



PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on March 23, 2015

Members present:

Erik Gaikowski
Greg Johnson

Public in attendance:

Amy Carter
Brett Glirbas
Terry Paulsen
Jeri Reed
Stacey Tieszen

Members absent:

Jean Crowe
Philip Jacobson

Staff present:

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager
Eric Meyerson, General Manager
Al Roettger, Community Development
Program Specialist
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

Call to order

Without a quorum present, Erik Gaikowski, Vice Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. Approval of February 23, 2015, PTAB Meeting Minutes

Since a quorum was not present, this item was deferred and will be voted on by email.

2. Public input on non-agenda items:

There was no public input.

3. New Business:

a. New PTAB Member Introduction

Sam Trebilcock introduced and welcomed Brett Glirbas and Jeri Reed, who were selected by the Mayor to serve on PTAB beginning in April. Megan Myers was also reappointed to PTAB and will begin serving again in April. This item was informational only.

b. Pass-It-On Program Annual Report

Stacey Tieszen presented the annual report for the Pass-It-On Program. As part of the program, the City of Sioux Falls provides 40,000 single ride passes on an annual basis to assist homeless and very low-income individuals with free access to public transit. The Minnehaha County Department of Human Services Administers the Program. In 2014, the County issues 34,000 passes to agencies and 34,291. Stacey indicated that it is a very good program that helps people get back on their feet by providing transportation to employment opportunities, and that the need for the Program continues to rise.

In addition, Amy Carter, from Children's Inn, spoke in support of the Program. The Children's Inn provides free services for women, children and men who are victims of family violence, elder abuse, child abuse, neglect or sexual assault, and is on one of the 14 participating agencies of the Pass-It-On Program. The passes are mostly used for employment and day-care related trips for women and children that do not have their own vehicles. This item was informational only.

c. Earth Day Partnership

Sam Trebilcock stated that SAM is proposing to partner with the City of Sioux Falls Sustainability Program to promote Earth Day as was done last year. It is a promotional event held on April 22nd to increase awareness of SAM by providing free rides on the fixed route transit system to Sioux Falls residents. Since a quorum was not present, this item was deferred and will be voted on by email.

d. Marketing Committee Update

Sam Trebilcock stated that staff met to strategize how to move forward with the Marketing Committee. It was determined that a new focus on increasing ridership would be pursued through activities such as travel training and that the committee would be call the SAM Ridership Committee. Erik Gaikowski and Greg Johnson agreed with the new focus. This item was informational only.

4. Old Business:

There was no old business.

5. Reports:

a. February Operations Reports

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for February. Fixed-route ridership was down 5.76% and paratransit ridership was down 11.95%, compared to February 2014. Eric noted that reduction in fixed-route ridership may be partially due to the colder weather and Lutheran Social Services clients continuing to take less and/or shorter trips. He also noted that continuing efforts to coordinate and find efficiencies in alternative transportation services has contributed to the decreased number of paratransit trips. This item was informational only.

6. Other Business:

Sam Trebilcock stated that Jean Crowe will be resigning from PTAB after this meeting due to her new position at SECOG. Since Jean was Chair and Erik Gaikowski was Vice Chair, Erik will assume the role of Chair. This item was informational only.

7. Adjournment

Erik Gaikowski adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.