

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on November 23, 2009

Members present:

Kate Heligas (Chair)
Julie Briggs
Rochelle Hart
Julie Johnson Dresbach
Thad Mooney
Deb Nelson
Chris Schiltz (3:52 p.m.)

Members absent:

Public in attendance:

Chad Powell
Charles Santee

Staff present:

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Randy Hartman, Assistant General Manager
Karen Walton, General Manager

Call to order

With quorum present, Kate Heligas, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. Approval of September 28, 2009, PTAB Meeting Minutes

With no changes, Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to accept the September 28, 2009 PTAB Meeting Minutes. Rochelle Hart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of October 26, 2009, PTAB Meeting Minutes

With no change, Deb Nelson made a motion to accept the October 26, 2009 PTAB Meeting Minutes. Julie Johnson Dresbach seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Input on Non-agenda Items:

Charles Santee commented on Transit's website and how it could be more user-friendly. He had a copy of an example of a brochure that has the second page rotated. The members told him that there is a function to rotate it but he felt that a user should not have to do that and not all users understand that. He also said that the items available on Transit's website are in PDF format which are typically not compatible with cell phones that have internet capability so users can not open them. Debra Gaikowski stated that Transit's website is undergoing some changes and she would discuss his issues with the Webmasters. Julie Johnson Dresbach suggested including Charles and Chad Powell in a review of the site after changes have been made.

Charles had a couple of other operational questions which were addressed by the Operations Manager and Assistant General Manager.

Chad Powell questioned why Paratransit Scheduling is calling him on a regular basis prior to his ride in the mornings. Karen Walton explained that the paratransit scheduling software has had a lot of issues lately and that the calls can be expected until new software is purchased. The purchasing and implementation of new software will take place within the next few months.

4. New business:

a. October Monthly Report

Karen Walton discussed the report numbers for the month of October. She reviewed the ridership numbers and how they compare to the ridership trend across the nation. Other items noted included the low accident rate for the year, the low employee lost work days, and the fact that there have been no Worker's Compensation claims for the year. Dennis Erckfritz reported on the installation of four video cameras on one of the transit buses as a test run.

b. Transportation Coordination Committee Update

Debra Gaikowski discussed the good attendance at the last Transportation Coordination Committee meeting, when the next meeting is scheduled, and what agency is scheduled to present about their organization. Debra also gave an update on the hiring of a Transportation/Mobility Manager Planner by the South Eastern Council of Governments. The person in this position will use part of their time to continue the efforts of the Transportation Coordination Committee in coordinating transportation services within the community. A person has been offered the position and accepted. They will begin the Mobility Manager duties January 1, 2010. Julie Johnson Dresbach asked that this person come to a PTAB meeting for introductions.

c. Farebox Overview

Randy Hartman reviewed the features and functions of the new farebox equipment that is scheduled to be installed in the buses within the next few months. The new fareboxes may allow for changes to the current fare structure.

d. Transit Marketing Update

Debra discussed the release of the new name and logo for the transit system. A Press Conference will take place on Tuesday, December 1, at 11:30 a.m. at the Transit facility. Debra also told the members that she and Karen performed a brief presentation to Lego League participants this past weekend. Transit has requested artwork from 4th graders from public and private schools within the city to display in the fixed-route buses. Debra and Karen will also be the instructors for a Community Education class next spring on how to ride the bus which is offered through the Sioux Falls School District.

e. 2010 PTAB Work Program

Debra reviewed the 2010 Work Program for the members, which outlines the expected issues to address this coming year. An item to note, is the Transit Development Plan. Debra explained that this plan will be a five-year plan which will give the transit system some direction in route planning, marketing, and financial activities.

5. Other Business:

Julie Johnson Dresbach and Chelle Hart commented that at a recent Diversity Council meeting, transportation was discussed as one of the most important current issues facing this community.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

