

# Princeton

400 Witherspoon Street □ 1 Monument Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540

## Public Transit Advisory Committee

MINUTES –

June 11, 2015

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, June 11, 2015.

### Attendance

Present were: Marvin Reed, chair; Fay Reiter, director of social services, Princeton Community Housing;; Joan Lockwood-Reck of the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association; and Don-Mayer Brown of the Engineering staff.

### Ridership

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

- -- Ridership on the Commuter Route in May dropped to 950 passengers, an average of 47.5 riders per day, compared to 1,135 the previous month, a daily average of 51.6, The 2014 May daily average also was 47.5 riders.
- -- Delays were encountered on two days, May 29 and May 23, when the municipality’s gas pump ran out of gas or was broken. Alternate fuel had to be located.
- -- Ridership for the Mid-Day Neighborhood Route in May dropped to 1,682 passengers, an average of 67.3 daily riders, compared to 1,801 the previous month, a daily average of 69.3 riders.
- -- The highest number of passenger trips – 80 -- occurred on the Mid-Day Neighborhood Route on May 2. The lowest number – 46 – occurred on May 6.
- -- The Elm Court stop averaged 9.2 riders per day; The lowest average number – 0.3 – came from Copperwood.
- -- The Redding Circle stop – usually showing the highest ridership – declined by 57%. This was caused by construction and street closure on Mt. Lucas Road, which prevented the “FreeB” from getting beyond Ewing Street to pick up passenger.

### Copperwood “Front Door” Service

Committee members expressed concern about the low ridership at the Copperwood stop, which in March began a four-month trial of picking up at the front door rather than the Hilltop Park bus shelter. With an

average of 0.3 indicating days with no riders from this location, Marvin said he would write to the management at Copperwood about the committee's concern.

### **Bids for New Vehicle**

Don reviewed a tabulation of bids received for a replacement for the "FreeB" vehicle as follows:

Rohrer Bus Sales, Duncanon, PA	19-passenger gasoline	\$77,858
	19-passenger diesel	\$85,410
	21-passenger gasoline	\$80,358
	21-passenger diesel	\$88,410
Worthington Body, Mt. Holly, NJ	19-passenger gasoline	\$81,712
	19-passenger diesel	\$89,915
	21-passenger gasoline	\$82,512
	21-passenger diesel	\$90,715
Alliance Bus Group, Carlstadt, NJ	19-passenger gasoline	\$90,062
	19-passenger diesel	\$97,562

He also itemized alternate bids combining cost of operations and a vehicle:

Raphael, Inc, East Brunswick, NJ	24 months @ \$16,900 = \$405,800.00
Stouts Transportation, Trenton, NJ	24 months @ \$18,209 = \$437,022.00
A-1 Limousine, Princeton, NJ	24 months @ \$21,630 = \$519,129.12

[It was noted that Stout's estimates for additional normal emergency back-up and regular maintenance were less .]

After considerable discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend that:

The municipality award the bid to purchase a 21-passenger diesel vehicle to Rohrer Bus Service and continue the current operations contract with Stout's Transportation Services.

The committee also agreed to include the addition of an external bicycle rack on the new vehicle..

### **Eliminating the "655" NJ Transit Bus Route**

The Committee noted the recommendation from NJ Transit that it not continue bus service between Princeton and Plainsboro designed to service the relocated Princeton Medical Center unless more substantial subsidies are forthcoming from private sponsorships.

The Committee deferred until its next meeting the possibility of having the University extend its Plasma Physics Lab route of its Tiger Transit Service up to Nassau Street and out to the Hospital.

### **Nest Meeting**

[NOTE: Because of scheduling conflicts, the Committee will be polled to determine whether its July meeting can best be held on Monday, July 20, or Thursday, July 23.]