

Princeton

400 Witherspoon Street □ 1 Monument Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540

Public Transit Advisory Committee

MINUTES – June 12, 2014

The Public Transit Advisory Committee met at the Council Room of the Monument Municipal Building of Princeton, NJ at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2014.

Attendance

Present were: Marvin Reed, chair, and Fay Reiter; and Don Mayer-Brown of the Engineering staff.

May “FreeB” Ridership

Marvin presented Joan’s reports on May “FreeB” ridership and on-time service:

- Ridership on the Commuter Route in May bounced back up to 997 passengers, an average of 47.5 daily riders, compared in March to 978 passengers, a daily average of 46.6 riders. The 2013 April average was 38.7.)
- The mid-day Neighborhood Mid-Day Route carried 1,732 passengers in May, an average of 66.6 daily riders, up from 1,714 in March, an average of 65.9 daily riders
- It was noted that because of equipment problems the older back-up vehicle was used for most of the month of May.
- * On-time service (96%) remained the same for the month, but there were issues with the vehicles and some missed trips. Stouts vehicle had to be used on two days. It was noted that delays were incurred on the days of University reunions weekend and Commencement because of heavy traffic in town.

Up-Grading the System

Because of the frequent equipment problems, it was agreed to concentrate on obtaining a new vehicle and reserving the current vehicles only for back-up and special event use. This alternate would become part of the bidding process when the current “FreeB” operations contract is reopened at the end of 2015. A new vehicle, it was noted, will be required before that time.

In a recent announcement of a new contribution agreement, it was noted, the University has agreed to donate the cost of a new vehicle for the “FreeB.”

Marvin noted that during other recent discussions with the Trustees of the Mass Transit Trust Fund it was requested that the committee investigate the possibility when next bidding the operations subcontract including provisions for providing vehicles as well, a system followed by Princeton University with its Tiger Transit bus and jitney system.

A preliminary discussion of possible interest will take place with First Transit, the vendor for Tiger Transit, on June 18.

Memorial Day Parade

Don noted that on Saturday, May 24, morning service on the FreeB neighborhood route was diverted off Nassau St. An additional bus was ordered from Stout's to transport older veterans from Monument Hall to Princeton Ave. (the originating point of the parade), with return following the post-parade ceremonies. Retaining vehicles to fulfill more frequent requests for such special even service will be considered on a future committee agenda.

A similar special event arrangement was following for the Annual Fire Department Inspection on Friday, May 30.

Promotion

Don and Marv discussed what appears to be the frequent disappearance of the "FreeB" schedule on the sandwich boards now posted at the "Dinky" temporary station. More frequent checking will take place.

A visit to the Recreation Department was suggested to encourage use of the mid-day Neighborhood Route "FreeB" by teenagers visiting the Community Pool during the summer months.

The need for removing the old Borough e-mail web addresses from the FreeB vehicles was reemphasized.

Next Meeting – July 10

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10 at 9:30 am at the East Conference Room of the Monument Municipal Building.