

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD
Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues
Meeting Minutes
for the meeting on August 27, 2012

Members present:

Deb Nelson
Greg Johnson
Megan Myers
Julie Johnson Dresbach
Erik Gaikowski

Public in attendance:

Charles Santee
Joe Dvorak

Members absent:

Jim Madsen
Jean Crowe

Staff present:

Eric Meyerson, General Manager
Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Randy Hartman, Assistant General Manager
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

Call to order

Greg Johnson, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. Introduction of New Transit General Manager – Eric Meyerson

Sam Trebilcock introduced Eric Meyerson as the new General Manager for Sioux Area Metro. Eric provided the Board with his background and his goals. Eric also told the board that he really likes many things that Sioux Falls has to offer.

2. Approval of June 25, 2012, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to accept the June 25th, 2012, PTAB meeting minutes with one change to indicate the meeting date correctly. Erik Gaikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public input on non-agenda items:

Charles Santee asked that the PTAB meeting be added to the city calendar on the city website. Charles also thought that SAM should have a twitter feed separate from the city. Charles thought that the curb cuts at the Bus Stop need significant improvements. Charles asked that SAM should be consistent with their Bus Stops signs and urged SAM to have Bus Stop signs at the same location as the bus actually stops. Also, Charles said that it would be a good idea for a crosswalk to be developed at Shirley Avenue and Shirley Place to better access a bus shelter. This item was informational.

Joe Dvorak wanted to let the Board know that he really enjoyed and appreciated the July training session for paratransit assessments and fixed route bus riding tutorial. He

did ask the Board to make sure that paratransit training sessions are offered earlier when changes have been made. Joe also informed the Board about a sewer project that will close Grange and Duluth and urged SAM to plan for appropriate detours.

4. Public Hearing – Final Program of Projects – FTA 5307 Operating Grant

Greg Johnson opened the scheduled public hearing. Sam Trebilcock explained to the Board that the FTA grant of \$1,975,020 will be utilized for transit operating assistance. Greg Johnson asked if the Board or public in attendance had any comments in regard to the Final Program of Projects. No comments were received and Greg Johnson closed the hearing.

5. Transit Route Operations Study

Sam Trebilcock provided the Board with a summary presentation for the Transit Route Operation Study. The Route Study found that a grid route system will not provide the same level of service as the current hub and spoke route system. The study instead provides recommendations about how to improve productivity and efficiency in the current system. Also, the study provides recommendations for future routes to help as the city expands to provide better service.

The Board asked the following comments or questions:

- Whether partnerships could be formed to help sponsor future routes; (answer: it has been looked at in the past and we will continue to in the future)
- Could there be a cost/benefit analysis to show the elected officials the cost of new routes, but also the benefit to economic development?; (answer: it might be possible to look at what other communities have done)
- How does the information in the study regarding Esurance employees and their residential location help? (answer: to help determine the need for a future route in the area and how that route might be planned)
- It is also important to look at how these future plans may help connect to other communities (answer: methods to connect to other communities will be pursued and planned for the future).

Deb Nelson made a motion to recommend approval of the Transit Route Operations Study. Megan Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports:

a. June and July Operations Report

Eric Meyerson said that ridership continues to be on pace for about a 5% increase over 2011. Eric also said that on-time performance was excellent for both paratransit and fixed-route. This item was informational.

b. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman told the Board that the Transit Marketing Committee is rethinking whether to rebrand paratransit because it believes the focus of marketing should be on the fixed-route system. The Marketing Committee is also looking for new members and the Board was encouraged to forward any suggestions for new members. This item was informational.

7. Other Business:

No other business was offered.

8. Adjournment

Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to adjourn and Deb Nelson seconded the motion. Greg Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.