

Princeton, New Jersey

Princeton Transit Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2016 @ 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
East Conference Room, Monument Municipal Building

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jenny Crumiller, Liaison to Council; Joan Lockwood-Reck, GMTMA; Deanna Stockton, Engineering; Fay Reiter, Committee Member, Kip Cherry, Resident; Don Mayer-Brown, Engineering; Anton Lahnston, Interim Chair

1. The minutes from the meeting on January 14, 2016 were approved.
2. Review of freeB data for the month of January, 2016
 - a. The Neighborhood ridership was slightly less in January (72.0) as a daily average compared to December (77.5) and November (81.5). November was the highest for the past 7 months. In general the service seems to be providing the service intended.
 - b. The Commuter freeB ridership was slightly lower than the average for the past several months. For example the daily average for January was 42.8 whereas the daily averages for September, October and November were over 51 passengers. In looking at the data it was obvious that a couple of the freeB loops are rather light on ridership. To look at this situation more closely we asked Joan Lockwood-Reck from GMTMA to look at the schedule of the freeB's arrival at the Dinky and determine the extent to which the morning and afternoon loops are adequately connecting with the Dinky. Joan will report on this in March.

Next, to look more deeply at the ridership we were briefed by Don Mayer-Brown on the costs of operating the freeB

Year	Total Cost	Monthly Cost	Weekly Cost	Average cost/rider
2013	\$167K	\$13,900	\$2,418	\$5.76
2014	\$175K	\$14,575	\$2,865	\$5.08
2015	\$203K	\$16,909	\$2,925	\$5.78

c. Given this data, the Committee felt it would be helpful to break it down further to determine costs on the Commuter freeB for riders on the loops that have fewest riders on a daily basis. That information would be useful to make a recommendation on continuance or discontinuance of certain loops, morning and/or afternoon. This will be reviewed more closely in the March meeting.

d. The Committee also discussed the possibility of funding options to support the freeB – both Commuter and Neighborhood. It was decided that GMTMA could help us by providing examples of other communities that have similar transit situations. Given new information we may be able to make a recommendation. GMTMA will report on this at the March meeting.

e. The municipality has previously decided to not operate the Commuter freeB on light holidays such as Washington’s Birthday or Martin Luther King’s birthday. This week the freeB did operate on Washington’s Birthday and the ridership was extremely light. It was decided that when NJT operates on a Holiday schedule (reduced service) the Commuter freeB will not operate, e.g. MLK’s Birthday.

f. The new freeB vehicle will be “ready” to be sent to our dealer on March 8, 2016. Delivery then takes 1 week to actually be delivered to the dealer. “After-market” items such as the transducer will take 2 weeks. Therefore, the vehicle should be delivered by the first week in April. The Municipality has not yet decided on a color scheme for the bus, that being a work in progress. Further information will be available in March

3. The committee received an update on tracking systems.

a. The Municipality and the University are working on a plan to integrate the University’s Transloc system with the new freeB’s transducer so riders can see the proximity of the two systems and plan accordingly. Along with the new schedules that are being prepared the community has the potential for better service and better connections.

b. Also noted is the work being done by Princeton Engineering on the use of Google Maps for the freeB schedule/routes.

4. A brief report was provided on the Ad Hoc Transit Committee. The most recent meeting was reviewed in which there was a brief discussion about creating a major event in September when several initiatives may come together including – a.) Integrated transit system, especially electronic system integration; b.) Community wide bike sharing; and c.) Transit rider training and education. The plan is to involve the Princeton Municipality, Princeton University and other interested agencies, committees and commissions.

5. The MOU Matrix prepared by the University was briefly discussed and the open areas were noted. Prior to the meeting a copy of the matrix was distributed to the committee. There was a brief discussion about the dinky ridership and it was noted that all interested organizations need to continue to focus on the need to enhance ridership. Related to this, in the meeting in March, 2016

the Committee will discuss findings and recommendations contained in Ralph Widner's MTTF Report.

6. The "Transit Advisory Committee" is going through a transition. In the next couple of months the Committee will need a new chairperson and several new members. This will be discussed further at the meeting in March.

7. The next meeting is **March 17, 2016 at 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., at Monument Hall in the East Conference Room.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anton Lahnston, Interim Chair