

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on November 28, 2011

Members present:

Greg Johnson
Jim Madsen
Deb Nelson
Chris Schiltz

Members absent:

Jean Crowe
Julie Johnson Dresbach
Kate Heligas

Public in attendance:

Jeff Barth, County Commissioner
Amber Gibson, SECOG
Terri Jordan
Al Madsen, SD State Penitentiary
Darin Young, Minnehaha County
Security Officer

Staff present:

Debra Gaikowski, Transit Planner
Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager
Randy Hartman, Assistant General Manager
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager
Colleen Moran, City Attorney, ADA Coordinator

Call to order

Greg Johnson, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and made introductory comments.

1. **Approval of September 26, 2011, PTAB Meeting Minutes**
Deb Nelson made a motion to accept the September 26, 2011, PTAB meeting minutes as written. Chris Schiltz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Public input on non-agenda items:**
Charles Santee commented on the new bus pullout on West Avenue on Route 6. He stated that the stop is very easy to use and well designed.
3. **Public Hearing:** None
4. **Old Business:** None
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Minnehaha County Work Release Bus Stop Discussion**

Jeff Barth, Darin Young, and Al Madsen, all aired concerns about the bus stop on Route 6, located on Russell Street, across the street from the Work Release Center. They stated that there are several detainees that spend the night at the facility and then go to work during the day. There is currently no crosswalk for them to cross Russell Street to get to the transit bus stop and there are no sidewalks on the south side of Russell Street at the bus stop. They said that many are getting transportation from family members but the transit system could be used more often if it were safer to cross the street. Randy Hartman stated that, after hearing the concerns from the Work Release Center, the stop and the route have been analyzed carefully. A route alteration was considered but it would have a negative impact on on-time performance. Karen Walton said the ridership on the route has increased greatly this year too so making any changes would impact a lot of people. A survey of ridership at the stop on Russell Street was conducted for several days. Boardings and deboardings each day were in the range of 3 – 16 passengers. It was noted that Russell Street will be reconstructed in 2013 which will include new continuous sidewalks on the south side of the street. However, it was uncertain whether a crosswalk would be installed. It was suggested to those representing the Work Release Center that they contact the City's Engineering Department to ensure that crosswalks are incorporated into the new design of Russell Street. Board members encouraged Transit staff and City staff to keep this stop in mind when reviewing routes in the future to see if the Work Release Center can somehow be accommodated. This item was informational.

b. ADA Transition Plan Update

Colleen Moran gave an overview of the ADA Transition Plan currently being updated through a consultant contract. She reviewed the purpose of the plan, the process of gathering data for the plan, and how the recommendations will be incorporated into the City's Capital Improvements Program. The first ADA Transition Plan was completed for the City in the 1990s and last updated in 2002. The draft of the transit portion of the ADA Transition Plan should be completed by next week. This item was informational.

c. Customer Service Audit

Karen Walton summarized the report of the recent Customer Service Audit. She explained that this involves an anonymous passenger riding several different routes with different drivers at various times of the day. The passenger is a trained auditor brought in from out of town who evaluates several different areas of service and performance. Overall, the Sioux Area Metro drivers did an outstanding job with only a few minor corrective actions being required. This item was informational.

6. Reports:

a. September/October Operations Report

Karen Walton relayed that, for the fourth straight month, ridership on the fixed-route service increased dramatically over the same month of last year. There were no preventable accidents in October and the net expense per passenger has stayed steady.

b. Transit Marketing Committee Report

Karen Walton shared information on two safety awards received by Sioux Area Metro. The awards were among First Transit, Inc.'s contracts of similar size, 57 total, and were for Most Improved Safety Record and Lowest Collision Rate. Karen also talked about an upcoming event to be held on December 8. It will be a

"Friends Ride Free Day" at Sioux Area Metro to help promote the transit system to first-time riders. Riding with a friend tends to make people more comfortable and at ease.

c. Service Requests Report

Debra Gaikowski stated that other than the Work Release Center which was previously discussed, she had not received any requests for new or additional transit service.

7. **Other Business:** Debra reminded Board members that there is no Public Transit Advisory Board meeting in December. She also announced that the terms for two Board members expires as of this meeting and thanked them both for their years of service.

Adjournment

Greg Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.