

## PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

*Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues*

### Meeting Minutes April 28, 2008

**Members present:**

Ryan Green, Chair  
Rochelle Hart  
Kate Heligas  
Julie Johnson Dresbach

**Invited guests:**

Stacey Tieszen

**Public in attendance:**

Joe Dvorak  
Chris Fester  
Edyanne Haafke  
Tim Jackson  
Dave McCoy  
Charles Santee  
Alex Schierbeck

**Members absent:**

Steve Ahlbrecht  
Julie Briggs  
Bill Sutton

**Staff present:**

Dennis Foster, Transit driver  
Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner  
Randy Hartman, DDS & Assistant General Manager  
Ewla Heater, Paratransit Dispatcher  
Kent Johnson, Operations Manager  
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager  
John Nardini, General Manager

**Call to order**

Chair Ryan Green called the Public Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and read introductory comments. Quorum was not established at this time so the Chair began with item 4b March Monthly Report.

**4. New business:**

**b. March Monthly Report**

John Nardini presented an overview of Transit's ridership numbers, accidents, revenue, and operating costs for the month of March. It was noted that only one reportable accident has occurred in the past five months. Kate Heligas commended Transit for that accomplishment.

PTAB members Julie Johnson Dresbach and Rochelle Hart entered the meeting at 3:53 p.m. Chair resumed with the original agenda schedule.

**1. Approval of minutes from March 24, 2008 PTAB meeting.**

With no corrections or changes, Kate Heligas moved to accept the March 24, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Julie Johnson Dresbach. Motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Open issues:**

### **a. Service hours options**

Due to the absence of some members at the March meeting, the PTAB members reviewed the same Service Action Plan as was presented at the March meeting. Debra Gaikowski briefly reviewed each item of the 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. The board members discussed the issues at length. Kate Heligas commented on the efforts of the Study Group and reasons we need to consider this plan. Julie Johnson Dresbach stated she feels the plan is a good idea since 50% of paratransit users are ambulatory. She thought it may be necessary to add recreational trips back into the subcontracted service. Ryan Green discussed the need for the system to expand and the benefits that could be achieved if this were done. The Chair then took comments from the audience. Charles Santee asked whether trips for education would be considered a work related ride. They would not. He also asked if the contract would involve the City or First Transit. The City would be party to the agreement. Joe Dvorak discouraged the elimination of recreational trips. Dennis Foster suggested charging for transfers as a way of increasing revenue. Chris Fester commented that the group does not have enough backup information to move forward with this plan yet. She thought it necessary to contact other agencies that subcontract for paratransit service to see if it is working and if it is cost effective. Item 1 - Rochelle Hart made a motion to move forward with the public hearing to hear comments on the proposal to subcontract paratransit service in the evening hours as laid out in the Service Action Plan. Kate Heligas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Item 2 – The board members agreed they would like to see the track record of the subcontractor providing the evening service prior to cutting back Sioux Falls Transit's paratransit service. Item 3 – Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to move forward with the public hearing to receive comments on the fare changes. Rochelle Hart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Item 4 – Kate Heligas made a motion to table this item until the subcontracting for evening paratransit service is complete and running and it can be reviewed. The motion was seconded by Julie Johnson Dresbach. Motion passed unanimously. Item 5 – Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to table this item until subcontracted services have been running for a while and can be reviewed. The motion was seconded by Rochelle Hart. Motion passed unanimously. Item 6, 7, 8 were grouped together and acted on as one. Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to make a determination on these items once cost savings are realized. Kate Heligas seconded the motion. Julie also expressed her disappointment in not adding any new routes into the 2009 Budget. She felt it imperative to at least present the budget to the council with new routes included and let the council decide whether to include them or not.

## **3. Public Input on Non-agenda Items**

Dave McCoy, representing Premiere Bankcard, requested service near the company's facility in the northwest area of the city.

## **4. New Business:**

### **a. Pass-it-on Program Quarterly Report**

Stacey Tieszen reviewed the distribution and usage of the free bus passes within the first quarter of 2008. She has had requests from other agencies to join the program.

## **5. Other Business:**

Dennis Foster, Sioux Falls Transit driver, approached the Board with issues related to Route 8 and Route 2. Both routes are extremely tight on time which often results in the buses running late. This holds up the buses downtown if there are transfers and is an inconvenience to the riders. Dennis suggested changing Route 8 to a one hour route and expanding it to serve several businesses in the industrial area that are not being served. On Route 2, he suggested changing the loop that goes by SD Achieve and the Glory House and the portion of the route that is known as the Edison loop. Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to have Route 8 surveyed for ridership at each stop and to evaluate the possibility of making

Route 8 a one hour route. The options will be presented to the Board at the May meeting. The motion was seconded by Rochelle Hart. Transit staff will review Route 2 and the suggestions made by Dennis.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.