

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2008

Members present:

Steve Ahlbrecht, Acting Chair
Julie Briggs
Kate Heligas
Bill Sutton

Members absent:

Ryan Green, Chair
Chelle Hart
Julie Johnson Dresbach

Public in attendance:

Chuck Erlandsen
Charles Santee
Koni Sims
Brandi Wyatt, Costello Company

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Randy Hartman, DDS & Assistant General Manager
Kent Johnson, Operations Manager
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
John Nardini, General Manager

Call to order

Acting Chair Steve Ahlbrecht called the Public Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:49 p.m. and read introductory comments.

1. Approval of minutes from February 25, 2008 PTAB meeting.

With no corrections or changes, Kate Heligas moved to accept the February 25, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Julie Briggs. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Open issues:

a. Service hours options

The PTAB members were provided a Service Action Plan in their board packets. The board voted at the February meeting to form a subcommittee and charged them with the task of evaluating service hours of the fixed route and paratransit service. The subcommittee was to determine whether or how the service hours should be modified. Members of the subcommittee included John Nardini, Sioux Falls Transit General Manager; Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner; Kate Heligas, PTAB member; and Terry Van Dyke, fixed route rider. Debra stepped through the content of the action plan. Highlights included contracting out paratransit service at various times and increasing fares for both fixed route and paratransit service. The intent of making these changes is to follow through with a recommendation from the Accessible Transportation for All Study Group to equalize service and also to create a sustainable funding source to expand fixed route service. By expanding fixed route service, paratransit service is expanded as well. The board members asked several questions and then Steve opened it up for comments from the people in the audience. Koni Sims commented that she would pay \$30 for a monthly pass if it meant having the fixed routes expanded. Charles Santee commented on the lack of service to the area where Sanford Health plans on expanding (where I-29 and I-229 intersect) which will add a large number of employees

to that area. Since several board members were absent, action will be taken on this issue at the April meeting.

3. Public Input on Non-agenda Items

Charles Santee voiced concerns about curb-to-curb service and his inability to see the paratransit bus at some locations. John said, when he makes his reservation he needs to let the reservationist know about the situation at the destination point. He will then have door-to-door service for that trip.

Chuck Erlandsen, paratransit rider, complained that service is continually late for his rides and that he is not making it to his appointments on time. John explained the 30-minute pick-up window. He said it is important to schedule the ride with the time of the appointment in mind not necessarily the time you want to get picked-up.

Brandi Wyatt from Lloyd Property Management expressed the company's desire to have bus service to a large development at 3601 N. Career Ave. This would be an extension of Route 19. John explained to her that we have proposed expanding that route, which would include this address, but the lack of funds has impeded it from moving forward.

4. New Business:

- a. February monthly report

John discussed details of the February monthly report including ridership, reportable accidents, net cost per passenger, and budget position.

5. Other Business:

- a. Bus stop review subcommittee update

Debra said the subcommittee has been unable to produce volunteers to perform bus stop reviews. The members decided to have Transit employees complete the checklists while at the shelters for regular maintenance items such as emptying garbage, etc.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.