

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
September 24, 2015

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

Members Absent: Stephen Speicher

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 complimented the Heart Hospital bus operator for going the extra mile in preventing a potential hit and run. Mr. Schmeling commented on the Gaslight route trips that extend to Kawasaki. He suggested that StarTran look at adjusting the times on these trips so that they are better aligned with shift start and end times.

Mr. Schmeling attended the Transit Development Plan (TDP) meetings. He, and others he spoke with, are in favor of what the consultants are presenting.

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

B. Review/Action Items

- **August 27, 2015 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion for approval was made by Jason Hellbusch for the 8/27/15 StarTran Advisory Board meeting minutes, as submitted, and seconded by Linda Carter. The 8/27/15 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 5-0. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Carter, and Herz all voted “aye”. Ms. Banks not yet present.)
- **Chair and Vice Chair Elections** – Linda Carter made a motion to keep Mike DeKalb as Chair and Don Herz as Vice Chair of the StarTran Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Jenni Lesoing-Lucs and the vote was unanimously in favor of maintaining current Chair and Vice Chair, with a 5-0 vote. (DeKalb, Lesoing-Lucs, Hellbusch, Carter, and Herz all voted “aye”. Ms. Banks not yet present.)

C. Transit Development Plan Presentation – Nelson Nygaard

Thomas Wittmann and James Gamez reviewed the TDP purpose, which is a study that evaluates current services, identifying improvement areas, and providing a roadmap for growth priorities. StarTran's current performance was found to have steady ridership growth without service levels increasing at a proportionate rate, indicating a demand for additional transit services.

Public input resulted in top priorities being additional services, including later weekday and Saturday hours, more frequent service, along with a crosstown route and Sunday service. Other requests were to add service to specific places, express services, improve passenger information, and eliminate excess service.

Mr. Wittmann suggested that designated bus stops be considered as they are a best practice nationwide and a very effective marketing tool, creating a more predictable and reliable transit environment. Designated stops improve route travel time, on-time performance, better visibility and safety of passengers, and decrease accidents. The drawback is a longer walk for a few passengers.

Three proposed scenarios were presented and it was noted that there is a tradeoff with each, in order to meet budget constraints, however, each scenario is an improvement over the current system. All scenarios are anticipated to increase ridership. The study determined that streamlining routes would improve schedule reliability.

Scenario 1 maintains coverage throughout most of Lincoln, shifting routes, in some areas, from neighborhoods to arterials which speeds up travel time, and extending service to Yankee Hill.

Scenario 2 introduces 30 minutes service along 27th Street, O Street, and Holdrege Street corridors. This scenario includes a 48th Street crosstown route, service to Yankee Hill and the 85th Street Walmart, while increasing service hours by 1-2 hours on weekdays.

Scenario 3 maintains coverage throughout most of Lincoln, improving directness and adds service to Yankee Hill. Scenario 3 adds all-day 30 minute service on 27th Street, and extends service by 1-3 hours both weekday and Saturdays.

Nelson Nygaard will continue to gather community input, developing one preferred scenario, most likely a combination of the three scenarios presented. A roadmap for additional service will also be developed along with short and long-term operations and capital plans. This final plan will be presented to the StarTran Advisory Board at the November 19, 2015 meeting, with a recommendation by the Board forwarded to the City Council in December, 2015.

Service changes resultant from this process are anticipated to be implemented in the Fall of 2016.

D. Other Business

Kitty Elliott distributed new all-route maps and Scott Tharnish distributed Big Red Express services ridership summary, which indicated a 5% increase for the first few games.

E. Patrons to Be Heard

Richard Schmeling made suggestions for TDP consultants including routes not be routed away from two schools due to longer walks for students during inclement weather and asked that shelters and benches be more prevalent in the plans. He would also like his College View route proposal to be reviewed. Mr. Schmeling would like the all-route map to show more cross streets.

Mr. Schmeling requested the StarTran Advisory Board ordinance from the City Attorney's office. He would like to see the Board advocate for additional funding and a stronger transit system. Janet Goodman-Banks stated that StarTran Advisory Board members are appointed by the Mayor and take their service on this Board seriously, advocating for better transit services. Jenni Lesoing-Lucs acknowledged agreement with Ms. Banks statement.

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2015, 8:00 a.m. in StarTran Conference Room.