

Citizen Advisory Committee/Disabled Advisory Committee
(CAC/DAC)
Terre Haute Transit Utility Meeting
May 22, 2007
4:00 p.m.

Brad Miller, Manager of Terre Haute Transit Utility
Opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Brad: For those of you who may not know me, I'm Brad Miller manager of the city buses and on my right is Debbie Hensley, (Office Manager) and on my left is someone I know most of you know Pat Macke, (planner with West Central).

Old Business

Brad: Pat wants me to update you on what's going on with ISU. As of two weeks ago the Board of ISU agreed to the Extended Bus Service. What we are waiting on now is a contract between ISU and the City Bus Service. I spoke to the Board about needing to get the contract in enough time to be able to start this fall with the extended service. As of today we have no contract yet. This may mean we may not be able to start the extended service until October or even after the first of the year.

It will take us some time to hire new drivers and get them trained on this new system and we cannot do this on short notice.

Now Debbie will talk to you about the ADA program.

Debbie: I spoke with Era before I can today to see what problems she felt we were having with the ADA Service. One thing she requested is that you need to give us addresses when you schedule new appointments, because we may have a new driver to pick you up and they will have no idea where you need to go and this takes up time.

Also, if you are not able to go on your scheduled appointed time, please try to call in as soon as possible to let us know. We have folks who may need that time spot.

Another problem the drivers are having, if your trip would take (2) regular buses, then you are expected to pay for (2) buses on the ADA service too. This is for both directions. If you were paying \$1.50 per bus, you would need to pay another \$1.50 to reach your destination. Your total trip cost would be \$3.00 one-way. It would cost you another \$3.00 to go back home.

Brad: Pat will now share with you about the fixed route service.

Pat: I brought with me today a graph to show you how well the bus service has done over the last three years. See attached. This graph covers the time period from January to March from 2005 – 2007. (1st Qtr). Each year the ridership has increased in the first

quarter of the year. This is all thanks to you folks. This is a great report. Give yourselves a hand. We hope to keep this up for the rest of the year and we are expecting to increase ridership again this year by another 7% to 9%. This will help us receive more of the state dollars that we receive to help us match our federal dollars, which is what we use to help replace the buses that you ride everyday. We need to retire all of our current blue buses.

Brad: Next on the agenda is Saturday Service. I'm pleased with the numbers so far. Saturday Service will continue to run. I was afraid that after the first of the year the numbers would start to drop off. But, so far the numbers are staying in the range that I feel is acceptable. The Free Saturday looks like it did very well too.

Question: Lady, you told us that ISU would be paying for the extended service, which includes Saturday, will you have to stop the Saturday Service this fall until after you can get a contract signed?

Brad: No, we will try and cover the cost of Saturday's out of our current budget. You will have the Saturday Service for the next two years.

New Business

Brad: The newest bus we have ordered will have a bicycle rack. I don't see anyone getting excited. We will place this bus with the routes that tend to carry riders who may want to go to the trails or for students who ride their bikes to school and use us if the weather gets bad. The racks will only hold 2 or 3 bikes at a time. If we see that the bicycle racks are helping folks we can order more.

Brad: The new bus has already been built and should be at Indianapolis in the next two weeks. The bus will be inspected and all extra features like the bicycle rack will be mounted. They will be installing a new security camera system and other items we requested.

Pat is working with the city on funding for three (3) more buses to replace all the old blue buses if we get this grant.

Pat: The grant Brad is talking about is new funding that became available and we have applied for additional buses. We may not know for sure until June or July if we are eligible for these funds.

Open Discussion

Question: Can you tell me why if I ask a driver to turn down the radio, and they refuse to that I have to put up with it?

Brad: You shouldn't have to listen to loud music, if the driver refuses to turn down the radio, I want you to call me at the office and let me know. I can't address this issue if I do not know about it.

Question: Will all the routes be running when you start the extended hour bus service?

Brad: NO, we are looking at 3 to 4 modified bus routes. One route will be assigned to cover the campus, the second route will cover the north, the third route will cover the eastern side and the fourth route will cover the south. ADA will be cover by the regular buses until the demand increases.

The times of the routes are: Mon.-Wed. 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. & Thurs. – Sat. 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Question: Will the Mall Express be running late at night?

Brad: No, Mall Express will stop at the 6 p.m. The extended service will have a bus that will cover the route after 6 p.m. Just like it does first thing in the mornings.

Question: Do you think more people will start riding if gas prices get up to the \$4.00 a gallon mark?

Brad: Yes, I think we will start to see some new faces if gas prices go that high. If there are no more questions this meeting is now closed.

Pat: The next scheduled meeting is on August 28th at 10 a.m. here at the library.

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