



PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on January 26, 2015

Members present:

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

Members absent:

Minnie Bell

Public in attendance:

Joe Dvorak
Mike Lynch
George Peters
Terry Paulsen

Staff present:

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit 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 November 24, 2014, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Jean Crowe made a motion to accept the November 24, 2014, PTAB meeting minutes. Greg Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

Terry Paulsen inquired about the sidewalk concern at Kiwanis Avenue and Russell Street that he previously relayed to the Board. Sam Trebilcock stated he would look into it and get back to him.

George Peters stated that he wished customer service was better as he had encountered some rude drivers and is now afraid to ride the bus. Eric Meyerson explained that cameras would be installed in the buses soon and the cameras will assist in correcting such incidents with the responsible employees. Randy Hartman also encouraged riders to call in soon after similar incidents so that they can be addressed right away.

3. New Business:

a. PTAB Member Service Recognition

Sam Trebilcock stated that per the bylaws, PTAB members are allowed to serve up to two consecutive three year terms. January is the last month of Megan Myers' first term. She has reapplied to serve a second term and her application is being considered by the Mayor. January is also the last month of Deb Nelson's second term. Sam thanked Deb for her leadership and presented her with a plaque

recognizing her for her service to PTAB. Since Jean Crowe is currently Vice Chair, she will assume the duties of Chair beginning in February. This item was informational only.

b. Transit Task Force Recommendations Progress Report

Sam Trebilcock updated the Board on the progress of some of the projects included in the recommendations of the Transit Task Force, including a project with Project CAR to provide select paratransit rides, a project with a non-profit transit provider to provide work trip rides for DakotAbilities and LifeScape, and enhancing travel training. This item was informational only.

4. Old Business:

a. Update on Resolution Limiting Paratransit Service Outside the ADA Service Area

Sam Trebilcock provided an update on the Resolution Limiting Paratransit Service Outside the ADA Service Area. The resolution was approved by City Council and changes went into effect January 1, 2015. Sam also distributed a copy of the new paratransit service area map and explained that the change affected only those rides outside the required ADA service area for riders who had not acquired eligibility prior to January 1, 2015, or that move outside of the required ADA service area. This item was informational only.

b. Update on Augustana College Pilot Project

Sam Trebilcock provided an update on the Augustana College Pilot Project. Slightly over 1,000 rides were provided during the fall semester and a second agreement has been signed to extend the project into the spring semester. If successful, a similar agreement could be used for other schools and businesses. This item was informational only.

5. Reports:

a. Transit Coordination Activities

Amber Gibson updated the Board on Transit Coordination Activities including the distribution of the specialized transportation services directory, the preparation for the next round of FTA Section 5310 funding, and the Drive To Help Program. This item was informational only.

b. November and December Operations Reports

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for November and December. In November, fixed-route ridership was down 15.12% and paratransit ridership was down 15.43%, compared to November 2013. In December, fixed-route ridership was up 3.46% and paratransit ridership was down 2.13%, compared to December 2013. Year-to-date through December, fixed route ridership was down 6.62% and paratransit ridership was down 7.21%, compared to 2013. Eric noted that year-to-date fare-box revenue is nearly equal to what it was in 2013. Sam also noted that the elimination of the trolley service, reduction in school tripper routes, and low gas prices may have all contributed to the lower fixed route ridership. This item was informational only.

6. Other Business:

Megan Myers and the other Board members thanked Deb Nelson for her service to the Board.

7. Adjournment

Greg Johnson made a motion to adjourn and Megan Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.