

Princeton

400 Witherspoon Street □ 1 Monument Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540

Public Transit Advisory Committee

MINUTES – July 10, 2014

The Public Transit Advisory Committee met in the East Conference Room of the Monument Municipal Building of Princeton, NJ at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2014.

Attendance

Present were: Marvin Reed, chair, David Keddie, Edward Truscelli, executive director Princeton Community Housing, Susan Hoskins, executive director of the Senior Resource Center and Joan Lockwood-Reck of the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association

Joan reported on June “FreeB” ridership and on-time service:

- Ridership on the Commuter Route in June hit 1,070 passengers, an average of 51.0 riders per day, compared in March to 978 passengers with a daily average of 46.6 riders. The 2013 April average was 38.7 riders.
- The mid-day Neighborhood Mid-Day Route carried 1,872 passengers in June, an average of 74.9 daily riders, up from 1,714 in March, a March average of 65.9 daily riders.
- Equipment ran better in June but still required the used of the older back-up vehicle when the newer “FreeB” required maintenance attention.
- On-time service (95%) remained about the same for the month.
- On four days Neighborhood Service exceeded 90 passenger trips.
- The highest Neighborhood Service ridership – 95 passenger trips – occurred on Monday, June 2 and Friday June 6. The lowest – 50 passenger trips – on Tuesday, June 17.

Up-Grading the System

Because of frequent equipment problems, it was agreed to move forward in obtaining a new vehicle and reserving the current vehicles only for back-up and special event use. The normal contract with Stout Transportation would be up for reopening at the end of 2015, but a new vehicle would be required before that time.

It was agreed that in taking bids for a vehicle alternates be taken. Option A would provide for municipal purchase of a new vehicle with an operating company providing drivers etc. Option B would provide for the operating company to supply vehicles, drivers, maintenance, etc.

It was agreed to postpone acquisition of transponders in order to display the "FreeB" on the University's Tiger Tracker website. Any new vehicle should come equipped with such a transponder and the vehicle retained for back-up service should be similarly equipped.

Serving the Downtown

Brief discussion followed on the possibility of implementing a remote parking permit system for downtown employees at the Harrison St. shopping center with its own loop bus running separately from the "FreeB." Possibilities will be explored with the Merchants Association.

Joan also suggested the possibility of implementing such a system with employers providing a monthly bus pass for riding into town on the newly rerouted 655 bus.

Further investigation of implementing such a system will follow if there is interest by the PMA.

Promotion

Marv indicated that he and Don Mayer-Brown from staff have restocked all the bus shelters with schedules and posters on the "FreeB" routes.

A restocked sandwich board is now posting "FreeB" departure times for the early morning and late afternoon at the temporary Dinky rail station.

Further investigation of providing a sandwich board displaying schedules at the Community Pool, as well as enhanced signage at the Municipal Building bus stop will take place.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14th at 9:30 am at the Monument Municipal Building.