

## PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

*Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues*

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on April 22, 2013

### **Members present:**

Deb Nelson  
Jean Crowe  
Erik Gaikowski  
Julie Johnson Dresbach  
Megan Myers  
Greg Johnson

### **Staff present:**

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager  
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager  
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager  
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner  
Amber Gibson, Sioux Falls MPO  
Randy Hartman, Assistant GM  
Eric Meyerson, General Manager  
Carol Garry, Human Relations

### **PTAB Members absent:**

Jim Madsen

### **Public in attendance:**

Charles Santee  
Joe Dvorak  
Beth Wischmeyer  
Don Glirbas  
Brett Glirbas  
Phyllis Arends  
Bob Bohm  
Vicki Meirose  
Mary Moderegg  
Clark Guhin  
Terry Rist  
Joe Dvorak  
Chad Powell  
Deb Ver Steeg

### **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 March 25, 2013, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Julie Johnson Dresbach made a motion to accept the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, PTAB meeting minutes. Deb Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Public input on non-agenda items:**

Phyllis Arends asked how many PTAB members use public transportation in Sioux Falls. She wanted to make sure that PTAB decisions were based with a knowledge about what it is like to ride the bus in Sioux Falls. So, she encouraged PTAB members to ride to understand that.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **Transit Fare and Operation Analysis**

Sam Trebilcock provided the Board with a presentation provided to a group of stakeholders. The stakeholders input will help provide guidance on recommendations within the analysis. This item was informational.

#### **4. Public Hearing - Paratransit Peak-Period Service Reduction Outside ¾ mile of Transit Fixed-Route Service Area**

Greg Johnson opened the public hearing with an introduction to the subject. Sam Trebilcock and Tierza Lanham explained that the system capacity available within the paratransit system has been exceeded especially at peak hours. Sioux Area Metro will need to focus its paratransit service on serving ADA certified individuals who are traveling to and from locations that are within the required ¾ mile fixed-route service area. The specific service changes include the following:

- Limit the service coverage area during peak travel times (7-9 am and 2-4 pm) to locations within ¾ mile of a fixed-route except for current subscription trips.
- Limit the service coverage area after 6:30 pm to locations within the ¾ mile of a fixed-route.
- Do not accept any new or modified subscription trips to and from locations that are beyond ¾ of a mile of a fixed -route.

Greg Johnson asked if anyone had a comment on the proposed policy. The following comments were offered:

- What is the cost of missing trips – including Medicaid and work trips?
- Adjusting hours for people may not always be possible
- I think it is important here to find more money to provide additional capacity
- I could change my times of travel
- Dakotabilities will have 21 people from 3 houses affected by this new policy
- Achieve is interested in tripper routes on fixed-route busses to help with the paratransit capacity issues.
- Could we keep the same service and just not expand it in the future?
- Increasing the outside the ¾ mile area fare to \$6 would be too much.
- Dakotabilities is not able to take more client trips because of the capacity on our vehicles and the lack of drivers.
- Could Sioux Falls charge an additional fee for peak hour service outside the ¾ mile service area?
- Some people utilize the Sanford Health Center for people with disabilities that operates from 2 to 6 pm. Reducing peak hour service will make it difficult to use this service.
- Is there a way to add more wheelchair spots on a fixed-route bus?
- We need to be looking for more money from the federal government and hospitals.
- We are willing to pay more to keep our services.
- This type of paratransit service is more important than keeping the trolley.

Deb Nelson made a motion to recommend the approval of all three service changes and take it to City Council. PTAB members agreed that this is extremely difficult decision and more funding is needed to help maintain current services. PTAB unanimously approved the motion.

#### **5. Reports:**

##### **a. March Operations Report**

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for March. This item was informational.

##### **b. Transit Marketing Committee**

Randy Hartman told the Board that the Marketing Committee is working on bus stop sign designs. A presentation of the recommended design will be brought to PTAB next month. This item was informational.



**6. Other Business:**

No other business was offered.

**7. Adjournment**

Greg Johnson made a motion to adjourn and Jean Crowe seconded the motion. Greg Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.