

Princeton

400 Witherspoon Street □ 1 Monument Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540

Public Transit Advisory Committee

MINUTES –
August 13, 2015

The Public Transit Advisory Committee met in the Main Conference Room of the Monument Municipal Building of Princeton, NJ at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 13, 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;; Jenny Crummiller, Council liaison, and Deanna Stockton of the Engineering staff.

Ridership

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

- -- Ridership on the Commuter Route in July dropped to 888 passengers, decreasing to an average of 38.8 passenger boardings per day, lower than the previous month and a year ago. Disruption of service on the main Northeast Corridor line appears to have sent passengers to other bus or auto alternatives.
- -- Ridership for the Mid-Day Neighborhood Route in July remained steady at 1,799, an average of 66.6 daily riders, compared to 1,790 the previous month, a daily average of 66.3 riders.
- -- The highest number of passenger trips – 101 -- occurred on the Mid-Day Neighborhood Route on July 16. The lowest number – 48 – occurred on July 14.
- -- The Redding Circle stop averaged 14.7 riders per day; The lowest average number – 0.3 -- came from Copperwood, the last month of “front door” service at this limited location.
- -- Trip time – the time to complete a loop – averaged 66 minutes. There were 14 trips in which the “FreeB” ran late, There was one mechanical breakdown this month.

New Vehicle

Deanna reported that on August 10 Council approved the Committee’s recommendation to accept the bid for a new “FreeB” vehicle from Wolfington Bus Co. , which resolved questions as to which of the two lowest bidders had submitted an adequate warranty on the vehicle.

She reported that during discussion, Council members called for continued exploration for combining “FreeB” service with the University’s Tiger Transit Bus system and stepped up promotion to increase ridership.

NJ Transit Request for Title VI Complaint Procedures

Deanna noted that a staff group was reviewing a compliance report from NJ Transit outlining a non-discrimination policy and complaint procedure for posting in the “FreeB” and other locations.

Copperwood “Front Door” Service

Deanna noted one complaint from a resident which protested the cancellation of “front door” service at the new Copperwood senior apartment complex on Bunn Drive. The Committee noted the much higher ridership at other senior housing sites and the availability for Copperwood residents of convenient pick up and drop off at the nearby Hilltop Park bus shelter.

Mercer County Community College Connection

Marvin reported on efforts with Mercer County Community College to establish loop bus route from its West Windsor campus and Quaker Bridge Mall. It will enable Princeton students to use the “605” bus to connect to classes at the college.

The committee asked for a flier showing the 605 schedule in Princeton and where and when connections will be enabled at Quaker Bridge Mall.

Service to the Hospital

The committee expressed interest in the offer by Princeton University to extend its Tiger Transit service to the Plasma Physics Lab from Nassau Street to the hospital. It also discussed several discounted taxi services that will be available to residents with hospital appointments.

More information was requested on how to explain the variety of services to local residents.

Nest Meeting

The committee agreed to meet next on Thursday, September 17.