



## PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

*Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues*

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on October 27, 2014

### **Members present:**

Minnie Bell  
Philip Jacobson  
Erik Gaikowski  
Megan Myers  
Deb Nelson

### **Public in attendance:**

Clark Guhin  
Heidi Loof  
Mike Lynch  
Terry Paulsen

### **Members absent:**

Jean Crowe  
Greg Johnson

### **Staff present:**

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

### **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 September 29, 2014, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Philip Jacobson made a motion to accept the September 29, 2014, PTAB meeting minutes. Megan Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Terry Paulsen stated that he has heard several complaints regarding access from the bus stop near Kiwanis Avenue and Russell Street to the Department of Motor Vehicles. He stated that people are crossing through the Food-N-Fuel parking lot since there is not a sidewalk. Sam Trebilcock said that staff will look into this to see if there is an improvement that can be made.

### **3. New Business:**

#### **a. Google Transit Project**

Sam Trebilcock gave a brief overview of the status of the Google Transit Project. He stated that it is currently in the testing stages and will be complete within the next month or two. Dennis Erckfritz demonstrated how Google Transit will work once it goes live. He showed three scenarios, including optional routes, step-by-step instructions for the selected route, and total cost for the transit trip vs. driving cost. This was informational only.

#### **4. Old Business:**

##### **a. Resolution Capping Paratransit Service Outside the ¾ Mile Service Area**

Sam Trebilcock stated that this resolution was advertised as a public hearing and should be treated as such. Sam also stated that since the resolution was discussed at the last PTAB meeting, changes had been made to address some of the comments received. This resolution would allow for existing paratransit riders to retain service outside of the ¾ mile service area unless they move their place of residence. Minnie Bell asked how the riders will know where the paratransit service is. Sam stated that riders are informed when they call the Paratransit office at Sioux Area Metro when there are any changes, that riders are informed of the service area during the eligibility interview process, and that there is a map available on the website. Deb Nelson asked for public comments. Heidi Loof asked to clarify that as long as an existing paratransit rider's residence does not change, they will keep service. Sam said that yes that is correct. Terry Paulsen asked how many grandfathered persons there would be. Sam stated that the number of grandfathered persons would include existing riders living outside the ¾ mile service area and existing riders living inside the ¾ mile service area that use paratransit to go outside the ¾ mile service area. Terry added that Google Transit will be a good tool to help people make the transition from using paratransit to using the fixed route system. Mike Lynch asked why the grandfathering clause does not have an expiration date as previously discussed by the Transit Task Force. Sam stated that it wasn't viewed favorably by the public and Council, but over time it would likely align itself as people move and fixed route service expands. With no additional public comments, Deb Nelson closed the public hearing and requested a motion. Philip Jacobson made a motion to approve the Resolution Capping Paratransit Service Outside the ¾ Mile Service Area and Erik Gaikowski seconded the motion. There was additional discussion by the Board. Minnie Bell stated that if somebody moves to the non-ADA area, they need to know that they will not have paratransit service. Sam stated that a notification would be sent to the users with any changes to the paratransit service. Deb Nelson asked how many years it would be before fixed route service is expanded. Sam stated that the Transit Task Force recommended expanding service in 2016. Megan Meyers stated that this resolution is a temporary solution as paratransit service will expand as the fixed route service expands. With no additional comments from the Board, Deb Nelson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Reports:**

##### **a. September Operations Report**

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for September. Fixed-route ridership was down 4.45%, and paratransit ridership was down 8.97%, compared to September 2013. Eric noted that fixed route ridership is down due to SAM no longer providing the trolley service and the reduced school tripper routes. Eric credited the decrease in paratransit ridership to travel training and a more accessible fixed route system. This item was informational only.

##### **b. Transit Marketing Committee**

Randy Hartman stated that there was no Transit Marketing Committee held in October as staff is looking at revitalizing the Committee with a new direction and new members. This item was informational only.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Erik Gaikowski made a motion to adjourn and Minnie Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.