

ALBUQUERQUE TRANSIT EQUITY DAY

February 4th, 2021

By the City of Albuquerque Transit Advisory Board (TAB)

WHEREAS Rosa Parks was an iconic figure in the movements for social justice and racial equality, and played a major role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement and the historic protest was the unequal access and treatment of African-Americans and people of color to public transit that ended legal segregation in the United States; and

WHEREAS transit equity is identified as communities most impacted, transit dependent riders, have access to transportation they need and deserve; and

WHEREAS public transit jobs in the United States have historically been good jobs that paid family-supporting wages, but in parallel to the cuts in public funding for transit and the trend of increasing fares, there is a growing marginalization of transit workers, who are facing worsening work conditions and erosion of their collective bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS unequal access to public transit based on race, income, disability and age have persisted to this day, and have to a degree become worse, with cuts in public funding for transit and consequent fare increases in many transit systems; and

WHEREAS transitioning our transportation system from excessive automobile dependence to public transit, especially electrified public transit with electricity from renewable sources, is key to transitioning our economy from fossil fuels to renewable energy and cutting our greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS increased community access to public transit, reduction in racial, economic and other disparities in access to transit and clean air and in the burden of climate change impacts, and increased opportunities for employment in good jobs, form a key part of a “just transition” from a carbon-intensive, fossil-fuel based, highly unequal economy to a clean, renewable energy based, just economy; and

WHEREAS the City of Albuquerque has previously recognized Rosa Parks’ birthday and Transit Equity with free buses, mayoral proclamation and graphics on buses and social media for the past two years as well as currently offering free bus fare for youth 18 years old and younger.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Albuquerque Transit Advisory Board (TAB) supports the call to observe a Transit Equity Day, a Day of Action on Public Transportation as a Human Right, on February 4, 2021; and

RESOLVED that the COA TAB calls on the city and Transit Department to draw attention to the continuing racial, economic and other inequities in access to adequate public transit, and the need for ideally free or affordable and accessible transit, through Transit Equity Day; and

RESOLVED that the TAB calls on the city to make the current free fares for youth 18 years old and younger as permanent policy and practice and implement related traffic safety amenities to safely serve youth; and


RESOLVED that the TAB calls on the city to expand the free fares to include youth ages 19-24 years old, seniors who are 60 years old and older and ideally all bus riders; and

RESOLVED that TAB calls on the city to make accessible information in multiple languages about park, open space and other city spaces that youth and families can safely access during the COVID pandemic; and

RESOLVED that the TAB also supports legislation at the Federal, state, and local levels that:

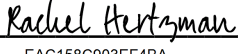
- Increases public funding for transit, including funding to expand transit systems, especially in underserved neighborhoods, communities of color, low-income communities, and communities burdened by pollution;
- Eliminates fares for populations such as seniors, people with disabilities, and students;
- Increases the accessibility of public transit for people with disabilities;
- Increases job opportunities in transit system operation as well as construction, and ensures that the new jobs pay family-supporting wages, provide good benefits, and give workers the opportunity to organize a union and bargain collectively without employer pressure and intimidation; and
- Prioritizes the hiring of low-income people, people of color, people from communities currently underserved by transit and/or overexposed to vehicular and other forms of pollution, people with disabilities, workers displaced from polluting industries, formerly incarcerated people, and other marginalized populations for transit operation and construction jobs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the TAB certifies this resolution and will share the resolution with the Office of the Mayor and city councilors.

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Harris Balkin

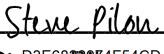
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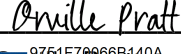
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Kathy Foster, Vice Chair


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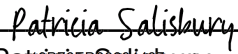
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Brendan Miller

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Christopher Ramirez, Chair

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Jacqueline Smith, Para Transit Advisory Board Chair