

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on January 27, 2014

Members present:

Minnie Bell
Jean Crowe (at 4:00)
Philip Jacobson
Greg Johnson (at 3:52)
Erik Gaikowski
Deb Nelson

Staff present:

Mike Cooper, Director of Planning
Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
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

PTAB Members absent:

Megan Myers

Public in attendance:

Jennifer Brown
Wendy Butler-Boyesen
Ben Dipple
Joe Dvorak
Todd Epp
Brittany Foreng
Donn Grinager
Rhett Keller
Cindy Loen
Pamela Naessig
Terry Paulsen
Rex Rolfig
Bonita Schwan

Call to order

Deb Nelson, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. Approval of November 25, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Erik Gaikowski made a motion to accept the November 25, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes. Philip Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

Charles Santee stated that a wheelchair takes up the walkway at the 11th Street & Minnesota Avenue bus stop and asked that the police department be notified of the bus stop locations.

Charles Santee asked that the visibility of bus stop locations be improved at night so bus drivers don't miss people waiting for the bus.

Charles Santee indicated that the bus stop near Shirley Avenue and Louise Avenue had not been cleared of snow and asked that SAM and its drivers take a more proactive approach in enforcing snow removal at the bus stops.

Greg Johnson arrived at this time.

Charles Santee and Jenny Brown commented on the number of days the 30-day bus passes are good for. Eric Meyerson indicated that the cards are effective for 30 days, and are not effective based on the month.

3. Public Hearing: Route and Service Changes

Sam Trebilcock presented the proposed route and services changes as advertised in the public hearing notice. Jean Crowe arrived during Sam's presentation. Comments made by the public included: Route 3 - Concern about lack of a safe crossing to transfer between routes 3 and 10 on Shirley Avenue, North of 41st Street; Route 5 – Concern about persons with disabilities being able to walk up the hill from Blauvelt Avenue to Cliff Avenue on 33rd Street; Route 5 - A suggestion was made to look at routing the bus down Sherman Avenue, rather than Cliff Avenue, to keep the stop at Cliff Avenue and 33rd Street; Route 6 – Concern about being able to walk up the hill from Minnesota Avenue to Prairie Avenue; Route 10 – Question on evening service time at the stop near Marion Road and 26th Street, the extended service hours would add later stop times on this route; Route 11 – Question on how to keep this route on time, this is one of the next challenges. Erik Gaikowski made a motion to approve the proposed route and service changes, excluding Route 5 for further study. Jean Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business:

There was no new business.

5. Old Business:

a. Transit Task Force Update

Sam Trebilcock updated the Board on the recent Transit Task Force progress. The focus has been on better utilization of the fixed route, including providing additional travel training, and also on how to free up some of the budget used by paratransit to expand the fixed route system. Rex Roling added that the purpose is not to take service away, but to try to make it more economical. Sam stated that the next Transit Task Force meeting is scheduled for February 5th at 3:30 p.m. at the Carnegie. This item was informational only.

b. Transit Coordination Activities

Amber Gibson informed the Board that the Transportation Coordination Committee would be meeting January 29th to discuss the work activities identified for priority number two of the Coordinated Plan, Non-Profit Coordination. This item was informational only.

6. Reports:

a. November and December Operations Report

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for November and December. In November and December, fixed-route ridership was down 8% and paratransit ridership was down 3.14% compared with 2012. Eric noted that the total numbers were better than 2012 considering that the trolley service was offered for a shorter time period in 2013 and that School Bus Inc. took over some of the school tripper service. This item was informational only.

b. Annual Operations Report

Amber Gibson presented the Annual Operations Report for Sioux Area Metro. The Report included information on ridership, revenue, expenses, the budget, and quality service indicators for 2013.

c. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman informed the Board that the Marketing Committee met early this month. Discussion included the issues discussed by the Transit Task Force, potential changes to the trolley service, the new bus stop signs to be installed later this year, the need for an update to the rider training video, and the potential of modeling a marketing campaign after the public parking campaign recently completed for Downtown Sioux Falls. This item was informational only.

7. Other Business:

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Greg Johnson made a motion to adjourn and Erik Gaikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.