



## Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, January 11, 2024

4:00pm-5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at  
Alvarado Transportation Center  
100 1<sup>st</sup> St SW  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mercer Conference Room  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM  
Meeting ID: 890 7253 8929  
Phone#: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782

### **Members Present**

Samuel Jensen, Chair (ZOOM); Steve Pilon, Vice-Chair (ZOOM); Althea Atherton (ZOOM/ATC) Jennifer Layne Frederick (ABSENT); Ben Garland (ZOOM); Michael Patrick Martin (ZOOM); Jett Metcalf (ZOOM); Katherine Sullivan (ZOOM)

### **Staff Members Present**

Megan Holcomb, Marketing & Communications Specialist (ZOOM); Leslie Keener, Director (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM); Bobby Sisneros, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Mike Davis, Deputy Director (ZOOM)

### **Visitors Present**

Peter Rice (ZOOM); Albert Lee (ZOOM); TAS (ZOOM); Richard Meadows (ZOOM); Sayid Hossaini (ZOOM); Anna Rios (ZOOM); Dara Osher (ZOOM); Christopher Ramirez (ZOOM); Michael Devin (ZOOM); Parker Garcia (ZOOM)

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Samuel started meeting with a land acknowledgement reflecting on the fact that Albuquerque and New Mexico sits on unseeded, indigenous land and indigenous people still comprise over 14% of the population of our State. That population faces many disparities that are disproportionate compared to other populations of New Mexico. Through this committee, I'd like to work towards equity for all people in the State, including indigenous people and honor their stewardship of this land.

### **Call to Order**

Samuel Jensen, Chair, began the meeting at 4:04pm.

*Samuel's call dropped for a few minutes, but was immediately logged back into meeting.*

### **Approval of Agenda or Additions**

Vice Chair Pilon asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Jett Metcalf motioned to approve the agenda, Katherine Sullivan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Patrick Martin, Ben Garland, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Pilon asked for a motion to approve the November 13 meeting minutes. Althea Atherton motioned to approve November 13 meeting minutes, Patrick Martin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Patrick Martin, Ben Garland, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

Samuel abstained.

**Public Comment** – *Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment(s).*

Christopher Ramirez: In 2019 Together for Brothers brought resolution to TAB and we're excited to come back to ask TAB for support of Transit Equity Day. We're also asking to support our efforts to go State Legislation to create NM Transit Equity fund. We'd like to make NM a zero fares state. Thank you for your support on the Resolution.

Ben Garland: Jarrett Walker has released the second edition of Human Transit. I'll put a link to discount code in chat. What are the status on pin curbs on Central?

Patrick Martin: Are ART buses on San Mateo 141 route?

Dara Osher: I recently moved to Albuquerque. I have a background in Transit and Urban mobility. I've applied to join the Transit Advisory Board and I'm hoping I'm qualified to fill a position.

Steve Pilon: I've noticed a blockage on Advisory committees, perhaps we can reach out to someone that can help with that.

Althea Atherton: There's been a change in the person in charge of the Board applications. You can also contact your City Councilor.

Margaret Lucero: I'll put my email in the chat to reach out to me for any questions on applications.

#### **TAB Chairperson's Report – Samuel Jensen, Chair**

Samuel Jensen: Please pass the word along to anyone that may be interested in joining TAB.

#### **Director's Report: Leslie Keener, Director**

Leslie Keener: Ridership for ART 188,000 for November and 183,000 December, Fixed Route 556,000 for November and 450,000 for December. Paratransit 15,000 for November and 14,500 for December. Vacancy rates have started to come down, 34% for entire department. Hiring Event January 19. Our focus remains on hiring and retention. ART buses are being used on San Mateo route to help with overcrowding. Cleaning efforts on buses and stops continue to be an issue, but we do have our focus on that. We have a RFQ on exterior bus washing. We will start repainting shelters and rebranding with new decals. New signage on Central corridor in the next month or two. Metro has the ability to cite at our shelters. We have 35 new buses, you should see 5 in service in the next week. We'll space them out as we get them wrapped, do pre-delivery inspections and new radio installs. We have 20 new Sun Vans out and on the road. All advertising will go away with the R-23-184. Training on safety and procedures will be available digitally for our staff. You will see safety and security information on our dashboard in the next several weeks. New APD officers will be on our Central corridor. In February we can do a presentation on the new Micro Transit we will be introducing in March, branded ABQ Ride Connect. ART pin curbs are done. We're noting areas that need additional attention. All buses are equipped with GPS. It can be our Trapeze or Swiftly software down or not updating, but we will look into it because this is the first we are hearing this.

Steve Pilon: What's happening to old buses and Sun vans? On the budget positive, is it a 10% increase?

Leslie Keener: Buses and Sun vans will be decommissioned. We'll have more conversation on budget as we have more information.

Althea Atherton: Are new CNG buses equipped with passenger counter? Is there another place we can find safety data? Is Micro-Transit expanding routes where there is no bus service?

Leslie Keener: Driver will have to manually enter passengers. We will update dashboard with security information soon. Micro Transit is more for first mile, last mile.

Patrick Martin: Are we considering using ART bus on fixed route?

Leslie Keener: No, just for overcrowding use, for now.

Samuel Jensen: How was it decided where to put Micro Transit? Is there any public input?

Ben Garland: If purpose of micro transit is to provide access to fixed route, it might be a good opportunity to work with DMD to improve bike access as well.

Steve Pilon: Not very efficient lay out for bikes on ART bus.

Althea Atherton: We are not alone in having cleanliness issues on our buses, I've lived in other cities and use the public transportation.

Samuel Jensen: Perhaps drivers can do a quick sweep at the end of their shift to help with cleanliness.

Leslie Keener: We were looking at lower income areas in combination with Network study. It's a pilot program that is flexible. In October we handed out cleanliness bags to our drivers to help with that.

### **Action Items**

*Anna Rios presented the City of Albuquerque 2024 Transit Equity Day*

*Althea shared screen on City of Albuquerque 2024 Transit Equity Day Resolution, changes and additions were made by TAB members.*

Samuel called a vote for the amended Resolution. Resolution was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Ben Garland, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

*See link next to January 2024 minutes to download City of Albuquerque 2024 Transit Equity Day Resolution*

**Second Round of Public Comment** (Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment(s)).

Patrick Martin: The majority of State Legislators have no interests in doing infrastructure funding, so talk to your State Legislator.

Samuel Jensen: Actually the state is going to be considering a state transit fund.

Steve Pilon: What a great advisory board we have, I like how we allow a variety of input.

Anna Rios: We will have Transit Equity Day on Feb 3 at 12pm-2pm at Alvarado Transportation.

Althea Atherton: There is a public engagement survey through MRCOG about bus stops or area that needs work.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 5:34pm

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024 ; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person**

## **Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting**

16:00:15 From Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant : Althea Atherton, TAB member @ ATC

16:00:54 From Ana Rios (She/Her/Elle) T4B : Ana Rios, T4B

16:01:18 From Jett Metcalf (he/him/his) : Sorry to not be there in person! The cold weather defeated me today.

16:04:20 From Dara Osher (Michael Baker International) : Dara Osher, Michael Baker International, Planner III, Applicant to be TAB member

16:08:46 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : members of the audience please introduce yourselves in the chat if you want :)

16:09:05 From Sayid Hossaini : Sayid T4B

16:09:23 From Richard Meadows : Richard Meadows, Transportation Planning Manager, Bernalillo County

16:09:31 From Michael Devin : Michael Devin, ABQ resident and transit rider

16:09:31 From Christopher Ramírez : Christopher Ramírez, bus riders, former TAB member and with Together for Brothers

16:09:55 From Parker : Parker Garcia, just an interested citizen keeping informed on transit happenings

16:14:42 From tass : Happy New Year!! Public comment: Would it be possible for all ABQRIDE buses to have GPS tracking functioning? The Route 2 bus on Monday didn't show up on the Transit app or the UNM tracking website. I called 311 and they couldn't see it either. I knew it was actually running because I saw it.. Thank you.

16:16:16 From Ben Garland : <https://islandpress.org/books/human-transit-revised-edition>

Use code WALKER for 20% off (cheaper than Amazon)

16:18:00 From Michael Devin : To add on to Tass's point, the 2 actually failed to show up later in the evening and several riders were stranded because they had no way of knowing due to lack of tracking

16:18:49 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : It took me about 7 months between applying and getting on the board, so it can take a minute for them to get around to it!

16:18:53 From Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant to Dara Osher (Michael Baker International)(Direct Message) : Hi Dara I can also look into your application.

16:19:12 From Dara Osher (Michael Baker International) to Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant(Direct Message) : Thank you! I'd really appreciate it. I also called to follow up but no one got back to me.

16:19:56 From Jett Metcalf (he/him/his) : I also had the issue with the 11 recently

16:20:08 From Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant to Dara Osher (Michael Baker International)(Direct Message) : They have a new contact who is really responsive. I'll look into it. Sorry about that

16:20:21 From Dara Osher (Michael Baker International) to Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant(Direct Message) : No problem! I understand. Should I apply again?

16:20:43 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : well council cares a lot about \*one\* board

16:20:46 From Richard Meadows : I've also been having trouble with the app not showing the bus when its there

16:20:54 From Jett Metcalf (he/him/his) : Reacted to "well council cares a..." with 😊

16:21:40 From Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant to Dara Osher (Michael Baker International)(Direct Message) : Replying to "No problem! I unders..."

Let me check first, send me your email. Thank you

16:22:16 From Dara Osher (Michael Baker International) to Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant(Direct Message) : Replying to "No problem! I unders..."

Sure! I can't remember which one I may have used, so here's both options: [dara.osher@gmail.com](mailto:dara.osher@gmail.com) or [dara.osher@mbakerintl.com](mailto:dara.osher@mbakerintl.com)

16:22:25 From Dara Osher (Michael Baker International) to Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant(Direct Message) : Replying to "No problem! I unders..."

Thank you!!!

16:23:21 From Samuel Jensen : Samuel: samuelchristianjensen@gmail.com  
16:23:27 From Parker : If it helps, my partner just got responses for the boards they applied to after about 2-3 months, and they got multiple responses within a day or two. Including GAATC.  
16:23:27 From Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant : margaretlucero@cabq.gov  
16:24:35 From Ben Garland : It might also help to contact your city councilor about a board application  
16:28:26 From Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant to Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI)(Direct Message) : Replying to "No problem! I unders..."

Thank you Dara

16:33:02 From tass : Hooray new buses!  
16:34:59 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : Reacted to "Hooray new buses!" with ❤️  
16:37:01 From tass : The GPS issue was the bus. Other buses had GPS  
16:39:38 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : Very excited to hear more about the new microtransit service!  
16:40:11 From Parker : Ditto on being interested to hear more on the micro transit services!  
16:48:04 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : bike lockers!  
16:48:10 From Parker : Reacted to "bike lockers!" with ❤️  
16:48:18 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : is there any consideration for a bikeshare pilot in ABQ?  
16:48:42 From Parker : Agreed, I'd love to have more bike infrastructure integrated with transit!  
16:49:20 From Ben Garland : Replying to "is there any consid..."

I heard there was a scooter share thing here a few years ago, and the vendor pulled out due to so much theft and damage to the scooters?

16:49:59 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : Replying to "is there any consid..."

Yeah, I'm way less of a fan of scootershare. But I could see e-bikeshare potentially doing well.

16:50:17 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : Replying to "is there any consid..."

I have heard that our license fee for bike/scooter share is substantially higher (10x?) in ABQ than in other places

16:50:34 From Richard Meadows : Replying to "is there any consid..."

We had an extensive bike share program before the pandemic but the company went out of business.

16:51:17 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : Reacted to "We had an extensive ..." with 👍  
17:03:59 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : I came here from FL....we comprise the rest of the top 10 most dangerous cities for pedestrians and cyclists.  
17:06:15 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : What language is Keres?  
17:06:35 From Althea : Replying to "What language is Ker..."

Several pueblos use it

17:06:49 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : Replying to "What language is Ker..."

Thanks!

17:07:15 From Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque : Replying to "is there any consid..."

Councilor Fiebelkorn is pushing to revise the permitting regs and agreements to make it more inviting for micromobility to operate in the City.

17:07:37 From Ben Garland : Since most of the bus information is online these days, I think it's reasonable for people to use Google Translate, etc if they don't understand English or Spanish.  
17:08:20 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : Reacted to "Councilor Fiebelkorn..." with 🙏  
17:10:40 From Sayid Hossaini : And how transit can help to keep a job and get a job  
17:14:02 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : face disproportionate rates of traffic-related violence?

17:14:20 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : in accessing transit

17:14:23 From Ben Garland : I'm still confused by the second Whereas

17:14:32 From Parker : Maybe a "due to inadequate street safety"

17:14:35 From Parker : ?

17:16:24 From Ben Garland : Could the second whereas be reduced to this?

WHEREAS transit equity is defined as transit dependent bus riders having access to public transportation, and mobility sovereignty is transit dependent bus riders making their own decisions about transit and mobility;

17:18:07 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : tenet

17:18:35 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : tenet is a principle, tenant is a resident

17:19:25 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : should it be transportation disadvantaged communities as well as transit dependent populations?

17:21:41 From Ben Garland : "transit dependent" sounds clear, "transportation disadvantaged" sounds like word salad to me.

17:22:28 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : Reacted to "Could the second whe..." with ❤️

17:22:54 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : pro dash!

17:23:30 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : Reacted to ""transit dependent" ..." with 👍

17:23:44 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : Reacted to ""transit dependent" ..." with 👍

17:28:51 From Ben Garland : I just want to make sure we're not requesting that ABQ Ride have 9 different versions of all their web pages, public documents, etc... when it's easy for people to self-translate these days with Google Translate, DeepL, ChatGPT, etc.

17:30:03 From Dara Osher-Sullivan (MBI) : there's also a tool embedded in websites by google that will automatically translate any website....may not be perfect but it exists

17:30:49 From Ben Garland : Happy New Year!

17:31:56 From tass : Thank you!

17:32:01 From tass : Happy New Year!

17:32:20 From Jett Metcalf (he/him/his) : Love a pat on our own backs

17:32:23 From Patrick Martin (he/him) : obama medal .jpg

17:32:32 From Ben Garland : Reacted to "obama medal .jpg" with 😊

17:34:08 From Ben Garland : <https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=mwq23#/>

17:34:43 From Ben Garland : <https://www.mrcog-nm.gov/264/Metropolitan-Transportation-Plan>

17:34:48 From Althea : <https://www.labor4sustainability.org/articles/transit-equity-day-2024-coming/>