

400 Witherspoon Street □ 1 Monument Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540

Public Transit Advisory Committee

MINUTES

September 17, 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, September 17, 2015.

Attendance

Present were: Marvin Reed, chair; Fay Reiter, director of social services, Princeton Community Housing; Anton Lahnston; Jenny Crumiller, Council liaison; and Don Mayer-Brown and Deanna Stockton of the Engineering staff.

Ridership

Marvin reviewed statistical reports on August “FreeB” ridership and on-time service:

- -- Ridership on the Commuter Route in August remained steady at 884 passengers, increasing, however, because of fewer operating days to an average of 42.1 passenger boardings per day, about the same as the previous month and a year ago.
- -- Ridership for the Mid-Day Neighborhood Route in July remained steady at 1,943, an average of 74.7 daily riders, compared to 1,799 the previous month, a daily average of 66.6 riders.
- -- The highest number of passenger trips – 99 -- occurred on the Mid-Day Neighborhood Route on Wednesday, August 26 and Thursday, August 27. The lowest number -- 53 -- occurred on August 7.
- -- The Redding Circle stop averaged 16.7 riders per day;
- -- Trip time – the time to complete a loop – averaged 65 minutes. There were only 4 trips in which the “FreeB” ran late, Two of these were 20 minute delays caused by construction tie-ups on Mt. Lucas Rd.

New Vehicle

Don reviewed a series of special features available on the new “FreeB” awarded by Council in August to Wolfington Body Group, Inc. These included:

- -- **To add a “double-foldaway seat.”** Since the use of wheel-chairs by riders is relatively infrequent, the area in the rear of the vehicle would be available to add a double foldaway seat to provide room for two additional passengers.

- -- **Choice of colors for the seat fabrics and trim.** For the seat cushions and seat backs, two blue patterns were recommended for “FreeB” use.
- -- **Interior Ad Card holder.** This device should be installed above the windows on each side of the bus to display notices, schedules, and other information about events in the community.
- – **Destination Signs.** A front-mounted and a side-mounted destination sign is to be provided. As a minimum the following should be requested:
 - ‘freeb’ – to Princeton Shopping Center
 - “freeb” – tp Palmer Square
 - Commuter Route to “Dinky”
 - Neighborhood Route
- -- **Wheelchair Lift.** Based on feedback from the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association and from the operator (Stout’s Transportation), it was recommended to use a Braun lift.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations and asked that appropriate change orders be endorsed by the Council.

NJ Transit Request for Title VI Complaint Procedures

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

Service from Palmer Square

Marvin reported on his efforts with University representatives to arrange with Palmer Square Management, Inc. to post maps and other information at the Palmer Square Kiosk on the extended route from Nassau Street (at the Kiosk) to connect from the “FreeB” to the Hospital, the Forrestal Center, and the University’s Plasma Physics Lab. The extended Tiger Transit route will run every hour on the hour, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The Committee called for careful monitoring of this project for additional postings on the “FreeB” Routes and on integration with Tiger Transit routes.

Next Meeting

The committee agreed to meet next on Thursday, October 15..

Marvin indicated that it would be his last as chair, as he will be moving his residence to a neighboring town.