

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
August 26, 2010

Members Present: Beatty Brasch, Steve Speicher, Mitch Paine, John Baylor, Debby Brehm, Kim Phelps
Members Absent: Kory George
Staff Present: Larry Worth, Mike Weston, Scott Tharnish, Brian Praeuner, Kitty Elliott, Connie Thoreson

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ms. Brasch opened the public hearing regarding the proposal to add a new fare category to comply with Federal Transit Administration regulations which state the elderly/disabled transit patrons' fare be no greater than half the regular fare. Mr. Worth explained that currently no elderly/disabled fare category exists for the Star Shuttle/Downtown Zone services, so a 10¢ elderly/disabled fare category for these services is proposed.

No one testified, and Ms. Brasch closed the public hearing.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. **Review of August 3, 2010 Advisory Board public hearing/meeting minutes**

Mr. Speicher asked that the word "National" be included in the "Federation of the Blind". The minutes were accepted with that change.

Ms. Thoreson requested agreement that the Board review the draft minutes forwarded to them by email soon after the meeting, and requested any changes, as minutes sometimes are requested sooner than after the next meeting. No one objected to this procedure.

- B. **Patrons to be Heard**

No patrons spoke.

- C. **Action on the Following Items:**

- **Reduction in the Star Shuttle/Downtown Zone fare for elderly/disabled from 25¢ to 10¢** – Proposed additional new fare category moved/seconded, with motion approved, 6-0.
- **Draft 2009-10 Transit Surveillance Report for review and action.** Mr. Praeuner summarized the report, noting compliance with 16 service standards. It was agreed to note patron standing limitations on the three hybrid vans. It was also agreed to prioritize the placement of route numbers on bus stop signs, using volunteers, and to continue to pursue park and ride services. It was moved and seconded to accept the 2009-10 Transit Surveillance Report for forwarding to FTA and local officials, as appropriate. Motion approved, 6-0.

Discussion took place as to the feasibility of placing bus storage/maintenance facilities on the edge of the service area to potentially increase efficiency. Mr. Worth acknowledged that this is done in major metropolitan areas, but was unaware of any medium-sized transit systems doing so. Mr. Baylor moved that staff develop an evaluation within 90 days as to the potential of StarTran implementing "exterior" bus storage/maintenance areas, replacing the current centralized facility. The motion was seconded, and passed, 5-1.

- **Free Fare Day on October 1, 2010 in conjunction with "Homeless Connect" event.** In response to a question, Ms. Brasch agreed to monitor the number of homeless persons who utilize StarTran services on this date, and to report that number to the Board. It was also agreed that StarTran will coordinate efforts to promote this event with the Lincoln Homeless Coalition. It was moved and seconded to designate October 1, 2010 a "free fare" day – motion passed, 6-0.

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D. **Operations and Planning Report** – Discussion included:

- AVL liquidated damages may be up to \$90,000, but funds must be utilized for other AVL-related projects.
- Audible enhancements of the visual stop announcements would be helpful to some patrons.
- If the on-bus stop/route announcements are not functioning properly, the driver is required to announce such information.
- Phone access to ‘Get On Board’ to be checked.

E. **Miscellaneous** - Discussion included:

- Monthly pass discount to City staff is 50%.
- Ridership associated with the Special Olympics was very high - 14,138.
- Daily, monthly, and annual ridership
- The new Schoo booster service is carrying about 25 passengers each morning and afternoon. Expect higher ridership as the weather turns colder/wetter.

F. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.