

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
July 28, 2011

Members Present: Kim Phelps, Beatty Brasch, Mitch Paine (via telephone), John Baylor, Debby Brehm,
Steve Speicher

Members Absent: Kory George

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

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman Kim Phelps, noted the Open Meetings Law, and Patron Conduct Notice posted on the north wall.

A. Patrons to be Heard

No patrons requested to speak.

B. Review/Action Item

- The following minutes were approved as submitted; May 26, 2011 Advisory Board Meeting, July 20, 2011 Advisory Board Meeting, and July 26, 2011 Advisory Board Public Hearing.
- The Advisory Board voted unanimously in favor of confirming the extension of the 20-Ride Pass discount through the month of July.
- Advisory Board budget recommendation in response to the Mayor's F.Y. 2011-12 proposal to reduce StarTran Saturday service from 12 hours to 8 hours.

Chair Kim Phelps opened the discussion noting that it is the Advisory Board's responsibility to make a recommendation on StarTran's portion of the Mayor's F.Y. 2011-12 budget, and that there are three options. The Advisory Board could agree with his proposal, oppose the proposal, or take exception, but also include an alternative recommendation.

Mr. Worth reminded the Board that their recommendation is sent on to the City Council and Mayor's office, with the City Council Public Hearing scheduled for August 8, 2011, at which an Advisory Board member should speak to the recommendation. Mr. Worth noted that the City Council has made tentative changes to the Mayor's budget, however none that affect StarTran.

Steve Speicher proposed to agree with the amount of the budget cut but with an alternative to be determined by the Advisory Board.

Mitch Paine questioned the process of recommending any other changes to fares or schedules as there may be a need to hold another public hearing in conjunction with a new recommendation. Mr. Worth indicated he would check the code to make sure the process was followed correctly. Mr. Paine urged the Advisory Board members to oppose the Mayor's budget recommendation of cutting service as he believes it would be in the best interest of the patrons, and believes the Advisory Board members should be advocating for the transit patrons., reminding the Advisory Board that it is not a Budget committee.

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After was much discussion with regard to what the best recommendation would be in order to serve the transit patrons as well as realize the budget shortfall, there was a motion and second to the following:

The StarTran Advisory Board is in agreement with the amount of the proposed budget cut, \$212,000, however, the Board recommends that the proposed Saturday service reduction be changed from four hours to 2 hours along with changing the route scheduling to “deadheading” 12 routes, six days a week on both ends of the day. Such would increase the \$212,000 budget cut in StarTran’s portion of the Mayor’s proposed F.Y. 2011-12 budget proposal to \$237,000.

The motion for the above recommendation carried with a 5-1 vote.

The StarTran Advisory Board acknowledged, with this recommendation, there are sacrifices being made by the bus operators and the transit patrons and felt that the administration should also contribute.

C. **Topics for Discussion**

- LPlan 2040 was presented by, Sara Hartzell from the Planning Department. Ms. Hartzell summarized handouts with regard to the transportation portion of the LPlan 2040. Chairman Phelps asked that this item be put on the August 25th Advisory Board meeting agenda for further discussion.
- A financial update by Scott Tharnish noting that StarTran passengers per hour continues to increase.

D. **Operations & Planning Report**

- Mr. Worth added that ridership is up 6% from last year and UNL ridership is up 15% from last year. Mr. Worth commented that the AVL project is complete with final payment having been made. The surveillance equipment at the Golds’ shelter area is in process, Mr. Worth noting the purpose of the fence is to define the area for enforcement of rules/regulations by LPD.

C. **Patrons to be Heard**

- Marilyn Kruger, ATU Vice President, believes the statement of buses running empty, for long time periods, is false, with a response from Ms. Brehm that it is a public perception.

D. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. The next StarTran Advisory Board meeting will be August 25, 2011, at 8:00 a.m., in the StarTran Conference Room,