

Princeton Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 9 am
Monument Hall, Princeton, NJ

In Attendance:

Fay Reiter, Chair
Debbie Disher
Dosier Hammond
Jenny Crumiller--Council
Joan Lockwood-Reck--GMTMA
Don Mayer Brown--Engineering

1. Minutes from the November 2017 and from December 12, 2017 were both approved.
2. Complete Streets and Council were added to the agenda.
3. Joan Lockwood-Reck reported that commuter Free B service was down substantially in December. Flyers about the new schedule had been handed out and people were adjusting their schedules. There had been a press release in Town Topics. Fay Reiter and Debbie Disher reported there had been favorable comments about the new schedule. Ridership on the Daytime service was up slightly. The weather had been bad and there was no Free B one half day due to a schedule mix up. An all-time high of 138 riders on 12/1 was notable. Debbie Disher reported there were many new riders. Copper wood riders were low--only 4 so far.
4. Stout's was awarded the contract for the Free B as the low bidder out of 4, including A-1 Limo, Mercy Transit and LAZ Parking. It is for a one year period with two one year extensions possible. The town is considering future options, including potentially getting out of the bus ownership business. Some providers are worried about the equipment. First Transit is expensive at twice the cost. Discussion about the option to combine FreeB service with Princeton University took place. It was determined that University representatives should be approached, and invited to future meetings to discuss this. The University pays employees \$400 not to drive and park on campus.
5. Go Princeton--no report as no one was attending from their meeting. We hope for a report at the next meeting.
6. Complete Streets. Chris Ieva is a member, but was not present at today's meeting. Now that Tamara Matteo is no longer on the Transit Committee, they may need another member from our Committee---probably Fay Reiter. We need good communication with them.
7. Tiger Transit Integration is still being worked on.

8. TRANSLOC is still being worked on. They now have the new schedule. Eventually the Free B should have its own website, but also be linked to the University website.

9. The Committee should look for new members, especially from the African American and Latino communities.

10. The committee needs input from the merchant community, both property owners and renters. Various stores and the overall commercial rental situation were discussed. It was mentioned that the shopping center management is transit friendly.

11. Jenny Crumiller reported that the Princeton Council is interested in affordability and cost savings, sustainability, user friendliness, inclusion and social justice. All these areas are linked to public transit.

12. Dinky ridership requires more attention and study in the future. The Committee should look at future bus needs.

13. New Jersey Transit--can the Town work with them on subsidizing bus passes? NJT has annual grants that we've applied for twice, but haven't received so far. The Town will try again.

14. The Citizen Finance Committee reviews the cost of Free B service. So far the cost is \$4-\$5 per rider, though this may not be up to date in reflecting the increased ridership of the last year. The Free B requires 2-3 drivers and part of a mechanic's salary. The cost is approximately \$150,000 per year.