



PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

For the meeting on February 24, 2020

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| Members Present: | Staff present: |
| Brett Glirbas | Randy Hartman, General Manager |
| Jeri Reed | Jim Feeney, SECOG |
| Jason Van Engen | Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manger |
| Sean Garney | Robert Speeks, Assistant General Manager |
| Allen Svennes | Sam Trebilcock, Senior Planner |
| Members Absent | Glen Wright, Operations Manger |
| Erik Nelson | Shawna Goldammer, Planning Proj. Coord. |
| Rick Lynch | Allie Hartzler, Innovation Coordinator |
| Citizens in attendance (from sign in sheet): | Ryan Weisenbach, Maintenance Manager |
| Cheryl Rath, Melanie Bliss, Andrine Stricheiz, Lanny Stricheiz, Phyllis Arends, Kim Hansen, Sr. Peggy Buchan, Brian Burge, Cathy Brechtelsbauer, Shelly Gaddis, Theresa Stehly | |

Call to order: Facilitator: Brett Glirbas, Chair

Brett Glirbas called the meeting to order at 3:48pm and welcomed all in attendance.

1. **Meeting Procedures:** Sam Trebilcock read the meeting procedures into the record. Chairperson Glirbas explained public input is wanted and the board wants to make sure everyone who wishes to speak is heard.
1. **Approval of Agenda** A motion was made by Jeri Reed and a second by Allen Svennes to approve the February PTAB agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **PTAB Meeting Minutes Approval of**
November 25, 2019 and the January 27, 2020
A motion was made by Allen Svennes and a second by Jeri Reed to approve the November 25, 2019 and the January 27, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Public input on non-agenda items:** Kathy Brechtelsbauer came forward and explained that she is the first of 5 presenters, working together to present information with one presentation. Ms. Brechtelsbauer explained that the group



of presenters found they have common suggestions. Therefore, rather than repeating each other's ideas, they decided to present information in respective parts. She went on to say that buses are the most cost-efficient way to move people. She then referred to the Jarret Walker's Micro-transit article stating that fixed route is the most successful for ridership. Ms. Brechtelsbauer explained that there is not a comparable city with a successful comparable system. Phyllis Arends came forward to explain she thinks the City should try a comprehensive marketing campaign, focusing on business along existing fixed routes. Ms. Arends stated a professional transit planner should be consulted. Regarding innovation, she went on to say that increasing service, providing zero fares, as well as other system enhancements. Melanie Bliss came forward to explain that many vulnerable populations have no phones or if they do have phones, they may not have data. Ms. Bliss stated she was excited about Missoula Montana, and how they have achieved increases in ridership with zero fares. In Missoula, she explained, they have created a zero fare partnership with businesses. She then read from the Missoula website. Cheryl Rath came forward to share her sister's story. Her sister is transit dependent and has a hearing disability. Being able to navigate the city on the fixed route system gives her independence. Ms. Rath explained she speaks for those Sioux Falls citizens that live on the margin. These citizens need predictable and reliable transportation that will get them to their destination. In conclusion, Ms. Rath reminded the board, the decisions surrounding the pilot will impact people's lives. Ms. Rath provided information regarding street maps to demonstrate the difficulty to navigate a virtual stop system. Sister Peggy Bates explained the language challenges that many may have with a new transit system. She went through a series of questions, explaining the potential for rider communication problems with the language via a phone app, those that call in, and those that need the marketing message.

Lanny Striceriz came forward to advocate for veterans, for handicapped, the physically and emotionally impaired, and young parents with children. He went on to say that he has ridden public transportation across the country. He stated that that the bus should be a flag stop system rather than a fixed stop system.

Allie Hartzler came forward to thank the people who spoke. She went on to say that all the persons in attendance, the members for the board, have the same goal: To serve the underserved populations. Ms. Hartzler stated that many of the ideas shared have validity, but budgets remain the biggest constraint to the existing transit system.

Theresa Stehly came forward to say that public transportation is something that needs funding. She explained that the City should use its resources to help everyone have a better quality of life. She expressed her gratitude to the board in making the system the best it can be. Stehly then stated that from her perspective, the public transportation system should be a top priority.



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Brett Glirbas, Chair asked if there were any additional people who wished to speak to assure everyone gets a chance to speak. Glirbas did ask that people only speak until all are heard. Shawna Goldammer then explained that if each person had a chance to speak, and those that did speak wanted to provide new information, the opportunity to do so is being provided. No further public input on non-agenda items was received.

4. Free Rides inclement weather policy: Sam Trebilcock explained the recent free ride day was due to inclement weather. He went on to say that the Mayor's office is formulating a free ride policy and tying it to wind-chill or other inclement weather criteria. He then indicated that snow alerts are not an indicator of extreme weather. Randy Hartman explained that the recent free day was extended system wide, and did not require additional staffing. The board requested that staff review the National Weather Service data to see how many days were impacted by a wind chill warnings. Sam Trebilcock then said more discussion will be coming forward from the Mayor's office.
5. PTAB 2019 Annual Report: Shawna Goldammer explained the PTAB annual report. The PTAB activities and actions taken are included in the report. Informational items including allowing a forum for transit core team activity updates is included in the annual report. She then asked, for the sake of time, that the board review the report and if needed, the report can be covered at next month's meeting.
6. Reports: January 2020 Operations Reports: The Randy Hartman when over the January 2020 operations report. The board inquired about the recent accident, and Randy Hartman explained the accident was not considered a preventable accident.
7. Update: Request for Proposal: Software Platform for Mass Transit On-Demand Pilot Project - [LINK TO CITY RFP WEBSITE](#) Sam Trebilcock explained that the RFP is now closed, and eight proposals were submitted. He went on to say that the selection of the vendor is the start of the Mass-Transit on demand project. The software vendor will be of great help to determine what will work best with the pilot. Many challenges and much learning is necessary between now, at the start, to the end. He explained that a forum will be provided to allow an open public meeting. He reiterated that this is the beginning of the process. Sean Garney stated that the Public Transit Advisory Board is involved in the selection committee. If a vendor is unable to help create opportunities in the system it will not be successful or selected. He went to say that this process, to try something different, is necessary as a City, and as a community. He stated that he is encouraged by those citizen that are in attendance today and is hopeful that people will continue to be engaged in the process.



Melanie Bliss questioned the amount budgeted for the pilot and the range of \$200,000-300,000. Shana Nelson explained that the RFP was written to provide a range of variables and options to those vendors submitting proposals.

8. Adjournment: Jeri Reed made a motion to adjourn, and Jason Van Engan seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.