

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

3:30 PM

Staff Liaison:

Sam Trebilcock, strebilcock@siouxfalls.org (605) 367-8890

MEETING ASSISTANCE: UPON REQUEST, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEETINGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, CITY HALL, 224 WEST 9TH STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD AT 367-8745 (VOICE) OR 367-7039 (TDD) 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

Public Transit Advisory Board Member Participants: Allen Svennes, Brett Glirbas, Erik Nelson, Sean Garney, Bailey Abbott, Jeri Reed, Mike Lynch.

Public Transit Advisory Board Members absent: None.

Staff Participants: Sam Trebilcock, Jim Feeney, Robert Speeks, Glenn Wright, Karla Resendiz.

Public Participants: Trevor Mitchell.

Minutes

Facilitator: Allen Svennes, Chair

Call to Order and Quorum Determination: Allen Svennes, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm and welcomed all participants. Member participants represented a quorum.

1. Meeting Procedures: Sam Trebilcock read the meeting procedures for the PTAB videoconference and in-person meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Bailey Abbott and a second by Sean Garney to approve the September 27, 2021 PTAB agenda with the addition of an item for ADA Paratransit Compliance after item #8. The motion passed unanimously.
3. PTAB Meeting Minutes August 23, 2021 and June 28th: A motion was made by Erik Nelson and a second by Bailey Abbott to approve the August 23, 2021 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Brett Glirbas and seconded by Sean Garney to approve the June 28th meeting minutes. The motion passed with the agreement of the entire board.

4. Public input on non-agenda items: None.

Unfinished Business

5. SAM OnDemand Update (Informational) – SAM On Demand had its highest ridership days over the past few weeks when including the crosstown fixed routes. There are still some problems yet with rides running late, but there continues to be a troubleshooting process on going to improve that situation . While late rides do not occur frequently, there have been complaints issued to the SAM office. SAM is still offering free rides if the ride is scheduled using the app. Brett wondered how long these rides were going to be free. Trebilcock indicated that has not been decided but he anticipates rides being free until November. In the near future, SAM will be adding paratransit in the Routes 8 and 16 areas (northside of Sioux Falls) to the SAM on Demand and Pantonium system for Saturdays. This topic is informational and will be an ongoing agenda item.
6. SAM Reduction in Service – Driver Shortage. Robert Speeks provided an update on ridership. Stating that Monday through Friday SAM is giving about 1,500 rides/day, which is only slightly lower then the 1,600 per day with peak hour service. Bret wondered how much free rides cost the transit system. Robert Speeks indicated that fixed routes cost about \$15.57/ride and paratransit cost about \$58.35/ride.

New Business

7. Sioux Area Metro/First Transit Annual Report – Trebilcock reviewed key points from the report including First Transit accomplishments and also future work plan items. Sean questioned where the surplus funds came from. Trebilcock said that they were mostly due to additional funding from the COVID-19 pandemic and the driver shortage. He clarified that some that the discretion in agency finances were also due to COVID, route changes, and the use of Pantonium Saturdays to improve service while keeping costs low.
8. August 2021 Operations Report (Informational) – Robert provided the board with year-to-date ridership data for Sioux Area Metro. Robert was also asked to provide more information about ridership costs in the future. Robert stated the paratransit rides will always increase steeply per rider when ridership is low because there are fixed costs including staffing and vehicle costs that cannot be cut in the short term.
9. ADA Paratransit Compliance – Brett Glirbas asked about adding paratransit to the route 8 and 19 service areas that were added to SAM On Demand a couple of months ago. Trebilcock stated that it has always been the intent to add this

service, but it has been a goal to incorporate the new service into the SAM On Demand system also. This has been taking a little longer than expected. So, paratransit will start serving this area in two weeks. This item was informational.

10. Next PTAB meeting: October 25th: City Center, Cooper Room 1st Floor (with WebEx link option)
11. Adjournment: A motion was made by Brett Glirbas and seconded by Mike Lynch to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.