



## PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

*Advisory committee to the Mayor on public transit issues*

Meeting Minutes

for the meeting on February 24, 2014

### **Members present:**

Minnie Bell  
Philip Jacobson  
Greg Johnson  
Erik Gaikowski  
Deb Nelson

### **Staff present:**

Dennis Erckfritz, Operations Manager  
Amber Gibson, Planner II, SECOG  
Tierza Lanham, Paratransit Manager  
Bill McCarty, Maintenance Manager  
Eric Meyerson, General Manager  
Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney  
Al Roettger, Community Development  
Program Specialist  
Sam Trebilcock, Transportation Planner

### **PTAB Members absent:**

Megan Myers  
Jean Crowe

### **Public in attendance:**

Melanie Bliss  
April Bolton  
Carlos Cobos  
Joe Dvorak  
Clark Guhin  
Mike Heineman  
Troy Osterloo  
Terry Paulsen  
Chad Powell  
Bonita Schwan  
Stacey Tieszen

### **Call to order**

Deb Nelson, Chair, called the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and made introductory comments.

### **1. Approval of January 27, 2014, PTAB Meeting Minutes**

Greg Johnson made a motion to accept the January 27, 2014, PTAB meeting minutes. Erik Gaikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Charles Santee indicated that clutter on the bus floors prevented a person with a cane from walking on the bus safely.

Charles Santee stated that the recently added concrete slabs on Shirley Avenue, near Walmart and Cracker Barrel, had not been cleared of snow.

Charles Santee stated that he has had to repair the foot-plates on his wheelchair due to damage resulting from there not being enough room to maneuver his wheelchair on the buses.

### **3. New Business:**

#### **a. Pass-It-On Program Annual Report**

Stacey Tieszen presented the annual report for the Pass-It-On Program. As part of the program, the City of Sioux Falls provides 40,000 single ride passes on an annual basis to assist homeless and very low-income individuals with free access to public transit. The Minnehaha County Department of Human Services Administers the Program. In 2013, the County issues 42,500 passes to agencies and 40,645 were redeemed by riders, resulting in a 95.6% redemption rate. Stacey indicated that it is a very good program that helps people get back on their feet by providing transportation to employment opportunities, and that the need for the Program continues to rise.

In addition, Brenda Teunissen, from the Sioux Falls Vet Center, spoke in support of the Program. The Sioux Falls Vet Center provides counseling services to veterans, no matter their discharge status, and is on one of the 14 participating agencies of the Pass-It-On Program. The Sioux Falls Vet Center distributes its allocation of passes to mostly older veterans. This item was informational only.

### **4. Old Business:**

#### **a. Transit Task Force Update**

Sam Trebilcock updated the Board on the recent Transit Task Force progress. Sam reviewed the progress of the work action groups, which are sub-groups assigned to work on certain work actions that report back to the Transit Task Force. Sam stated that the next Transit Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at the Carnegie. This item was informational only.

#### **b. Transit Coordination Activities**

Amber Gibson informed the Board that the Transportation Coordination Committee would be meeting February 26<sup>th</sup> to continue discussing the work activities identified for priority number two of the Coordinated Plan, Non-Profit Coordination. This item was informational only.

### **5. Reports:**

#### **a. January Operations Report**

Eric Meyerson provided a report on the ridership statistics of Sioux Area Metro for January. In January, fixed-route ridership was down 9.23% and paratransit ridership was down 7.33% compared with 2012. Eric noted that approximately half of the fixed route ridership decrease was due to elimination of the pusher buses for the school tripper service. This item was informational only.

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

Eric Meyerson informed the Board that the Marketing Committee met early this month. Discussion included how best to market the new service changes and the new bus stop signs to be installed later this year. This item was informational only.

### **6. Other Business:**

Sam Trebilcock indicated that staff has been investigating potential solutions for Route 5 and that installing stop signs on Blauvelt Avenue would be difficult as it is not a thru street. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to make Route 5 safe.

Troy Osterloo inquired as to when the changes to the evening bus service would take place. Tierza Lanham indicated that they are targeting April 14<sup>th</sup> for the service change to begin.

## **7. Adjournment**

Erik Gaikowski made a motion to adjourn and Philip Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Deb Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.