

Public Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 9 2017, 9am
Monument Hall, Princeton, NJ

In Attendance: Fay Reiter, Princeton Community Housing; Jack West, Engineering; Joan Lockwood-Reck, GMTMA; Jenny Crumiller, Princeton Council & Acting Chair, Debbie Disher, Dosier Hammond, Pradeep Vachini Citizen Members; Susan Hoskins, Princeton Senior Resource Center, Don Mayer-Brown, Engineering Kristin Appelget, Princeton University Tineke Tio, member of public

The Minutes from the April 11, 2017 committee meeting were approved.

Fay Reiter was elected Chair of the committee. Acting Chair Jenny Crumiller handed the gavel to Fay to conduct the meeting.

We discussed the need for a member of the committee to serve as the Secretary and take minutes. Although, no one volunteered, Pradeep offered to take them during our next meeting.

Tineke Tio, attended the meeting as a member of the public. She reported on the Climate Change Action Plan for Princeton that is currently in the works. She suggested that the FreeB schedule be posted at bus stops. She commented that she believes that the FreeB is underutilized and does not stop when people hail it. Don will remind the Stouts/ bus driver he is supposed to stop when people who hail the bus. She also proposed that the FreeB bus be used as a type of Uber service. Discussion took place concerning the cost of such a service. Committee members also explained that the daytime FreeB is operating a nearly full capacity on most days. However, the commuter FreeB is declining in ridership.

Committee agreed that the FreeB sign on Hamilton Avenue should be moved closer to Linden. Don will arrange to have it moved.

Kristin will look into holders for bus tops.

Review of FreeB Reports- Joan Lockwood-Reck

Commuter FreeB use continues to decline and ridership has dropped off significantly since 2015. Neighborhood FreeB continues to grow.

Daily ridership is 83 average passenger trips per day. There were three days in the month when ridership was over 100 which was a record. The number of wheelchairs riders has also increased.

Joan suggested schedule changes to address low ridership during some trips and more demand during others.

Don will confirm with NJ Transit that there are no constraints in changing the schedule and eliminating stops at the train station.

Discussion was held concerning train problems with NJ Transit. Kristin will make sure that the Go- Princeton initiative highlights information about NY buses.

Discussion took place about a service for seniors where an employee will hail Uber rides for those without smart phones.

Request for bus stop shelter location change from Rt. 206 & Library to 206 and Monument Drive – Intern to survey riders at the bus stop to see where they are coming from and whether changing the stop will end up increasing a hardship for riders.

MOU Progress report- Dosier has been working on a proposal now that the Arts Complex is scheduled to be completed in July or August. Since the Dinky station was moved, ridership has decreased by 23% since 2012. A plan to promote the Dinky has not been implemented. We discussed a proposal to create an initiative to promote the dinky that would be separate from Go- Princeton. Dosier will continue to draft the plan and present it for a vote at our next meeting.

Go- Princeton (Initiative for promoting public transit in Princeton). Consultants are collecting data, working moving along. Joan feels the plan is working well.

Meeting was adjourned

Future Meeting Dates -- Tuesdays at 9am:

June 13

July 11

August – no meeting

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12