

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
December 9, 2010

Members Present: Beatty Brasch, Mitch Paine, John Baylor, Debby Brehm, Kory George,
Steve Speicher, Kim Phelps

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Larry Worth, Mike Weston, Scott Tharnish, Brian Praeuner, Kitty Elliott,
Connie Thoreson, Glenn Knust

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. Patrons to be Heard

Patrick Helwig - Mr. Helwig requested the SouthPointe route be extended to the Super Target on 40th & Yankee Hill Rd. He also thought that a “grid” bus route pattern ought to be used, and have buses operating more often.

Diane Kimble - Ms. Kimble requested a \$10 low-income bus pass for persons who just miss the income guidelines. She also suggested more advertising of the low-income pass program. Ms. Elliott noted the program is advertised in the newspaper periodically and would look to add signage inside the buses.

Ms. Elliott will inform the Board of the number of businesses offering the Employee Bus Pass Program.

In answer to a question, it was noted that the UNL Transportation Program contract is negotiated annually, however there are no contracts with LPS or Wesleyan as both are served by regular route service (boosters or deviated service)

B. Operations and Planning Report

- Scott Tharnish summarized the ridership report included in the Advisory Board Report.
- Ms. Brasch complimented staff on the Bike Rack Report and inquired as to if staff had made a determination as to utilizing the bike racks all year. Mr. Worth stated that the bike racks will be left on the buses all year, and will be evaluating StarTran’s experiences of doing so with policies changed if need be.
- The “Bus Wrap Advertising” RFP is awaiting development by Purchasing Division staff.
- The AVL close-out meeting is scheduled December 15, 2010, with liquidated damages and other financial aspects determined.
- The Procurement Review final report is expected by the end of January, 2011 and will be forwarded to the Advisory Board for their information, with opportunity for questions and answers with appropriate staff in February. It was clarified that procurements by all City and County departments are done by one centralized City-County agency. Thus most findings pertain to purchases using Federal funds by all City County agencies. It was noted that the StarTran Federal funds are not known to be in jeopardy.
- 2010 Big Red Express service, when compared to the similar schedule of games two years ago resulted in ridership/revenue increases. It was noted that the Spring UNL Game has shuttle service from two lots (instead of five), with ridership reported in the May Advisory Board report.

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C. Review & Action Items

- There was a motion and second to nominate Kim Phelps as StarTran Advisory Board Chairman, with a unanimous vote in favor. There was a motion and second, nominating John Baylor as StarTran Advisory Board Vice Chairman, with a unanimous vote in favor.
- Brian Praeuner reviewed the Operation Sub-Committee discussions and recommendations with regard to the LPlan 2040 as reported in the Board Report. David Cary, Planning Department, reviewed the process, indicating the review is federally mandated every five years.

Mr. Praeuner pointed out that the sub-committee recommendations were substantially different from the transit services policies in the current Comprehensive Plan. Current policies generally call for consistent transit services throughout the urban area. However, the recommended 2040 policies, recognizing restrained funding and increased urbanized area, propose that transit services be operated appropriate to population density, ridership potential, locations of major activity centers, etc., with various types of services operated. The Advisory Board agreed with this long-range policy, and asked that additional text be included to address flexibility in vehicle size and type, and recognition of StarTran's role in economic development.

The Advisory Board's ideas will be incorporated by the sub-committee, for review/action in January, with the agreed-upon recommendations forwarded to the Planning Department.

- Discussion took place as to how the Federal "spare ratio" regulations, which mandate a maximum number of buses based on peak service requirements, negatively influence a transit system's flexibility in types and sizes of buses utilized. It was moved and seconded that the Federal "spare ration" regulation be increased through appropriate political processes. The motion was approved, 4-3. John Baylor agreed to assist staff in carrying out this process.
- After discussion of the "Perimeter Report" idea, it was determined that a sub-committee would be formed to include, John Baylor, Mitch Paine, and Debby Brehm. The sub-committee will meet with appropriate staff to investigate the feasibility of perimeter bus storage facilities.

Kim Phelps thanked Beatty Brasch for chairing the Advisory Board meetings for the last few years.

D. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned