

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
January 28, 2016

Members Present: Mike DeKalb, Jenni Lesoing-Lucs, Jason Hellbusch, Linda Carter, Don Herz, Janet Goodman-Banks

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Davis, Scott Tharnish, Glenn Knust, Brian Praeuner, Suzanne Ideus, Kitty Elliott, Connie Thoreson, Charlie Schroeder, Marilyn Kruger

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman DeKalb opened the meeting, noting the Open Meetings Act and Patron Conduct Notice posted on the north wall.

A. Patrons to be Heard

Richard Schmeling, President of Citizens for Improved Transit (CFIT), which is an advocacy group for a better Lincoln, Nebraska bus system. Mr. Schmeling mentioned that StarTran Transit Manager, Mike Davis attended the last monthly CFIT meeting.

A CFIT Position Statement was distributed with regard to the proposed TDP, in which they are in favor of moving the buses out of neighborhoods to main arterials, in order to speed up routes, and designated bus stops, which will also speed up the routes and make them more compatible with trip planner applications.

CFIT also feels the TDP has flaws, which include not enough money for expanded services. It is felt that the system is set up to fail because only some of the routes operate later hours. They feel that it will be confusing to customers to know which routes operate late and which ones don't. They would advocate for all routes to operate until 11p.m. The other flaw Mr. Schmeling noted was that the crosstown route doesn't go across the complete town.

Mr. Schmeling invited the Advisory Board Members to join him to advocate for additional funding for StarTran transit services.

Chairman DeKalb thanked Mr. Schmeling for his input and suggestions.

B. Review/Action Items

- **November 19, 2015 StarTran Advisory Board Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes** – A motion for approval was made by Jenni Lesoing-Lucs for the 9/19/15 StarTran Advisory Board public hearing and meeting minutes, as submitted, and seconded by Jason Hellbusch. The 11/19/15 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 6-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Carter, Banks, and Herz all voted “aye”.)
- **FY 2014-15 Transit Surveillance Report** – Brian Praeuner presented the Transit Surveillance Report per attachment noting the performance measures from FY 2014-15, which included Safety/Security at the request made by the Board the previous year. Standards that haven't been met are addressed with the TDP.

This report is part of an FTA Title VI requirement and will also be evaluated with the Federal Triennial Review scheduled in a few months.

Linda Carter made a motion to accept the FY 2014-15 Transit Surveillance Report, as submitted, which was seconded by Ms. Lesoing-Lucs. The unanimous vote approved this plan, 6-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Carter, Banks, and Herz all voted “aye”.)

C. OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Davis reviewed the monthly report mentioning the following:

- The additional Kawasaki trips continue to be monitored with an average 20 passengers.
- Road Calls are up due to older buses and adverse winter weather.
- New bus operators have been hired, and will help to alleviate overtime that has been covered by current drivers. StarTran will over hire with the next interviews in order to cover when there are future retirements/terminations.
- Results of an amenities and safety survey performed at the Gold's Building will be compiled and presented in the near future,
- Many marketing events are in progress, to include the UNL Spring game, Star Pass, and Waterfest, to name a few.
- Ridership continues to trend downward.
- The new Handivan Brokerage contract is progressing very well with increases in ridership.
- The four January TDP public meetings were very well attended by patrons as well as most City Council Members. Comments from those meetings are being discussed with the consultants. Changes to the plan are yet to be determined before the City Council vote on February 8, 2016. Route details will continue to be analyzed. Modifications will be made, as needed, but it is important to let riders adjust to the new routes without making a lot of changes. It can take up to three years for the public to gain full knowledge of the new system and build ridership.

D. Patrons to be Heard

Richard Schmeling mentioned that the TDP report is on the StarTran website. The change to the route servicing Southeast High School will be included in the TDP fine tuning as StarTran staff are analyzing multiple solutions.

Mr. Schmeling stressed the need for all routes to operate to 11p.m. He has shared marketing ideas with Kitty Elliott and asks the StarTran Advisory Board to be supportive in additional funding for StarTran transit services.

Mr. Schmeling suggested honoring the late Advisory Board Member, Stephen Speicher, with a plaque.

E. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2016, 8:00 a.m. in StarTran Conference Room.