

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
July 30, 2015

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

Members Absent:

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, a Lincoln resident formerly practicing law for 30 years, and now a bus patron and avid transit supporter. Mr. Schmeling inquired as to if the Board had ever been presented alternate options relating to their capacity. Chair DeKalb noted that a few years back, the Board sent a request to the Mayor for more authority in this regard, and was denied.

Mr. Schmeling indicated his interest in transit and ideas which include more transit service, a crosstown route, and a sub-hub, to name a few. He suggested that the Board members speak to City Council Members to foster interest in StarTran services.

Mr. Schmeling suggested that all City owned parking facilities could be sold, over a period of time, to private companies, and then direct that money to StarTran for enhancing services.

Chairman DeKalb thanked Mr. Schmeling for his support, interest, and ideas.

B. Review/Action Items

- **May 28, 2015 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes** – A motion for approval was made Jenni Lesoing-Lucs for the 5/28/15 StarTran Advisory Board meeting minutes, as submitted, and seconded by Linda Carter. The 5/28/15 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 7-0 (DeKalb, Speicher, Hellbusch, Lesoing-Lucs, Carter, Herz, and Banks all voted “aye”.)

C. Discussion/Presentations

Mike Davis reviewed the new Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) service which is in cooperation with UNL. The planning began over a year ago with service to begin on August 24, 2015. StarTran has procured buses for this service, hired additional bus operators, and is working on the map/schedule and signs.

There will be two routes; one between Innovation Campus and East Campus and the other between Innovation Campus and City Campus. These routes will have designated stops, which will be indicated on the maps along with the time points. No electronic signs are programmed at Innovation Campus at this time. Also noted that the bus stop signs will be a "flag" style. Additional marketing will be done for the two new NIC routes. Schedules will indicate a detour for the construction at the 14th & Vine streets stop.

D. Other Business

Mike Davis reviewed the monthly operating report, as follows:

- Mike Davis and Connie Thoreson have met with StarTran employees, individually, to solicit ideas for improving StarTran.
- Administrative staff are meeting every other week, utilizing "The Leadership Challenge" book as a tool to build teamwork and enhance leadership skills.
- Road calls have increased slightly, due to older buses. There are 16 - 2001 Gillig buses in operation.
- The Transit Development Plan (TDP) is ongoing with alternatives to be presented in September, 2015.
- Audio is installed at the Gold's building.
- A new brokerage contact is expected to be in place October, 2015.

Kitty Elliott reviewed Marketing programs as follows:

- The Summer Youth Pass (Star Pass) will be available again this year at LPS open houses. Staff will be present at the open houses for route information as well as pass sales.
- Big Red Express season tickets are on sale and a youth ticket will be printed this year for better accounting.
- Ms. Elliott and Brian Praeuner had a productive presentation at the Project Everlast, reviewing StarTran information and updates on the TDP.
- StarTran CNG buses will be at the "Go Green" event on 8/7/2015 at the Lancaster Event Center.
- Staff will participate in UNL Big Red Welcome, 8/23/15, with a CNG bus.
- StarTran will likely participate in the September 20th Streets Alive event held in the Clinton, Hartley, and East Campus neighborhood, which promotes active living and healthy nutrition.

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Mike Davis reviewed StarTran ridership noting UNL being up slightly. Bike rack usage is up year-to date. Overall YTD, ridership is down 5%, which may be due in part to lower fuel prices. The goal will be to increase ridership by 5%, however when routes are changed with the TDP, ridership is expected to go down at first, but return up by the third year of the changes.

Meetings with Servant Cab continue to address issues and complaints, however complaints have been less in the past month. Janet Banks thanked Mike Davis and StarTran staff for their diligence in working to maintain a quality brokerage service with Servant Cab.

Steve Speicher agreed to check on the volume of the audio at the Gold's building.

E. Patrons to Be Heard

Pat Schreurs felt the audio at Gold's was at a reasonable volume, however the AVL is not turned up loud enough for patrons to hear announcements. Pat makes a request of the bus driver to turn the AVL up, however she is encourage to call the office if the driver is non-compliant.

Glenn Knust noted that the AVL volume is preset, however the bus driver does have some control.

Richard Schmeling commended the Board for their efforts.

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2015, 8:00 a.m. in StarTran Conference Room.