan update will be very important to guide the future transit services for Sioux Area Metro.

##### d. Transit Fare and Operations Analysis

Sam Trebilcock told the Board that now that the budget has been adopted, the Fare and Operations Analysis can resume again. Some of the items within the Analysis will also need to be consistent with the Coordination Plan. Also, a Task Force will be formed by City Council to review the Fare and Operations Analysis. It is expected that the Analysis will be completed over the next six months. This was informational only.

#### 5. Reports:

##### a. August Operations Report

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for August. Fixed-route ridership is down 3.66% for the same time period last year. Eric said that this drop is almost all directly the result of the school district now running two busses from the bus stop instead of Sioux Area Metro busses. Also, paratransit is down about 3.37% compared with 2012. This drop is an encouraging sign. This item was informational only.

##### b. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman informed the Board that the Marketing Committee met early this month to review the bus stop signs. The Committee members also discussed other marketing ideas especially for the future night time service that is coming next year. This item was informational.

**6. Other Business:**

No other business was offered.

**7. Adjournment**

Megan Myers made a motion to adjourn and Erik Gaikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.