

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on October 28, 2013

Members present:

Minnie Bell
Jean Crowe
Philip Jacobson
Greg Johnson
Deb Nelson
Erik Gaikowski
Megan Myers

Staff present:

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

PTAB Members absent:

None

Public in attendance:

Melanie Bliss
Bob Bohm
Cathy Brechtelsbauer
Joe Dvorak
Bill Donat
Elisha Page
Chad Powell
Al Roettger
Nicole Singaram
Shanthi Singaram
Dawn Srstka
Deb Ver Steeg

Call to order

Deb Nelson, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:46 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. Approval of September 23, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Megan Myers made a motion to accept the September 23, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes. Jean Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

Bill Donat informed the Board that having a power-wheelchair should not be a factor for paratransit eligibility as they are built for in home use. Bill indicated that repairs and early replacement of power-wheelchairs has been caused due to travel between homes and bus stops.

Deb Ver Steeg inquired as to whether there is a plan to make a public restroom available at the Southwest Transit Center. Randy Hartman indicated that there were no plans to do so at this time.

3. Public Hearing: Paratransit Service Cap Beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile Service Area

Sam Trebilcock presented information on a paratransit service cap beyond the required $\frac{3}{4}$ mile service area. If the proposal were to be approved by City Council, no additional rides would be scheduled beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile service area during any day in which 550 rides had been previously scheduled. Sam recommended that the proposal not move

forward to City Council until after the Transit Task Force considers it. Various members of the public inquired about the logistics of the proposal. Joe Dvorak stated that existing subscriptions trips outside of the ¾ mile service area should be grandfathered in. Bob Bohm reiterated Joe's statement and stated that existing locations should be grandfathered in. This item was deferred.

4. New Business

a. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Amber Gibson presented on the draft Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Sioux Falls MPO. Discussion followed. This item was informational only.

5. Old Business

a. Transit Coordination Activities

Amber Gibson informed the Board of recent transit coordination activities including work with Sunnycrest to consolidate paratransit trips and with Project Car to expand its service to cover select paratransit trips. This item was informational only.

b. Transit Fare and Operations Analysis

Sam Trebilcock informed the Board that the Transit Task Force would be involved with the development of the Transit Fare and Operations Analysis and that the Board would be updated on the Task Force's progress. Melanie Bliss indicated that she would be making a recommendation to the Task Force that all transit rides be provided for free to everyone. This item was informational only.

6. Reports:

a. September Operations Report

Randy Hartman provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for September. Fixed-route ridership is up 2.29% and paratransit ridership is up 0.35% compared with 2012. Randy noted that the [next-net](#) expense per passenger for fixed route is \$3.57 and for paratransit is \$26.64. Randy also reported that there have been no reportable accidents yet this year. Megan Myers inquired about the replacement of the shelter that had been damaged in a recent auto accident near 33rd Street and Grange Avenue. Randy indicated that the shelter would be repaired/replaced but was not aware of the timeframe yet.

b. Transit Marketing Committee

Randy Hartman informed the Board that the Marketing Committee met early this month. The Committee has been working on getting new bus stop signs and a pilot sign is posted at Cliff Avenue and Amidon Street. Randy also informed the Board that the project is almost complete to make all of the bus stops ADA accessible. The Committee members also discussed other marketing ideas for the future night time service and the current radio ads. Megan Myers inquired about using Google Maps for the transit routes. Deb Ver Steeg inquired about snow removal procedures at the bus stops, and Randy Hartman indicated that the property owners are responsible for the snow removal. This item was informational only.

7. Other Business:

No other business was offered.

8. Adjournment

Greg Johnson made a motion to adjourn and Jean Crowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.