

# Princeton, New Jersey

## Public Transit Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 14, 2016 @ 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
East Conference Room, Monument Municipal Building

### Meeting Minutes

1. Present: Jenny Crumiller, Council Liaison; Fay Reiter, Chris Knigge, Engineering; Kate Norris (Engineering Intern); Deanna Stockton, Engineering; Cheryl Kastrenakas, GMTMA; Joan Lockwood-Reck, GMTMA; Don Mayer-Brown, Engineering; Anton Lahnston, Interim Chair; Ralph Widner, T and T Committee.
2. December “freeB” Reports –
  - a. Commuter Route -- The ridership (daily average of 41.9) was slightly off in December due to the holidays, which is normally the case with the Commuter freeB at this time of the year.
  - b. The ridership on the Neighborhood freeB (daily average of 77.5) was consistent with previous months and approximately the same as in November.
  - c. The committee discussed the naming of the new bus to “Marvin” while at the same time keeping the freeB logo as it currently is used. It was agreed that the Municipality should have some form of event to christen the new bus Marvin once it is to be put into service. Also, the name “Marvin” should be prominently displayed somewhere on the freeB.
  - d. The cost of operating the freeB on a daily, monthly and annual basis was raised. For the next meeting Don Mayer-Brown will finalize the work he is doing on the cost of operation. He cautioned that 2015 was more expensive than in the past couple of years due to the extensive use of Stout’s vehicles while our Princeton owned vehicles have experienced many mechanical difficulties. His report will be available for the February meeting.
3. The new vehicle is scheduled to be finished at the manufacturer on March 8, 2016. Wolfington, the dealer will receive the bus a week later and then the dealer needs two weeks to prepare the bus. As a result the bus will be available on or about April 1, 2016, with its transponder installed.
  - a. A question remains regarding the integration of the freeB transponder system with the Tiger Tracker system. Engineering is working on the answer to this question.
  - b. The color of the freeB has traditionally been white. Many people think the bus looks hospital-like and is not distinguished from other jitney services. Therefore some color should be added to the freeB to distinguish it. Engineering along with input from Councilwoman Crumiller will make some determination in answer to this need (using a material that is inexpensive plastic coating). They will make a recommendation to the Committee and the Committee in turn will send its preference to Council. It was felt by all present that the Municipal logo should be added to the bus.
  - c. The committee was briefed on the correspondence with Julie McGuire, a member of the board on Griggs Farm. Presently, the plan for the freeB is to continue on

its current route since adding GF would mean an additional 15-20 minutes and dramatically change/lengthen the schedule.

4. Chris Knigge, Engineering displayed the impressive work he is doing on the use of Google Maps for the freeB. He is working with GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification) and will coordinate the fine tuning with GMTMA to make sure the language is consistent with current freeB maps, stops, schedules, and the like.
  - a. Deanna Stockton, Engineering will check with Kristin Appelget on the possibility of coordinating Google maps with the current Tiger Tracker system.
5. The new freeB handout/brochure, that contains rider information, a schedule and maps is being revised and is very close to being finished. Both Engineering (Deanna Stockton) and GMTMA (Joan Lockwood-Reck) are involved in the process
  - a. The Committee was told that NJT would like the freeB publicity to specifically state that it permits “deviation” from its standard route. Since there are other transit services in Princeton that are specifically set up to handle rider requests for “deviation” the committee recommended that the revisions to the brochures not specify “deviations” as permissible.
6. The Committee received a brief update on the meeting of the ad hoc team that met on January 7, 2016 – including representatives from the University. Ralph Widner provided information about some of the recommendations in his MTTF report as well as plans to do some data collecting with the assistance of Kate Norris, Engineering intern.
7. The “Public Transit Advisory Committee” is included in the formation of the “Complete Streets Committee” (CSC). A resolution has been drafted and redrafted to reflect input from various committees and it will be presented to Council in the near future.
  - a. It was noted that the handbook for “Boards, Committees and Commissions” needs to become a basic guide for the Committee going forward.
8. Other business – the minutes from the meeting on December 17, 2015 were approved without changes.
9. Next meeting date: Thursday February 18, 2016 @ 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in Monument East Conference Room