

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on August 24, 2009

Members present:

Julie Johnson Dresbach
Rochelle Hart
Kate Heligas (Chair)
Deb Nelson
Chris Schiltz

Members absent:

Julie Briggs
Thad Mooney

Public in attendance:

Joe Dvorak
Chad Powell
Charles Santee
Donna Schumate

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Randy Hartman, DDS & Assistant General Manager
Karen Walton, General Manager

Call to order

Kate Heligas, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and made introductory comments.

Before proceeding with the agenda, Kate requested that Karen Walton talk briefly about the recent change to the route schedules. The Board members approved.

Karen reviewed why and how the changes were made. She also discussed the methods used to get the word out to transit users. Some Board members stated that they received calls from concerned riders. Transit staff and the Transit Planner also took some calls on the changes on the day it started but no calls since that time. The drivers have had good comments about the change and overall, it will be better for the system and passengers to help them make connecting routes.

1. Approval of minutes from July 27, 2009, PTAB Meeting Minutes.

With no changes, Rochelle Hart made a motion to accept the July 27, 2009 PTAB meeting minutes as written. Chris Schiltz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input on Non-agenda Items:

Charles Santee reviewed two stop issues. Transit staff will investigate.

3. New business:

a. Pass-it-on Program Update

Stacey Tieszen handed out and reviewed a report of the Pass-it-on Program. It displayed a comparison of 2009 to 2008 of people served, passes issued, passes through the farebox (redeemed), and passes unused to date. Over 3,000 more passes have come through the farebox in 2009 than in 2008 resulting in fewer passes being left unused.

b. July Monthly Report

Karen Walton began her presentation of the report with a review of the excellent safety record of Sioux Falls Transit and some current safety statistics. Overall, ridership was up for the month of July for fixed route and paratransit which resulted in the Net Expense per Passenger being slightly lower than July 2008.

c. Transportation Coordination Committee Update

Debra Gaikowski discussed the format of the Transportation Coordination Committee meetings, current topics reviewed in the meetings, and what the committee hopes to accomplish in the coming months.

d. Marketing Update

Debra reviewed progress on several marketing promotions, i.e. renaming of transit system, special passes for new riders, media contacts, Greenival participation, and improvements to Downtown Bus Stop.

5. Other Business:

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.