

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on June 17, 2013

Members present:

Deb Nelson
Jean Crowe
Erik Gaikowski
Megan Myers

Public in attendance:

Charles Santee
Greg Johnson
Phillip Jacobsen
Chad Powell
Joe Dvorak

PTAB Members absent:

none

Staff present:

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner
Eric Meyerson, General Manager

Call to order

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

1. Approval of May 20, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Erik Gaikowski made a motion to accept the May 20th, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes. Jean Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

Charles Santee told the Board that a hose was left across the Bus Stop making it difficult for wheelchairs to cross from one section of the Bus Stop to the other. Second, Charles asked that Sioux Area Metro update the bus route detours that are listed on the website more frequently. Lastly, Charles informed the Board that the Trolley did not stop at a stop location at which he was waiting.

3. Old Business

Transit Fare and Operation Analysis

Sam Trebilcock provided the Board with a list for the costs of core and non-core transit services, costs of capital vehicles for the next 15 years, and also the expected short-fall of federal funds. Examples of non-core services include the trolley, school tripper services, night demand services, and paratransit services beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile service area. PTAB members and the public asked the following comments and questions.

- We should include the costs for additional bus storage space.

- We should be talking with our congregational delegation about options.
- We need to add long-term expansion options into this plan.
- How are we able to manage paratransit demand?
- 5% increase in paratransit may be low for demand.
- Medicaid may become more of an option with the new health care law implementation.

This item was informational only.

4. New Business

a. New PTAB Members

Sam Trebilcock informed the Board that Greg Johnson has been reappointed for a second 3-year term on PTAB. Also, two new members of PTAB have been appointed by the Mayor – Phil Jacobson and Minnie Bell. All three, if approved by City Council, will be voting members of PTAB at the July meeting. This item was informational.

b. New PTAB Staff Assistance

Sam Trebilcock told the Board that Amber Gibson from SECOG will be providing additional staff assistance to PTAB and the transit process. Amber will be providing assistance in particular to meeting facilitation, transit grant management, and transportation coordination topics. This item was informational.

5. Reports:

a. May Operations Report

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for May. Fixed-route ridership is only up .68% for the same time period last year. Also, paratransit is actually down about 1.5% compared with 2012. The thought is that the weather early this spring contributed to the lower numbers. However, there is also some evidence that the more stringent eligibility process may be having some effect on paratransit ridership. This item was informational.

b. Transit Marketing Committee

Dennis Erckfritz told the Board about some of Sioux Area Metro's marketing activities over the past month including transit radio ads that are now running on several radio stations. Dennis also said that the Marketing committee has looked at billboard ads, but found those to be too expensive. The Marketing Committee will take a ride on fixed-route busses next month to familiarize the committee members with the system. This item was informational.

6. Other Business:

No other business was offered.

7. Adjournment

Erik Gaikowski made a motion to adjourn and Jean Crowe seconded the motion. Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.