

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on January 23, 2012

Members present:

Greg Johnson
Megan Myers
Deb Nelson
Chris Schiltz
Jean Crowe
Julie Johnson Dresbach

Public in attendance:

Stacey Tieszen, HAB
Amber Gibson, SECOG
Charles Santee
Josh Miller, LSS

Members absent:

Jim Madsen

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
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 3:45 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. **Approval of November 28, 2011, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Chris Schiltz made a motion to accept the November 28, 2011, PTAB meeting minutes as written. Deb Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Public input on non-agenda items:**

Charles Santee commented on how some of the bus stops are not accessible because of the recent snow. Randy Hartman said drivers have been notified to slightly alter bus drop-off and pick-up to best allow users to access sidewalks. SAM Maintenance personnel have also been clearing snow to allow better accessibility at various bus stops when a complaint is made.

Josh Miller from Lutheran Social Services was introduced and told the board that he is attending the meeting to learn more about the process and issues.

3. **Public Hearing: Proposed Program of Projects**

Greg Johnson opened the public hearing. Debra Gaikowski explained to the Board that an \$116,000 grant has been awarded to the City of Sioux Falls for 1 new paratransit bus and 2 replacement paratransit busses. If a smaller chassis is possible, 1 additional paratransit bus may be purchased also. Charles Santee suggested that 2 vans be purchased instead of one paratransit bus for people that do not need wheel chair access. Greg Johnson and Julie Johnson Dresbach thanked Mr. Santee's for his input, but believed the vans would not provide additional flexibility. It may also require additional labor costs for drivers and would not be as durable of vehicles. A motion was made by Julie Johnson Dresbach and seconded by Chris Schiltz to make application to FTA to utilize the awarded grant funds for the purchase of three paratransit busses as stated in the Notice of Proposed Program of Projects.
4. **Old Business:** None
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Pass-it-on Program Annual Report – Stacey Tieszen (HAB)**

Stacey Tieszen, Homeless Coordinator for Minnehaha County, provided a year-end summary of the 2011 Pass-it-on Program. A total of 32,850 passes were issued to 14 participating agencies throughout the year. The number of people assisted with transportation was 5,315 which included 29,532 issued passes. Of the passes issued, 28,491 of them were redeemed through a bus farebox which is a 96.4% redemption rate. Greg Johnson and Julie Johnson Dresbach commented that the program is very valuable to the community. This item was informational.
 - b. **Minnehaha County Work Release Bus Stop Update**

Debra Gaikowski told the Board that a pilot project will begin in February and continue for three months to test a bus stop at the Work Release Center. The bus stop will only be operational once during the morning and once during the evening, Monday through Friday of each week, to see if it is feasible to alter the route permanently. Transit drivers and SAM managers will assess ridership, safety, and on-time performance to determine the success of the pilot project. This item was informational.
 - c. **2011 PTAB Attendance**

Debra Gaikowski informed the Board that all board members received a copy of their attendance record for 2011 PTAB meetings. This item was informational.
 - d. **2011 PTAB Activity Summary**

PTAB Board members were provided a summary of Public Transit Advisory Board activities for 2011. Comments were taken from the members and will be incorporated in the final document. This item was informational.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. **Transit Year-end Operations Report**

Karen Walton presented a year-end summary of transit operations for 2011. She indicated that ridership increases were very strong during the last half of 2011. Ms. Walton stated it was likely this increase was due to the success of the route changes that were implemented throughout the year. Total fixed-route and paratransit ridership was over 1.1 million rides. This item was informational.



b. Transit Marketing Committee Report

Karen Walton shared information on the transit marketing committee's activities during 2011 which included Transit banners at the bus stop, service club presentations, and radio commercials. This item was informational.

7. **Other Business:** Sam Trebilcock and Amber Gibson provided the Board with a review of the Transit Route Analysis Open House from January 17th. The Open House was available to the public from 6 am to 10 am at the Southwest Transfer Facility and from 11 am to 6 pm at the Downtown Bus Stop. Approximately 300 surveys were completed by transit riders and other interested parties.

Adjournment

Greg Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.