

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, AUGUST 23, 2021

3:30 PM

Staff Liaison:

Sam Trebilcock, strebilcock@siouxfalls.org (605) 367-8890

MEETING ASSISTANCE: UPON REQUEST, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEETINGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, CITY HALL, 224 WEST 9TH STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD AT 367-8745 (VOICE) OR 367-7039 (TDD) 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

Public Transit Advisory Board Member Participants: Brett Glirbas; Allen Svennes; Erik Nelson, Sean Garney, Bailey Abbott, Jeri Reed (had intermittent connection issues).

Public Transit Advisory Board Members absent: Mike Lynch.

Staff Participants: Sam Trebilcock, Fletcher Lacock, Glenn Wright, Tierza Lanham, Kevin Smith.

Public Participants: Cathy Brechtelsbauer, Phyllis Arends, Nancy Olson, Bill Olson, Trevor Mitchell.

Minutes

Facilitator: Allen Svennes, Chair

Call to Order and Quorum Determination: Brett Glirbas, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm and welcomed all participants. Member participants represented a quorum.

1. Meeting Procedures: Sam Trebilcock read the meeting procedures for the PTAB videoconference and in-person meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Bailey Abbott and a second by Sean Garney to approve the August 23, 2021 PTAB agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
3. PTAB Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021: A motion was made by Brett Glirbas and a second by Allen Svennes to defer the June 28, 2021 minutes. The meeting minutes were incomplete. Sam will send the minutes out for review along with the August minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public input on non-agenda items: Nancy Olson proposed that free bus ridership be provided for high school students during the school year by Sioux Area Metro. Nancy stated the benefits to the environment as well as benefits for the students. She detailed that Rapid City provides free bus rides for all students. PTAB asked that the topic should be added to future PTAB meeting agendas to discuss its merits and have the staff look into how Rapid City pays for their program. Cathy Brechtelsbauer agreed with Nancy's comments except she thought it should be free for all students not just high school students. Cathy also stated that their needs to be more SAM fixed-route service in the community to provide service to new apartment buildings in the city.

Unfinished Business

5. SAM OnDemand Update (Informational) – Routes 8 and 19 bus stops have been added to SAM OnDemand. Also, to encourage people to use the app and not to schedule rides on the phone, SAM is offering free rides if the ride is scheduled using the app. In the near future, SAM will be adding paratransit in the Route 8 and 19 area to the SAM on Demand system for Saturdays. Brett was concerned that paratransit was not yet available in the Route 8 and 19 areas. Sam responded that paratransit will be available as a part of the SAM On Demand system to test how well works in combination with general transit. Brett stated that using the app for paratransit would be easier for people to use. This topic is informational and will be an ongoing agenda item.

New Business

6. SAM Reduction in Service – Driver Shortage. Labor shortages and vacancies have arisen leading to driver shortages. Hiring takes some time but with an increase in starting salary and more applications being received, it is anticipated that the shortage will be short term. Brett asked about the number of applications and Glenn responded that there have been more in the last week. It takes 8-10 weeks to train a new driver. Sean asked a question regarding hiring standards. Glenn responded that SAM will work with applicants who show potential. A CDL license is not required to apply for a driver position. Bailey asked about the increase in salary. Glenn stated that the starting salary was \$15.17/hr and is now up to \$19.51/hr.
7. 2022 Transit Budget. Trebilcock reviewed the summary of the 2021 transit budget. Overall, the operating budget is going up by about 3% and within the cost of living adjustment. The infusion of federal COVID-19 money has improved the long-term transit fund situation, but the fund still is projected to go into the red by 2028. Trebilcock reviewed the capital budget. He explained there is a priority to renovate the Bus Garage /Headquarters including ADA access, condition of the building and expanded meeting rooms and customer service area. In addition, new bus shelters are needed as existing shelters are

deteriorating. Bailey stated that she feels the budget is reasonable. Brett stated a concern with the new smaller paratransit buses picking up and dropping off people during snow events. Tierza Lanham said that it is not anticipated that the new buses will create any more problems than the other paratransit buses, but that it will be evaluated after this winter.

8. June/July 2021 Operations Report. Glenn Wright presented highlights of the June and July monthly reports. Glenn reviewed the June Operations Report and stated that ridership is up but still below 2020 overall numbers. Year-to-date ridership is down 13.97%. Complaints received did not include any mask related concerns. Glenn reviewed the July Operations Report stating that ridership was up again compared to July 2020 and that the year-to-date ridership was still down 10.82% from last year.
9. Announcements: It was decided to continue to offer both an in-person and virtual meeting attendance options.
10. Next PTAB meeting: September 27, 2021: City Center, Cooper Room 1st Floor (with WebEx link option)
11. Adjournment: A motion was made by Brett Glirbas and seconded by Erik Nelson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.