

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
April 28, 2010

Members Present: Beatty Brasch, Karen Moritz, John Baylor, Mitch Paine, Kim Phelps, Debby Brehm

Members Absent: Kory George

Staff Present: Larry Worth, Mike Weston, Kitty Miller, Brian Praeuner, Connie Thoreson

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. **City County Comprehensive Plan Update - Marvin Krout, Planning Dept Director**

Mr. Krout presented a briefing of the process for the update of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. He noted that a Comprehensive Plan is required to receive federal funds, highlighting that the Transportation Element is necessary in order to be eligible to receive both transit and highways funds. This update will attempt to forecast changes in population and dwelling patterns over the next 30 years in response to the aging of the “Baby Boomers” and advanced technology, which may result in higher-density housing, changes in transportation modes, and increased mixed-use development. Such will affect energy utilization and sustain ability, both of which are priorities to be addressed in this update. While the Planning commission is responsible for this effort, an advisory committee is being organized, and several opportunities for citizen participation will be scheduled. The update is expected to be completed by December, 2011, and the Advisory Board members will be included for receiving updates throughout the process. Several alternatives for future transit services were described, including trolleys, inter-modal centers, and several forms of transit services, all which will be considered throughout the update. Mr. Krout thanked the Board members for their time, and promised to integrate public transit as an important transportation mode.

B. **Review/Accept Minutes of March 25, 2010 Board Meeting**

The minutes were accepted as submitted

C. **Patrons to be Heard**

No patrons spoke.

D. **Special Reports**

- **Bus Wrap Proposal** – John Baylor reviewed the attached “Status of StarTran Bus Wrap Program”, noting that a “hybrid” version incorporating several ideas is being pursued. Mr. Worth noted that the City Purchasing department is developing an RFP for which the successful bidder will sell bus wrap/signage for 63 of the 70 StarTran buses for a 1-year contract. The remaining buses will be retained by StarTran for continuation of trade compensation, StarTran advertising, and for local advertising wraps to be sold by board members and/or staff, with StarTran staff assuming administrative responsibilities.

- HandiVan Morning Reservation Lines & Possible Solutions - Mr. Worth reported that staff have met with representatives of the scheduling software company as to potential available upgrades. He also noted that a statewide transportation coordination program is being organized by Easter Seals, utilizing approximately \$1.0 million of Stimulus and other federal funding, which has the potential of significantly upgrading the StarTran computerized scheduling program. He emphasized that although such upgrades may be forthcoming, the available capacity to accommodate trip requests is the key component to increasing service levels. Increasing capacity is a function of increased numbers of vans, more staff, increased use of private brokerage services, and additional costs/funding. Mr. Baylor acknowledged that increased capacity is necessary, and is a long-term issue. He felt that immediate changes are needed in the phone services reached by callers such that they do not receive a busy signal, and instead should be answered by a person and/or recorded message, and placed in a waiting queue, with informational messages, music, etc played before reaching their turn to request an appointment for HandiVan services. Mr. Worth reminded that a survey was done of HandiVan passengers 1-2 months ago, as to preference of the current "call back" system versus being placed in a "waiting queue" system, and the respondents preferred the current system. Ms. Brasch recalled it was nearly a 50/50 vote, with many preferring to make the one call and then waiting their turn. Mr. Worth agreed that staff will again compile available call-in alternates to the current system for the Board's consideration.

The Advisory Board asked staff to present a report with possible alternate call-in solutions.

E. Operations & Planning Report

Mr. Worth noted three new hybrid HandiVans have been delivered, and will be placed in service. He also indicated that Board action will be scheduled in May for proposed route/schedule changes in the #24, Holdrege service, as requested by UNL.

Mr. Baylor commented the AVL contract deadline is approaching in July with fines to be charged if the project is not completed.

Mr. Baylor will compile a report to submit to the Mayor's office with regard to budget impacts of alternate fare adjustments. Larry Worth and Scott Tharnish to review the report before distribution to the Mayor's office.

The next StarTran Advisory Board meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, May 27, 2010, in the StarTran Conference Room 2.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.