

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on March 24, 2014

Members present:

Jean Crowe
Philip Jacobson
Greg Johnson
Erik Gaikowski (at 3:47)
Deb Nelson

Staff present:

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

PTAB Members absent:

Minnie Bell
Megan Myers

Public in attendance:

Jenny Brown
Ardell Fiedler
Clark Guhin
Mike Heineman
Kira Johnson
Heidi Loof
Vicki Meirose
Terry Paulsen
Chad Powell
Sheila Sandness
Charles Santee
Bonita Schwan

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 February 24, 2014, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Greg Johnson made a motion to accept the February 24, 2014, PTAB meeting minutes. Philip Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

Sheila Sandness inquired about paratransit service to Great Bear for special events. Erik Gaikowski arrived at this time. Sam Trebilcock indicated that transportation for special events would be a good item for the Transit Task Force to consider.

Charles Santee asked whether buses would stop at the location of the new bus stop signs. Randy Hartman stated that the buses would stop at the location of the new bus stop signs.

Charles Santee asked if a safe crossing, such as a crosswalk, would be added near the bus stop on Shirley Avenue just north of 41st Street. Charles also stated that there is no sidewalk on the east side of Shirley Avenue going south to the 41st Street intersection. Sam Trebilcock indicated that the City was looking into putting in sidewalks on the east side of Shirley Avenue.

3. New Business:

a. Earth Day Partnership

Randy Hartman stated that Earth Day is on Monday, April 22nd, and that Sioux Area Metro was asked to participate in an Earth Day Challenge by providing free rides to all Sioux Falls residents on Earth Day on fixed routes 1-25. Randy indicated that the loss of revenue would be approximately \$500. Philip Jacobson made a motion to approve Sioux Area Metro's participation in the Earth Day Partnership by providing free rides on fixed routes 1-25 and Erik Gaikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business:

a. Route and Service Changes

Sam Trebilcock stated that the route and service changes discussed during the January PTAB meeting would go into effect on April 14th. Randy Hartman indicated that the route pamphlets, website, and other route information would be updated prior to the changes going into effect.

b. Transit Task Force Update

Sam Trebilcock updated the Board on the recent Transit Task Force progress. Sam reviewed the progress of the work action groups, which are sub-groups assigned to work on certain work actions that report back to the Transit Task Force. Sam also reviewed the financial impacts of implementing some of the activities. Sam stated that the next Transit Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at 3:30 p.m. at the Carnegie. This item was informational only.

c. Transit Coordination Activities

Amber Gibson informed the Board that the Transportation Coordination Committee would be meeting March 26th to continue discussing the work activities identified for priority number two of the Coordinated Plan, Non-Profit Coordination. This item was informational only.

5. Reports:

a. January Operations Report

Randy Hartman provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for February. In February, fixed-route ridership was down 6.74% and paratransit ridership was down 4.77% compared with 2012. Randy noted that the decrease in fixed route ridership is mostly attributable to the elimination of the pusher buses for the school tripper service. Randy also stated that net expense per passenger for both fixed route and paratransit had decreased from January and the rate of preventable accidents and on-time performance is good especially considering the miles traveled. This item was informational only.

b. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman informed the Board that the Marketing Committee met early this month. Discussion included ways to market the fixed route system including radio advertisements, travel training, the use of Google Transit, a Canaries game night, and the new bus stop signs to be installed later this year. This item was informational only.

6. 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 4:21 p.m.