

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022
3:30 PM

Staff Liaison:

Sam Trebilcock, strebilcock@siouxfalls.org (605) 367-8890
Bren Schweitzer, bschweitzer@siouxfalls.org (605) 367-8689
Karla Resendiz, kresendiz@siouxfalls.org (605) 367-8895

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: Allen Svennes, Erik Nelson, Brett Glirbas, Manny Gutierrez, Mike Lynch, Bailey Abbott.

Public Transit Advisory Board Members absent: Sean Garney

Staff Participants: Sam Trebilcock, Jim Feeney, Robert Speeks, Karla Resendiz, Tierza Lanham, Pam Jump, Bren Schweitzer, Jeff Eckhoff, Glenn Wright

Public Participants: Melanie Bliss

Minutes

Facilitator: Allen Svennes, Chair

Call to Order and Quorum Determination: Allen Svennes, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:31pm and welcomed all participants. Member participants represented a quorum.

- 1. Meeting Procedures:** Sam Trebilcock read the meeting procedures for the PTAB videoconference meeting.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Brett Glirbas and a second by Mike Lynch to make an amendment to the agenda by adding "Driver Shortage Updates" to the unfinished business portion of the agenda. The motion with the amendment passed unanimously.
- 3. PTAB Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Manny Gutierrez and a second by Bailey Abbott to approve the March 28, 2022 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Public input on non-agenda items:**

- a. *Melanie B. expressed support of the election of new council representatives and their continued commitment to making transportation a priority.*

Unfinished Business

5. Free Transit Rides for Youth - update (Informational) The school district has been engaged to implement the freedom bus pass. This program will allow all students to ride transit free of charge. Students eligible for ridership can be from the Sioux Falls School District, other nearby school districts, private schools, or home schooled kids. Riders must have a valid school ID to present the driver or obtain a pass from Sioux Area Metro. Melanie B. suggested advertising this program at Title I schools, free lunch sites, the Washington Pavilion, summer recreation catalogs, libraries, and others.
6. Free Transit Rides for Early Voting (Informational) Ridership was tracked for early voting with paratransit completing seven trips. Free ride day passes were provided on fixed-route, but were not tracked. Tracking will be improved for the next election. Board members clarified that voting polls are open 45-days before an election for early voting. Offering rides to accommodate this period may yield in higher ridership trends. Melanie B. inquired about paratransit route efficiencies and the possibility of pooling riders together and doing one trip all together. Sam T. indicated that might be difficult to implement, as rides were very scattered.
7. Driver Shortage Update (added item). (Informational) Driver numbers remain low and to some extent are dipping. Several drivers are out for medical reasons leaving the program about eight drivers short. The number of drivers may require discontinuation of evening services to avoid driver burnout. Manny G. suggested offering direct route quick services in the evening. Switching to on demand during the evening services will unfortunately not reduce enough vehicles to make a difference. Melanie B. suggested more outreach City-wide and communicating with the South Dakota Department of Labor.

New Business

8. Transit Development Plan/Public Involvement Plan (Informational) City Staff is working on putting surveys together with the objective to engage the public about future transit services and operations. Three versions of the survey will be sent out targeting a survey for the entire community along with a fixed-route and para transit rider's survey. By the next meeting, staff will have a preliminary data from the surveys. The next level of engagement is to partner with stakeholder groups with meetings set up over the next month.
9. 41st Street and I-29 Interchange Construction and Transit Detours - the 41st St. Interchange construction project is underway and is affecting routes 10 and 11. Some impacts from Roosevelt High School have been voiced over the last month and will be worked to mitigate those concerns by next Fall.

- 10.** RFP's released – Automatic Passenger Counter & Mobile Ticketing (Informational). Data has been very accurate with the four counters that have been installed for purposes of the bus stop survey. An RFP was released this month with a goal of adding permanent automatic passenger counters to track ridership. In addition, Sioux Area Metro has issued a mobile ticketing services RFP that would secure a vendor to provide a mobile ticketing platform that would allow any rider to purchase a ticket with their mobile phone. Updates on both RFPs will be provided at the next meeting.
- 11.** March 2022 Operations Report (Informational) Robert Speeks provided data from the March 2022 Operations Report. There were no rider complaints for March. Cost per rider statistics were discussed. Ridership is divided into the total expenses and determines this statistic. Many of the cost elements are regular expenses that can vary quite a bit from month to month. This number is volatile and will fluctuate with expenses and ridership numbers. Annual calculations may be a better reflection of actual cost per ride.
- 12.** Announcements: Next PTAB meeting: May 23, 2022 with both in-person and virtual options.
- 13.** Adjournment – Brett Glirbas made a motion to adjourn, Manny G. seconded. Allen Svenes declared the meeting adjourned the meeting at 4:36 pm.

Minutes prepared by Karla Resendiz