

**MINUTES**  
**STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**StarTran Conference Room 2**  
**March 26, 2015**

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Davis, Mike Weston, Scott Tharnish, Glenn Knust, Kitty Elliott, Brian Praeuner, Suzanne Ideus, Miki Esposito, 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**

None

**\*\*Complete Streets Presentation by David Cary, City Planning Department**

Mr. Cary reviewed the "Complete Streets" per handout, highlighting the background, purpose, tasks, accomplishments, and future priorities.

Comments from the Board included:

- Noting the Health Department having an interest in the project in order to promote active living and lifestyles.
- Bike route planning application is on the website. In order to market this feature to UNL students, there will be a representative at future UNL Welcome events.
- Ms. Esposito answered a snow removal question directing those in need to the website for a contact number for the "Snow Angels" program.
- Mr. Speicher asked for braille and large print signs on trails indicating the next Cross Street or exit point.

Mr. Cary thanked the Board Members for their input and ideas.

Chairman DeKalb thanked David Cary for the presentation.

**B. Review/Action Items**

- **February 26, 2015 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes** - A motion for approval was made by Jenni Lesoing-Lucs and seconded by Linda Carter to approve the 2/26/15 minutes as submitted. The 2/26/15 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 7-0 (DeKalb, Hellbusch, Speicher, Herz, Lesoing-Lucs, Carter, and Banks, all voted "aye".)

**C. Operations Report**

*Manager's Report (Personnel Development, Operations, Maintenance, and Technology)*

- Mike Davis noted the improvement to the front entry of the StarTran building.
- Staff is looking forward to the StarTran Rodeo Competition, scheduled April 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Mr. Davis is meeting with individual bus operators and maintenance staff as he did with all other administrative staff last year.
- Administrative staff are currently reading "The Leadership Challenge" and discussing insights as a group.
- A simulator is in the procurement process, which was funded with the Ladders grant StarTran received last year.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> is the UNL Spring game and StarTran will operate shuttle service from SouthPointe and North Star HS to the stadium.
- Buses ordered for new service to UNL Innovation Campus will be here in June and there is an ad for five additional bus operators as well.
- The Accident Review Board met in March to review 18 reports from a two month period, determining five to be preventable.
- Cement repairs have been completed on the East side of the StarTran garage and the floor on the West side of the garage was lowered to accommodate taller buses through the wash bay.
- CNG venting in the StarTran garages is ongoing and expected to be completed this summer.
- A storage area has been converted to an employee break room.
- Computers have been upgraded from Windows XP to Window 7.

*Marketing*

- Kitty Elliott summarized Nebraska Transit Week activities. This information will be made available via radio, newspaper, FB, NATP website, and a Press Release will be done on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mike DeKalb encouraged everyone to stop by the front desk to get a bus pass and ride during this event.
- Ms. Elliott has secured five additional sponsors for the Star Pass which is in process to be printed.

*Planning*

- The Transit Development Plan (TDP) kicked off two months ago, with the consultant Nelson/Nygaard in process of gathering information from StarTran employees. Next up, Open Houses are scheduled for public input on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. A "build your own bus system" tool is being designed and will be available on the website. A TDP working group is being determined and Mr. DeKalb asked if any Board members would be interested in participating. Don Herz, Jason Hellbusch, and Mike DeKalb agreed to be part of the TDP working committee.
- Gold improvements include fence removal and a greater police presence.
- A brokerage RFQ is being followed up with an RFP.

*Ridership & Statistical Information*

- UNL ridership is slightly down, bike rack usage is up, and sales by fare category are flat. Total passengers is down slightly, with overall route ridership being up on the booster routes, West 'A', Gaslight and #25. Other routes have a decline in ridership possibly due to lower fuel prices.

It was noted that 1% of total transportation trips are by bus. Mr. DeKalb suggested a goal be implemented to raise that percent. Mr. Davis indicated that the StarTran mission statement, including goals, will be brought to a future Board meeting.

**D. Other Business**

Mr. DeKalb requested a report on the status of previously stated StarTran projects and goals. Mr. Davis agreed to present this.

**E. Patrons to Be Heard**

Pat Scheuers felt that ridership decreases could possibly be due to more parking becoming available in the downtown area.

**G. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2015, 8:00 a.m. in StarTran Conference Room.