

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2024

3:30 PM

Staff Liaison:

Bren Schweitzer, bren.schweitzer@siouxfalls.gov (605)367-8689Karla Resendiz, karla.resendiz@siouxfalls.gov (605)367-8895Fletcher Lacock, fletcher.lacock@siouxfalls.gov (605)367-8896

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: Erik Nelson, Joni Tschetter, Al Svennes, Manny Guterrez, Jaime Johannesen, Bailey Abbott

PTAB Board Members Absent: None

Staff Participants: Glenn Wright, Bren Schweitzer, Kevin Hansen, Joe Martin, Tierza Lanham, Ryan Weisenbach, Karla Resendiz, Justin Jellinek, Fletcher Lacock, Jeff Eckhoff, Emily Shapiro, Gal Kramer, Cathal O’Gorman

Public Participants (attending virtually and in-person): See sign-in; 24 participants attended in-person and online.

Minutes

Call to Order and Quorum Determination: Erik Nelson, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and welcomed all participants. Member participants represented a quorum.

- 1.** Meeting Procedures: Bren Schweitzer read the meeting procedures for the PTAB meeting.
- 2.** Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Manny *Gutierrez*, *second by Al Svennes* to approve the May 2024 PTAB Agenda. **Motion passed.**
- 3.** PTAB Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Jaime Johannesen, a second by Joni Tschetter to approve the April 2024 PTAB Minutes. **Motion passed.**
- 4. Public input on non-agenda items:**

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED 3:43 PM – Proposed Fixed Route Redesign

The purpose and intent of the public hearing was explained by Chairman Nelson, with ground rules and process addressed, to include 5-minute comment limit and board participation.

Subject to this hearing, Joe Martin, Via, presented the Redesign of the Fixed Route proposal. After approximately six months of analyzing existing routes, working through the Transit Development Plan as well as data obtained for the previous six months and the Public Engagement Opportunities that were held, Via and Sioux Area Metro feel confident in their suggested changes to the existing network.

In summary, there will be increased frequency and straight/bilateral routes as opposed to circular routes. There will be combined routes, reducing the total number of routes from 12 to nine, with the implementation of On-Demand service. The overall footprint of service area will include complete city limits between all modes of transportation (Fixed Route, Paratransit and On-Demand). Paratransit services will not see any changes, and will be enhanced with on-demand services, which can offer same-day accessible service.

After the Public Engagement opportunities, there have been changes implemented on 33rd St. and on the state's One-Stop Facility, that will now incorporate two separate routes. Sunday service is noted as a long-term goal. Fares will not be changing.

Board Discussion:

E. Nelson questioned if the plan presented today will remain budget neutral. J. Martin and E. Shapiro of Via assured them that this was a budget neutral proposal.

M. Guiterrez questioned if the Pass-it-On program will remain a service. J. Martin verified this will remain.

J Martin clarified that the VA passengers will not have a regular route, however, will have service through on-demand. The basis for this is the overall low ridership at the VA, and the fact that on-demand will better serve the veterans by offering increased flexibility in time and frequency with direct service.

Public Discussion:

The following discussion pertained to the purpose and intent of the public hearing regarding the redesign of the fixed routes. Participants included in-person and on-line patrons.

B. Andres questioned if his address is located in the covered area proposed; yes, through on-demand he is in the coverage area.

P. Arends spoke on behalf and as an advocate of mental health. She questioned if SAM On-Demand can be used instead of paratransit and vice versa. This answer is yes.

C. Brechtelsbauer thanked the board for covering the entire city. Pink route appears to end at 5:00 PM, she suggested this be moved to 5:30. She encouraged public engagement sessions as well as allocating additional city dollars to public transit. Pink route response by Via: The last route begins at 5:00, does not end at 5:00, which does offer service beyond 5:00.

H. D. spoke on behalf of her mentee, requesting more access off 57th St.

A. R. expressed her concern at the stop at Foss & Arrowhead being dangerous. Note was taken.

Other comments were made that were not reflective of this redesign proposal that included snow/ice removal on streets and sidewalks, clarification of the definition of allowable conditions to ride paratransit. Response included directives in the Paratransit Handbook as well as Tierza L. from SAM verifying that recertification of eligibility for paratransit can be done at any time. Recording of this meeting is available.

Motion by A. Svenes S/B. Abbott to approve and accept this Fixed Route Redesign proposal and forward to City Council for further action. Motion Passed.

5. Public input on non-agenda items:

None

Unfinished Business:

6. Marketing Plan Update

Through the public engagement and board support, Via is working on the increased marketing of the system and will address this immediately following the city council's approval of the proposed redesign.

7. Election Transportation to the Polls – Run Off & Future Elections

Run-off election bus service was provided and will also be provide for early voting in the upcoming primaries. This will be an ongoing service. There is generally low ridership, however the service is available at no charge.

New Business:

8. Annual Meeting/Election of Officers

Motion by A. Svennes/ S. by B. Abbott to nominate Jaime Johannessen as Chairman of PTAB. Motion Passed.

Motion by A. Svennes/S. by J. Johannesen to nominate Bailey Abbott as V. Chair of PTAB. Motion Passed.

Bren Schweitzer reminded and encouraged those attending that the process for consideration for board membership in city boards is as follows:

- www.siouxfalls.gov
 - City Government
 - Board, Commissions & Committees
 - Apply online or download a PDF version of the application and submit
 - Handbook for Citizen Boards is available online

PTAB currently has one position open and there will be additional positions available in the fall with expiring terms. An informational e-mail will be sent to our list of 'Interested Parties' for transit with this information.

9. Operations Report

This report was tabled for June due to the length and content of this meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by A. Svennes S. B. Abbott to adjourn at 5:21 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karla Resendiz