

TRAC Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2010, 11:30 am
Greater Des Moines Partnership – 2nd Floor Conference Room

TRAC Members Present:

Gini Wolf
Jade Howser
Kelly Henry
Linda Urias
Helen Boles
Crystal Estabrook
Mary McGee
Jinsong Chen

DART Staff Present:

Rebecca Lovig
Elizabeth Presutti
Brad Miller
Gunnar Olson
PJ Sass
Kirstin Baer-Harding

1. Call to Order
2. December 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes approved and seconded
3. Action Item - TRAC By-laws approved and seconded
4. Action Item - 2010 goals
 - A. Presentation by Elizabeth on TRAC 2010 Goals (Handout)
 - B. Questions - What is the total number of bust stops ; answer 3500
 - C. Discussion over reduced price fare cards for people age 65 and people with disabilities – reduced price information located with schedules.
 - D. Question – can age be lowered to 62 (the same age that one can collect Social Security); answered by Brad – would need to do analysis of riders that age and how to attract more seniors to riding. Discussion of collaborating with agencies to recruit volunteers to give seniors (and people with special needs) individualized instruction on riding the bus.
 - E. Suggestion to include locations for grocery stores, drug stores, etc. on schedules; use to increase revenue – example, sell space to HyVee, Walmart, etc.
 - F. Contact Elizabeth or Gini if interested in working on specific goals.
 - G. Action on TRAC goals tabled until next meeting

4. Discussion Item - FY 2011 Budget Update

- A. Presentation by Brad on Proposed Service Reductions (Handout).
- B. Thank you to TRAC members who attended public input meetings; over 100 people attended one meeting and over 60 emails/comments generated.
- C. Issue with bus service south of airport – public comments about losing jobs if bus service is cut.
- D. Issue with ending service at 8:45pm – people who work at malls will not be able to get home.
- E. Would like to be able to get additional insurance for accident coverage.
- F. Looking at refinancing debt for accident liabilities already incurred.
- G. Money for public transportation may be allotted in jobs-focused stimulus bill.
- H. Service adjustments need to be implemented by April 25, 2010 in order for there to be carryover savings in the current fiscal year.
- I. In coming time – expect comprehensive planning sessions to incorporate suggestions and with less focus on individual services and route cuts and more on a comprehensive system.
- J. Mary asked about cost effectiveness of hybrid buses- Elizabeth answered that she has compiled most of the information, but still has some follow-up questions with maintenance.
- K. Helen – On-Call drivers have mentioned that they have not had the opportunity to talk management about ideas for improvement; Brad answered that he has talked to over 100 employees.
- L. Brad has worked with the union to address issues and all drivers have been publicly invited to give comment. Helen – specifically West Des Moines On-Call; collaborate with management out there.
- M. Discussion on fostering environment where people feel comfortable raising concerns.

5. Discussion Item - Bus Service and Bus Stop Safety/Accessibility Concerns:

- A. Mary – meeting with Access Advisory Board – parking meters are placed in areas that may be too close to bus stops, but are within legal city ordinance. Talk of moving/rearranging parking meters so that there will be more room – 6 targeted areas: Ingersoll Ave., Beaverdale area, Methodist Hospital, Drake University, Broadlawns Hospital, and certain parts of East Village.
- B. Snow removal issues – for bus stops with a bench- there is a contract with

Creative Outdoors to remove snow, but did not do a good job this winter. Has been addressed. Shelters are responsibility of DART to clear snow. At standing bus stops (by poles with signs) it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear the snow. The issue with this is that they are only required to clear the sidewalk. Call the Public Works Action Center who gives a warning to clear snow within 36 hours at risk of a fine.

- C. Mary said they gave a presentation about how accessibility is beneficial to everyone. Talked about outreach to public about educating them on the issue. There is no ordinance on snow removal between the sidewalk on the curb and the focus will be on appealing to the public to clear the bus stop – similar to how people are asked to clear the snow around a fire hydrant.
 - D. Issue with DART clearing certain areas on major arterioles is that then sets a precedent to always clear the areas, which could lead to having to clear all bus stops.
 - E. Current recourse is working with city council to change ordinance to require property owners to clear snow on their easements.
 - F. Look at bus stops as year-round stops as opposed to seasonal ridership – have riders send in pictures of their bus stops for evidence to justify changing ordinance.
6. Future Agenda Items:
- A. Demo for new website features.
 - B. Update on ordinance change.
 - C. Public service campaign – bus riders encouraging others to ride the bus.
7. Motion to adjourn approved and seconded.