



Transit Advisory Board
Thursday, June 13, 2019
Alvarado Transit Center – 2nd Floor
100 1st St. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Members Present

Brendan Miller, Chair; (walked); Israel Chavez, (car); Kathy Foster, (bus); Rachel Hertzman, (Uber); Orville Pratt, (bus); David Kesner, (car); William Moore, (walked); Christopher Ramirez, (bus & walked); Kimberly Andujo, (walked); Harris Balkin, (car); Patrician Salisbury (bus); Steve Pilon, (bike & bus); Jayne Frandsen, (car); Chairperson, P-TAB member.

Staff Members Present

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director, (bus); Rita Chavez, Executive Assistant; (car)

Visitors Present

Shanna Schultz, Council Policy Analyst, (walked); Art Lake, (bus); Melvin Bennink, (bus); Omar Torres, (unknown); Unidentified visitor, (unknown)

Call to Order

Brendan Miller, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Approval of Agenda

Brendan Miller, Chair, asked for a Motion to approve the June 13, 2019 agenda as presented. Orville Pratt made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Israel Chavez, 2nd the Motion. Motion approved unanimously, 11-0 by Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

Approval of Minutes

Brendan Miller, Chair asked for a Motion to approve the May 9, 2019 minutes as presented. David Kesner would like to amend the statement he made in the minutes to: Remove: David Kesner will make an appointment with the Mayor. Add: David Kesner will contact with the Mayor's Office. Israel Chavez, made a motion to accept the May 9, 2019 minutes as presented with correction listed. Christopher Ramirez, 2nd the motion. Motion approved unanimously, 11-0 by Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

Public Comment – Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment

Melvin Bennink; Frequent Bus Rider

Mr. Bennink has concerns regarding the bus rider's safety on the central #66 bus route. Melvin rides the bus frequently and is concerned there is not daily security guard at the stops or on the bus. The riders on the #66 bus and are homeless, drunk, and abusive towards drivers. He would like to see security on the buses between 12noon and 5pm. He feels this is the worst part of the day for riders and when security is on the bus it seems that there are less incidents. He has spoken about these issues with Transit Deputy Director, Annette Paez and has contacted the Mayor's Office through 311 calls. He has not received an adequate response regarding his concerns. The bus riders with PTSD are negatively impacted by events that occur while riding the bus. Mr. Bennink has PTSD and these events personally impact him while on the bus or while waiting for a bus. The TAB members agree that these events can be very disturbing and suggested when these events occur Mr. Bennink should call APD.

New Business:

Scooter Sharing Program; Shanna Shultz, Planner for City Council Members

The Scooter program is currently operating under a one-year pilot program. The parent company of the scooters is Spin and the operating company is Zagster. The City will operate a maximum of 750 scooters for one-year, after one-year the information regarding usage will be gathered and the City will be able to look at corrections, tweaks or amendments. There is no cost to the City and the City makes \$1.00 per scooter per day. The money goes into a pedestrian/transportation budget that can only be used in that capacity. There is a map under the City's website <https://www.cabq.gov/planning/shared-active-transportation/shared-active-transportation-program-faqs> where you can see where the pick-up locations are every morning at 7am. When the scooter is dropped off at any location in the city, it is required a photo be taken at that drop-off point.

Each morning at 7am daily the scooters operating company called Zagster distributes all the scooters to locations approved by the City. Currently there are 35 approved drop zones in the City where you can pick-up a scooter for use and there are anywhere between 5 to 15 scooters in a drop zone. Zagster bases the number of scooters at the drop zone on the previous day's usage. The scooters start out at one place in the morning and can be taken anywhere within the City limits and dropped off anywhere within the City. One of the flexible things about the scooter program is the dock less system, which means the scooters do not have to be dropped off at any particular location. There are rules on where they should be parked. The scooters should not intrude on the public right of way. The following conditions must be followed, do not block any ADA ramps, do not park in the entrance of businesses or homes and there needs to be a 4ft clear path on the sidewalk. The best way to drop off the scooters is on an established bike rack and there are many around town. The scooter should be dropped off in the street furniture area, which is the strip of sidewalk between the sidewalk and street where you might find light poles or utility poles, parking meters and city trash cans. The parent company Spin does have GPS on all scooters. The way to access the scooters is through the Spin app, the individual needs to download the app onto their phone, a photo needs to be taken of the bar code on the driver's license because the company wants verify the operator is 18 or over and able to operate the scooter. If the individual is 18 year of age the app will not allow the scooter to be unlocked to operate. The age regulations are enforced through the parent company Spin not the City. The cost to unlock the scooter is \$1.00 and thereafter .15 cents per minute. The scooter operating hours are 7am to 7pm. The scooters are battery operated and are re-charged every night for use the following day.

Rachel Hertzman, TAB Member

How does this Shared Active Transportation fit in with the City's Vision Zero Policy? It was noticed the disclaimer on the scooter states that operators must be 18 years or old. Will the City provide helmets at a location(s) in the future? Can the companies allow a waiver to be signed if the underage operator would wear a helmet when operating the scooter?

Shanna Schultz: Currently, The State of New Mexico law does not require anyone who is 18 years or older to wear a helmet, therefore; there is no need to provide one by law. The scooter age requirement is probably a factor in having only 18 year olds ride these vehicles. It would be a significant cost to provide helmets for riders under 18 years of age. There were approximately 7,000 riders the first month but this is something that the City along with the company Spin can look into. If you have any recommendations or ideas on the operation of the scooters, please contact 311 or your City Councilor.

Christopher Ramirez, TAB Member

Christopher works with a large number of youth and is aware that the age limit is a national policy for most Shared Active Transportation. The concern is that the age restriction makes transportation difficult for young people who do not have a driver's license, credit card or smart phone. Christopher is hoping that the City is looking into all of these rules so that the young people and others can have access to use the shared transportation the City has to offer. The City has spoken to the operating company Spin about some of these concerns and are hoping after the one-year pilot plan is over these things can be addressed.

Chairperson's Report, Brendan Miller

The chairperson, Brendan Miller read the proposed letter to Mayor Tim Keller, City Councilors, County Commissioners, Civic Leaders and Bernie Toon, Transit Director. The TAB members had a discussion about the letter and supporting the letter.

Motion: Israel Chavez, made a motion to amend the letter to Civic Leaders with the following amendments: Add Barbara Peterson; APS Board Member to the letter. Add the following wording to the letter regarding APS student bus passes: A suggestion to explore establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Public Schools in a similar matter in which the MOU's are established with The University of New Mexico (UNM) and Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) for student bus passes. Christopher Ramirez, 2nd the motion. Motion approved 7 in favor; 4 opposed. Motion carried 7-4.

Rachel Hertzman, made a motion to accept the civic letter as amended. Christopher Ramirez, 2nd the motion. Motion approved 8 in favor; 3 opposed. Motion carried 8-3.

Director's Report

Bernie Toon, Transit Director is out of the office attending to a personal emergency. We do not know when Mr. Toon will return to work, an Acting Director has not been appointed and Annette Paez, Deputy Transit Director will give the Director's report in Mr. Toon's absence.

Annette apologized to the TAB members who were not extended an invitation nor notified to attend the ART bus Press Conference for the reveal the new ART bus. It was a grave oversight and will not occur again.

There were 755,731 riders in May and that is 4.9% down from the same time last year.

The New Flyer ART fleet of twenty (20) buses will arrive sometime this fall. The features of the 60ft bus will have new exterior graphics, will be equipped with 5 doors, 6 bike racks and a quantum tie down system. Drivers will have a Plexiglas 3 position partition for their safety, drivers will maintain control over the partitions for privacy and safety concerns. There will not be any USB connections on the bus due to vandalism challenges on the buses.

David Kesner, TAB Member

Did the Transit Department provide any information on public transportation to the Senior Game attendees?

A few months ago Transit Marketing Coordinator, Keith Breitbach gave a marketing update. During his update he mentioned how the marketing department is stretched very thin. At that time, David asked if he needed volunteers to go out to the hotels downtown and along the main corridor to inform them about public transportation. Has anything been discussed or happened with that suggestion?

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director

No, the Transit Department did not specifically promote transportation for the Senior Games. The reason for not promoting the city transit system was transit was only responsible for providing the transportation for the games. All information was housed and handled by the Senior Games directly. The Transit Department did have several volunteers and printed material to help visitors ride the city bus while in Albuquerque.

Annette does not know anything about the volunteer suggestion. But feels this is a good suggestion and Annette or Rita will interact with Keith to see the status on that.

Rita Chavez, Executive Assistant

The Transit Department has a consultant who is working with the Para-TAB members and they too had the same suggestion, how can they get involved or help with marketing. The consultant advised them to create a plan on what they would like to focus on as a group and then go speak with a vendor or attend outside meetings and provide information on the City's transportation system. Of course, all this would be coordinated with the marketing department so everyone is sending out the same message.

Kimberly Andujo, TAB Member

Kimberly informed that there are several volunteer opportunities throughout the City. In transit Dwayne Baker is in need for volunteers for the Adopt-A-Stop program. You can reach Dwayne at (505)764-3126.

Steve Pilon, TAB Member

Steve made a request at the last TAB meeting that he would like to follow up on. He would like to see the numbers regarding the "free" rides for special events/days with regard to the drop in revenue.

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director

Annette stated that the information will be provided to the group by the next TAB meeting.

Israel Chavez, TAB Member

Israel along with the TAB members would like to get the information regarding "free" bus passes for APS students. The TAB members would like to know how the cost amount was calculated with regard to APS student riders. So, these numbers can be compared to the MOU with UNM/CNM.

Israel noticed from the Security memo set to the TAB members that Transit the Transit Officer who gave us information on officer safety. The security officer was on work hours and was not at his assignment when he came to the meeting, which Israel agrees was not appropriate. Israel would like it noted that the TAB members should be allowed to come speak to the Board as the Board is appointed by the City. The TAB members would like to hear from employees when they have concerns but would like for the employees to follow protocol. TAB members would be ok with employees attending meetings after their work hours or with supervisory permission.

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director

Annette, will look into providing the information on how transit calculated the cost for APS students to receive free bus passes.

The Transit department would not interfere with an employee attending the TAB meeting or any other meeting as long as it is after hours or has taken approved leave, since that is within their rights.

Rachel Hertzman and Christopher Ramirez, TAB Members

Rachel asked if it would be possible for the ridership data to include a column with monthly regular ridership of just the individuals who pay daily to ride the bus.

Christopher requested to see monthly data on the routes, specifically the routes are being used on the ridership report.

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director

These statistics are available and we will check into adding this information into the report if possible.

Harris Balkin, TAB Member

Harris wanted to thank Rita Chavez in Bernie's absence for providing information he could share at a recent Innkeeper's Hospitality Association meeting. There were several hundred innkeepers who were able to receive brochures on the Transit System for Albuquerque. It was nice for all the Hotel Directors to receive the same information at one time regarding the transit system in Albuquerque.

David Kesner, TAB Member

As a follow-up to the Transit Security memo. When Mr. Kesner left the last TAB meeting he was extremely upset after the way the security guard presented the information to the TAB members. Mr. Kesner thanked Deputy Director, Paez for the clarification on this matter.

What does an employee do when they find themselves in an unsafe situation? What is the Safety Policy for the City of Albuquerque?

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director

The City of Albuquerque is governed by Personnel Rules and Regulations and in those Rules and Regulations specifically related to employee’s safety there are provisions for an employee and protocols on how to deal with situations where they feel unsafe. First, follow the chain of command, inform your supervisor, and if the employee does not feel comfortable they can go up the chain of command in the department, if they still are unsatisfied they can contact main HR for the City of Albuquerque at which time the employee can file a complaint.

Christopher Ramirez, TAB Member

Christopher would like it noted in the minutes that when transit is working on the RFP process, he would like to suggest the department look into a community involvement process. Community involvement has happened in several other transit studies around the country and one being in the bay area. Christopher will send Annette information on this community involvement RFP process for review.

Old Business

None

New Business

The City of Albuquerque has been engaged in a mediation process with the bus company BYD. As part of the process, the two entities have come to an agreement that the litigation will be settled out of the courtroom. Parts of the terms of the agreement will be kept confidential and both entities have agreed not to disparage either side. Both companies will go their separate ways with no money being exchanged.

William Moore, TAB Members

Mr. Moore heard that there was some kind of issue raised about the \$7,000,000 in Federal funding that was dependent upon the City using electric buses, can you tell us what will happen with the \$7,000,000 in funding?

Annette Paez, Transit Deputy Director

The Transit Department has initiated an amendment with the FTA and the Small Start Grant Agreement (SSGA) asking the FTA if transit can keep the money in lieu of returning the difference between the \$7,000,000 which is the cost difference of the electric buses. So, the amended SSGA has been sent to the FTA stating transit would like to keep the grant money. Transit is waiting to hear from the FTA if they agree or disagree with the recommendation. If they agree the Transit Department will be able to keep about \$7.5 million in funding.

Public Comment – Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

The TAB meeting was adjourned at 5:39pm by Brendan Miller, Chair.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2019; 4:00 PM at the ATC-2nd Floor