

**MINUTES**  
**STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**StarTran Conference Room**  
**February 25, 2016**

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

Members Absent: Linda Carter

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

**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, stated that more people, than in the past, are interested in StarTran bus service, noting City Councilperson Jane Raybould's comment on the numerous emails she received from interested citizens.

Mr. Schmeling, has been in contact with Mokhtee Ahmad, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region VII Administrator and Logan Daniels FTA Program Specialist to assist StarTran with future grant submissions.

Mr. Schmeling asked for a correction to the 2015 Transit Surveillance Report with regard to route numbers on bus stop signs.

Mr. Schmeling encouraged Board Members to review the new TDP routes after fall, 2016 implementation, including input from bus operators.

The Smart Cities Grant Application was mentioned. The City of Lincoln has applied for this grant which is a great funding opportunity not only for the entire City but StarTran as well. The link to this application is:

<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/cic/download/smart-city-challenge.pdf>

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

**B. Review/Action Items**

- **January 28, 2016 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion for approval was made by Jason Hellbusch for the 1/28/16 StarTran Advisory Board meeting minutes, as submitted, and seconded by Jenni Lesoing-Lucs. The 1/28/16 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 5-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Banks, and Herz all voted “aye”.)
- **Big Red Season Pass** – Kitty Elliott asked for a vote on the price of the Big Red Shuttle Service Season Pass to be set at \$50. StarTran would like to advertise this pass at the UNL Spring game in April. Seven home UNL games are scheduled and shuttle services will operate the same as last year for \$10 round trip and \$5 child fare, per game. Mike DeKalb made a motion for approval of the \$50 season pass price, which was seconded by Ms. Goodman-Banks. The unanimous vote approved the motion, 5-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Banks, and Herz all voted “aye”.)
- **Star Pass** – Kitty Elliott clarified the intent of the Star Pass for youth 5-18 years of age to utilize June-August for unlimited rides with 23 sponsor offerings included. 559 passes were sold last year. Any passes left over in August will be discounted at the LPS Open Houses attended by staff. Star Passes will be honored as soon as the LPS academic year ends in late May. Ms. Elliott asked for a motion to sell the Star Pass for \$15. Mike DeKalb made a motion to approve the \$15 pass price, which was seconded by Don Herz. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, 5-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Banks, and Herz all voted “aye”.)
- **Nebraska Transit Week** – The proposed promotions for Nebraska Transit Week requiring Board approval are as follows:  
Mon, April 11: Buddy Day – Pay Cash/Use Pass, 2 Ride for 1 Fare (includes Handi-Van)  
Tues, April 12: Bike & Bus for FREE  
Wed, April 13: Seniors Ride FREE (includes Handi-Van)  
Thurs, April 14: Patron Appreciation Day – (Treats for patrons to show appreciation for their patronage)  
Fri, April 15: Be a Car Free Person – Throw in the Key & Ride for FREE (regular routes only)  
Jenni Lesoing-Lucs motioned approval of the NE Transit Week promotions, seconded by Mike DeKalb. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, 5-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Banks, and Herz all voted “aye”.)

**C. Operations Report**

Mike Davis reviewed the monthly report mentioning the following:

- The City Council vote on the Transit Development Plan has been delayed to March 14, 2016 which will move implementation to October 3, 2016.
- Road calls have increased due to the age of the fleet.
- Ridership is down possibly due to lower fuel prices.

**D. OTHER BUSINESS**

The TDP is moving from planning to the operations phase and currently timing and interlining along with other details are being developed and evaluated for efficiencies. Changes implemented from patron input, and since the Advisory Board's initial vote include; NE & SE High Schools will have better service with additional trips to accommodate students; Route 53, Edgewood access is still being explored; trip times were adjusted to better accommodate transfers; and alignment was revised on Route 48 to better serve Vine Street.

Mike Davis met with the Near South Neighborhood Association and will be investigating their suggestions.

Ms. Goodman-Banks asked if the Board should meet with the Mayor's office in regard to additional funding being allocated for transit. Mr. Davis has coordinated with the Mayor's office in this regard and the message has been received that many individuals would like StarTran to receive additional funding.

Mr. DeKalb asked if TDP Phase 2 and/or 3 could be moved up in the budget process. Mr. Davis indicated the budget process can help move things along in the event that additional funding becomes available.

The CIP is in process and affords the purchase of 17 new buses in the FY 2018-19. Delivery of seven buses and two trolleys are expected later this year.

Mr. DeKalb complimented the Long Range Transportation Plan Open House, which StarTran participated in.

Ms. Lesoing-Lucs inquired about UNL students walking in front of buses at various intersections near campus. Mr. Schroeder felt traffic signaling could help this issue.

**D. Patrons to be Heard**

Richard Schmeling mentioned that FTA has additional funding available for bus purchases. In speaking with the bus operators, bus defect write ups need more attention and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on a variety of subject could be helpful.

Mr. Schmeling encouraged StarTran staff to develop a sense of urgency in order to get things done.

Pat Schreurs noted that on February 22, 2016, the Vets route bus operator stopped at the mall encouraging patrons to take the 'O' Street bus.

**E. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2016, 8:00 a.m. in StarTran Conference Room.