

MINUTES

Public Transit Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 9am

Monument Hall, Princeton, NJ

Present: Fay Reiter, Chair, Debbie Disher, Citizen Member, Tamera Matteo, Citizen Member, Chris Ieva, Citizen Member, Dossier Hammond, Citizen Member, Kristen Appelget, Princeton University, Joan Lockwood-Reck, GMTMA, Susan Hoskins, Princeton Senior Resource Center Jenny Crumiller, Princeton Council Liaison, Don Mayer-Brown, Engineering, Jack West, Engineering

Kip Cherry, John Kilbride- Members of the Public

Fay Reiter opened the meeting

Comments from the Public

Kip Cherry and John Kilbride had no opening comments as they planned to address the new Free B schedule later on the agenda.

1. Minutes were approved from July, 11th, 2017 meeting

2. Addition to the agenda

Fay discussed a letter that was sent by the Complete Streets Advisory Committee asking if PTAC committee members were interested in being involved in the review and development of projects to propose for funding from the Mass Transit Fund. Dossier Hammond volunteered to participate.

3. Review of June FreeB Reports- Joan Lockwood-Reck

Joan reported that ridership on the Free B Commuter was down again. Neighborhood ridership continues to increase. Redding Circle and the Shopping Center were the biggest pick up areas.

Debbie Disher, who is a daily rider of the Daytime FreeB, commented that Driver Ted will not allow people to stand, so when there are too many people they are asked to squeeze three on a bench seat. Debbie reported that people are excited by the proposed new schedule with new earlier stops for daytime riders. She also stated that riders are hoping that the expanded service that is being proposed is implemented soon

Discussion of Proposed Schedule Changes and Implementation Plan

Joan reported on the new Free B schedule. There are new details on Dinky Service on Saturday.

Joan said that a survey was being created and would be ready soon. A letter was referenced that felt there was not enough notice about the Free B changes, especially the 6:00 and 6:30am runs.

Fay asked the committee to consider the findings of the recently issued *Transportation Choices for Princeton: A Strategic Analysis* report. Fay commented that the study found that 52 % of employed residents live in town. This is further evidence of a need for FreeB service for people who live in Princeton to commute to work in Princeton. The proposed expansion of hours of the Daytime service would help to meet this need. Another finding of the report was that 25% of resident employees work for the University. Chris Ieva raised the question of geographic causation. Some people choose a place to live to be closer to transport. It improves house values.

The question of another public meeting to discuss the new Free B schedule came up. Don said we do need a public meeting because the town received money invoking Title 6. The schedule needed to be made known to the public, and then comments needed to be received. The Go Princeton campaign was mentioned as a factor.

Kip Cherry and John Kilbride made comments about the schedule and the process. Their focus has been to make sure that the FreeB riders who take the FreeB to the Princeton Station (the Dinky Station), interface smoothly with an express for NYC. They presented some suggested modifications to the schedule.

Jack said he and Don and Joan would look over Kip Cherry and John Kilbride's suggestions to see what made sense and was doable with the schedule. The question was raised whether the mid-morning Dinky run could be moved up so as to allow people to get into New York City earlier.

Joan talked about core neighborhood times. Jack said that they will review the current proposed schedule to determine which mid-morning run would fit best with the schedule and then send it out to the PTAC for their final review.

It was decided to have a public discussion of the new Free B schedule at the October 23rd Princeton Council meeting, with the new schedule being available on line beforehand.

4. Princeton Public Transportation Sketch Map and Use Case-Chris Ieva

Chris passed out a presentation/map on transit options in Princeton with 3 central foci: the public library, the shopping center, and Palmer Square. He brought up the need for better signage throughout town to let residents and visitors know about these options. He also mentioned that the NJ Transit buses are limited in schedule, and one of them is a loop. He stressed that there are a lot of options, including airports and visiting NYC, Philadelphia, DC, etc. He also extolled bike paths in and around Princeton, as well as the Canal Path and East Coast Greenway. He discussed how difficult it is for low income people to get to affordable shopping and medical services. The cost of parking was mentioned. He wanted more bike information, and was not fully aware of some Princeton bike initiatives.

Chris said the Free B API was not up on Google yet. He stressed that he felt that APIs are very important, and help create a central place for decisions, especially when all are integrated. The bike riding API is not up either.

New Jersey Transit does not integrate trains and buses at this point. The Free B API is almost done.

Chris said we had an information deficit now, and he feels that APIs are a priority. Chris will do a proposal for API development for all mass transit options for Princeton and their integration, and take it

to the Mass Transit Fund. He wants to add sub stops for some bus and other options to make it fully usable.

5. Go Princeton

Tamara discussed the upcoming Go Princeton campaign. The website would be available in the next week and can be accessed at goprinceton.net.

The project is all about connecting the various local mass transit options. The signage and wraps would be available in 1-2 weeks. There are links to the website where any schedule changes would be made available.

The soft launch is scheduled for this fall, and the hard launch will take place in the spring.

There will be some brochures and flyers, but the emphasis is on the website. It was brought up that for launch purposes and for some residents that paper is useful. Joan said that perhaps every bus stop should have some info and handouts, at least at the beginning. The Princeton Senior Resource Center has a conference on Technology on November 10, and it's a good place to have a Go Princeton presence there--perhaps a workshop.

6. Driverless car update

Pradeep was not in attendance at the meeting so this item was tabled for future discussion.

7. Update on transponder installation and Google Maps Integration

The Transponder service is partially ready, and will be fully up soon. It should be on the website soon and can be accessed through

translocation.princeton.com

It also has an app. It is not currently integrated with Tiger Transit, but it should be worked on.

8. Date for next meeting: Tuesday, October 10th, 2017 at 9am

Future Meeting Dates-Tuesdays at 9am

November 14, 2017

December 12, 2017