

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on September 29, 2014

Members present:

Jean Crowe
Philip Jacobson
Erik Gaikowski
Greg Johnson
Megan Myers
Deb Nelson

Staff present:

David Bixler, Budget Analyst
Jim David, Legislative/Operations Manager
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager
Eric Meyerson, General Manager
Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

Members absent:

Erik Gaikowski Minnie Bell

Public in attendance:

Bob Bohm
Bob Bohm
Roger Elgersma
Brett Glirbas
Don Glirbas
Charlene Hay
Mark Lee
Mike Lynch
Jan Nicolay
Terry Paulsen
Charles Santee

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 August 18, 2014, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Erik Gaikowski made a motion to accept the August 18, 2014, PTAB meeting minutes. Megan Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

Charles Santee asked if the bus drivers need to stop at the new bus stop signs. Eric Meyerson stated that drivers should be stopping at the signs. Charles asked what number he needs to call to get on and off the bus at the bus stops. Eric explained that not all of the bus stops are accessible, but that the driver would go to the nearest intersection or parking lot to enable people in wheelchairs to get on and off the bus. Charles stated that he was denied paratransit service two months ago although the pickup location was within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of a fixed route operating in the evening. Charles also requested a map showing the evening paratransit service area. Eric stated that SAM would provide evening paratransit service anywhere within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the fixed routes in service during the evening hours. If paratransit service is denied in that area, the rider should request to speak with a supervisor.

3. New Business:

a. Draft Resolution Capping Paratransit Service Outside the ¾ Mile Service Area

Sam Trebilcock requested input for a resolution to cap paratransit service outside the ¾ mile service area. Sam stated that the Transit Task Force's recommendation was to align the paratransit service area with fixed route service area, and that Council had discussed including a grandfathering provision. The Board discussed grandfathering individuals vs. sites, whether the paratransit service cap would be a good compromise for the service and finances, and whether there would be properties outside the ¾ mile service area that would go unused without paratransit service. Sam also explained that the goal of grandfathering would be to maintain the number of existing rides to ensure that those that have rides now, continue to have rides. Public comments included a suggestion that additional wheelchairs spots be included on the fixed route buses, a suggestion that routes be added from the southwest transit center to service the medical locations in the southern part of the City, and questions on how the grandfathering policy would work. This was informational only.

b. Coordinated Plan Annual Progress Report

Amber Gibson reviewed the Coordinated Plan Annual Progress Report including coordination activities over the past year. The report was approved by the Sioux Falls MPO in September, submitted to the State Transit Office, and incorporated into the Coordinated Plan as an addendum. This was informational only.

c. FTA Section 5310 Funding Recommendations

Amber Gibson reviewed the FTA Section 5310 Funding Recommendations. Amber stated that three applications were received and the Sioux Falls MPO recommended that funding be awarded to LifeScape in the amount of \$90,000.00 and Community Coordinated Transportation Services / River Cities Public Transit in the amount of \$124,777.74.

4. Old Business:

a. 2015 Sioux Area Metro Budget

Sam Trebilcock stated that since he reviewed the 2015 Sioux Area Metro Budget last month, the Council supplemented the budget with an additional \$110,000 in exchange for not increasing fares in 2015. Sam stated that Council would like to see improvements to the fixed route system prior to increasing fares. This item was informational only.

5. Reports:

a. Transit Coordination Activities

Amber Gibson stated that the Transportation Coordination Committee met at the end of August. She stated that in addition to discussing the 5310 applications and volunteer program discussed during the Coordinated Plan Progress Report, the Committee also developed a list of agencies and locations to distribute the specialized transportation services directory to. Almost 900 copies have been distributed to date and positive feedback has been received from several people. This item was informational only.

b. August Operations Reports

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for August. Fixed-route ridership was down 9.95%, and paratransit ridership was down 12.95%, compared to August 2013. Eric noted that fixed route ridership is down due to SAM no longer providing the trolley service. Eric credited the decrease in

paratransit ridership to travel training and a more accessible fixed route system. This item was informational only.

c. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman stated that the Transit Marketing Committee met last month and rode on the fixed route to a coffee shop to discuss marketing strategies. Randy also stated that SAM staff had set up a booth and brought a bus to Augustana College to promote the fixed route system and that the bus stop locations have been geocoded and finishing touches are being made for the Google Transit project. Eric Meyerson added that fixed route service to the new northwest Walmart began this morning. This item was informational only.

6. Adjournment

Philip Jacobson made a motion to adjourn and Greg Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.