

Princeton, New Jersey

Public Transit Advisory Committee Thursday March 17, 2016 @ 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. East Conference Room, Monument Municipal Building

In Attendance: Fay Reiter, Princeton Community Housing; Deanna Stockton, Engineering; Joan Lockwood-Reck, GMTMA; Jenny Crumiller, Princeton Council; Ralph Widner, Princeton Traffic and Transportation Committee and Principal Investigator, MTTF Report; Debbie Disher, Citizen; Anton Lahnston, Acting Chair.

1. Minutes from the meeting of February 18, 2016 were approved with two corrections for errors.
2. freeB reports --
 - a. The Committee reviewed the data from the Commuter freeB and the Neighborhood freeB. While the data indicated that the ridership was down slightly (Commuter Ave./day = 41.7 and the Neighborhood Ave./day = 71.5) there was only a brief discussion about the Commuter ridership, focused on the first a.m. run and the last p.m. run. No decisions or recommendations were made.
 - b. To get a better understanding of the connections (schedules) between the freeB Commuter bus and the Dinky schedules Joan Lockwood-Reck (GMTMA) had prepared a very clear profile of the schedules for: a.) The freeB, b.) The Dinky and c.) The Princeton Junction Trains. The Committee briefly reviewed the data and agreed that it should be reviewed more closely for the meeting in April.
 - c. The guest, Debbie Disher (Princeton Community Village), is a frequent rider on the freeB, sometimes 3-4 times a week. We asked her to comment on her freeB ridership experiences. She complimented the timeliness and the convenience of the schedule. She also noted that the driver Ted as a very friendly and efficient driver. That said, she especially noted that the freeB is frequently not clean. It was unclear when and by whom the freeB is cleaned. It was agreed to have Don check the options from the Maintenance/DPW staff – if indeed it is possible at all to have them involved. At the same time Joan – through GMTMA – would see what the possibilities are through Stouts to have a cleaner freeB. Their findings will be reported in the April meeting.
3. The “Report to the Princeton Planning Board” on alternative mobility choices was reviewed Ralph Widner, Principle Investigator:
 - a. Ralph had distributed a portion of the report to the Committee before the meeting.
 - b. He talked to the Committee about how to interpret the data that is the basis for the report. Ralph discussed such topics as (this is a sampling of topics):
 - i. Local residents (e.g. Riverside) parking at the University daily
 - ii. Commuters going out to West Windsor to park in the new parking lot
 - iii. Commuters parking in the Harrison Street Shopping Center parking lot

- iv. The number of riders from Princeton Junction to NYC and Philadelphia on average each day.
 - v. Some of the major problems that were identified by his findings, e.g the lack of transit education or ridership training in Princeton.
 - vi. Working with the University and their campus planning process
 - c. The next step in Phase I is to go into the neighborhoods to inform/educate and in the process get feedback (which is very important). Phase II will be a follow-on to the work in Phase I.
 - d. Members of the Princeton Transit Advisory Committee should assist the Phase I team and support their efforts as they go into the neighborhoods to obtain greater detail by which to plan transit options and changes. Ralph referred to these meetings as “Education and Feedback” sessions.
4. New freeB?
- a. The new freeB is to be delivered this week to Wolfington in Exton, PA. The preparation will take one or two weeks including the installation of the transponder/tracking mechanism.
 - b. The color scheme has been decided and the resulting wrap will be installed – hopefully within a few days after delivery.
 - c. Integration with the University’s Transloc system was discussed. Last year the Municipality received a quote that was considerably less than the current one of \$350/vehicle, for a total of \$700/month. This seems exorbitant and therefore the University and the Municipality are trying to renegotiate the price – hopefully to about \$150 -- \$200/vehicle per month (still expensive).
 - d. “Code for Princeton” may be an option if the agreement with Transloc can not be negotiated.
 - e. In order to integrate the freeB with the Tiger Transit system it is important to have an integrated tracking system.
5. The Committee discussed the “launch” of the new freeB in April which should include both the Municipality and the University (since the money for the new freeB was a gift to the community by the University). The Committee agreed that it was a good idea and that this would be referred to the Ad Hoc Transit Committee because the University would be represented in that meeting.
6. Potential Funding Sources:
- a. Prior to the meeting Joan Lockwood-Reck (GMTMA) distributed a document entitled “Transportation Services and Funding Examples.” At its February meeting the committee had requested we look at models for funding used by other towns and regional situations to see if there were any lessons or examples available to Princeton to expand or partially support the freeB – both the Commuter and the Neighborhood freeB service.
 - b. The Committee did not have time to fully review the document prior to the meeting and further, there was not enough time to adequately review the work in the meeting. The discussion was deferred to the April meeting.
7. Membership

- a. Interim Chair Anton Lahnston announced that due to relocation he would step down from his involvement on the Committee.
 - b. New members are being actively sought and a new Chair will be identified – perhaps by the April meeting.
 - c. Fay Reiter recommended Dosier Hammond to the Mayor for membership on the Committee.
8. Next meeting Date: April 21 at 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the East Conference Room of the Monument Building. (Room has been reserved)

Respectfully Submitted:
Anton T. Lahnston