



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, January 13, 2022

4:00-5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at

Alvarado Transportation Center

100 1st St SW

2nd Floor, Santa Fe Training/Conference Room

Albuquerque, NM 87102

OR

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 843 0015 2457

Phone#: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782

Members Present

Christopher Ramirez, Chair (ZOOM); Patricia Salisbury, Vice-Chair (PHONE); Harris Balkin (ABSENT); Ryan Lee Haack (ZOOM); Jennifer Jackson (ZOOM); Don McIver (ZOOM); Rikk Murphy (ABSENT); Steve Pilon (ZOOM), Hodgins Serrullo (ABSENT); Jacqueline Smith, PTAB (ABSENT)

Staff Members Present

Doreen De la Cruz, Facility Office Manager (ZOOM); Stephanie Dominguez, Interim Director (ZOOM); Megan Holcomb, Project Support Specialist (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM); Chris Payton, Associate Director (ZOOM); Bobby Sisneros, Deputy Director (ZOOM);

Visitors Present

Baruch Campos, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); Hossaini Mandi, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM); Nicole Tenny, Family Specialist, University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability (ZOOM); Lyn Wilson-King, University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability (ZOOM)

Land Acknowledgement

Chair Ramirez would like to start off the meeting with a land acknowledgement. The City of Albuquerque is on indigenous land and referred to as Tiwa land. That is currently represented by Sandia and Isleta pueblos. We ask for permission and blessing for us to be here and serve the community.

Call to Order

Christopher Ramirez, Chair, began the meeting at 4:04 pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Patricia Salisbury motioned to approve the agenda, Ryan Lee Haack 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the December 9, 2021 minutes. Ryan Lee Haack motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Jennifer Jackson 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

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

Patricia Salisbury: I recommend we start meeting at the ATC, in person.

Christopher Ramirez: We have the option to meet in person at the ATC and ZOOM.

Hossaini Mandi: We'd like to get stories from the community to show Mayor Keller how beneficial free transit is to Albuquerque.

Don McIver: How is ridership data collected?

Christopher Ramirez: Stephanie can address that in the Director's report.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair

Christopher Ramirez: We helped fundraise for burritos for 433 Transit staff. Thank you to everyone who helped contribute. I want to address community safety on buses and at bus stops. I'm excited that Transit is doing de-escalating training for drivers and staff. Together for Brothers, in conjunction, is doing a community base de-escalating training with community partners who want to educate people at bus stops. There is an Albuquerque Transit Equity Community and Safety Group meeting next Wednesday at 2:00pm. We want to make sure Zero Fares is in multiple languages. Congresswomen Stansbury is doing an Instagram Live on one of the City buses to encourage the community to use the buses. Transit Equity Day is February 4. We want to do a press conference to lift the voices of the people who have been impacted by Zero Fares. There's going to be 336 million over the next 5 years from the Infrastructure bill that will come to New Mexico for public transit. I want to invite TAB to ask our Senators to allocate funds on a junior bill that will help fund bus stop equity issues. We have some vacancies on the Board and want to encourage people to apply.

Director's Report-Stephanie Dominguez- Interim Director

Stephanie Dominguez: ART Ridership; 122,278 passengers for December, increase of 52.3%. Fixed Route Ridership; 387,785 passengers for December, increase of 40.28%. Data is collected by driver key codes and ART has automatic counters.

Patricia Salisbury: What implication do these ridership numbers have for Transit?

Steve Pilon: How are we collecting ridership during Zero fares?

Bobby Sisneros: Drivers are still using Fare boxes to key in passengers and ART has an automatic counter as you enter the bus. We use ridership numbers to add service, security purposes, hire drivers, marketing to try to increase ridership.

Chris Payton: FTA asks us to report on ridership for funding.

Christopher Ramirez: Where are we at Pre-Covid in terms of percentage of service?

Chris Payton: The level of service were running is about 18% less than normal.

Don McIver: Why is there a decline in ridership in the month of December?

Stephanie Dominguez: I'm not sure why could be from school (CNM & UNM) break.

Stephanie Dominguez: Zero Fares started January 2. Megan Holcomb will be collecting data and reporting related to Zero Fares. Thank you TAB for the burritos. Bobby is our new Deputy Director and will be overseeing Planning, Marketing and IT.

Bobby Sisneros: Thank you for having me and I'm excited to be back with Transit.

Stephanie Dominguez: We will have an update on our Org Chart and Divisions Managers at the next meeting. We continue to look at the EDO area and work with DMD regarding pin curbs.

Chris Payton: We are preparing budget for fiscal year 2023. Our fiscal year runs from July to June. This process starts in December with the budget office preparing a 5 year forecast to look at where we're sitting. A request to the departments to begin prepare their budgets. Additions must be offset with reductions in other areas. Most of the changes that are happening this year are structural issues that may have come up in the middle of the year. For example, driver recruitment has been an emphasis over the year and we're making sure we have the request to recover for those expenses. Our budget is due this week and we're working on getting that transmitted. We will then prepare for the CAO budget hearing in February, then decisions are made and due on April 1 on what will be proposed for the FY23 budget. Committee of the Whole meetings are in April and May and that gives the City Council and community an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget. The budget is adopted by City Council on May 31 and budget begins on July 1.

Christopher Ramirez: Can we see a route specific ridership? Are there ways we can build opportunities for the Board to be involved in giving feedback in building out the department budget?

Stephanie Dominguez: We can look into providing those ridership numbers.

Chris Payton: We would need to know what areas you're interested in focusing on and we can do our best to respond to those areas.

Unfinished Business

Stephanie Dominguez: RFP route study was approved by Council in December and contract was awarded to Jarrett Walker and Associates and I'd like for them to present at the next TAB meeting.

New Business

Christopher Ramirez: *City of Albuquerque Transit Equity Day Resolution was shared on screen for review each member read a paragraph of the Resolution.*

Christopher Ramirez asked for a motion to move to accept the Resolution. Jenny Jackson moved and Don McIver 2nd the motion.

Jenny Jackson: *"Under Further Resolved"* I feel it's premature to be recommending to the City that they extend this to the budget when there's no data collected, just yet. Maybe change language to "upon evidence of success" Same as "Finally Further" for legislation.

Steve Pilon: I second Jenny. We're celebrating equity but I don't want to see this being used as a vehicle for promoting a policy that I think is counterproductive.

Jenny Jackson: Perhaps separate the money portion out as a separate Resolution and talk about that when we have more data.

Christopher Ramirez: Community partners seen, prior to zero fares, the positive impact it has on students, seniors and veterans. When we have the full data the budget decisions will have already been made, so I want to advocate for our Board to consider is encouraging the City and Transit to consider multiple years of funding for zero fares. One year is not going to show to overall impact of zero fares.

Christopher Ramirez: Due to time we will have to move the presentation from UNM to February.

Jenny Jackson suggested changes to the Resolution

Christopher Ramirez: If there are no other comments or edits from Board members I'd like to vote on the revised Resolution. The vote was voice approved by Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, and Steve Pilon. Resolution passes. I will follow up with UNM to reschedule

CDD Autism & Transit Workshop was not presented due to time.

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

Christopher Ramirez: I'm concerned, as a rider, because I have not heard from Transit about safety strategies, other than security and police. I want to continue to ask the City to come up with better solutions for safety for riders and drivers.

Bobby Sisneros: The ACS Department will help de-escalate situations and we do utilize them to help out.

Baruch Campos: I was able to see the Resolution and I appreciate the feedback and concerns everyone expressed. I've heard stories the last couple weeks how zero fares have impacted their lives. I work with a young individual whose vehicle is no longer working and he is taking advantage of free transit.

Christopher Ramirez: If anyone wants to be part of the press conference for Transit Equity Day on February 4 please contact me.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:25 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 10, 2022; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

16:07:58 From Don McIver : STEve is here now
16:08:09 From Peter Rice / Downtown Albuquerque News : hi all taking a call right now but I'm here
16:18:02 From Mahdi Hossaini : Thank tou
16:20:42 From Margaret Lucero to Lyn S Wilson-King(Direct Message) : Hi Lyn, will you need to share your screen for your presentation?
16:32:28 From Don McIver : I'm curious about the drop-off between month to month...for example, the drop from October to December. Is that a reflection of school breaks?
16:46:33 From Margaret Lucero to Nicole Tenny(Direct Message) : Hi Nicole, will you and Lyn need share screen access for your presentation?
16:48:32 From Nicole Tenny to Margaret Lucero(Direct Message) : I believe Lyn will be sharing her screen if that is ok?
16:49:12 From Nicole Tenny to Margaret Lucero(Direct Message) : Chris may have our slides as well. Let me know if Lyn doesn't respond to you. Thanks for checking!
16:50:20 From Margaret Lucero to Nicole Tenny(Direct Message) : I messaged her she has not responded. I can give her share screen access . Thank you
16:52:13 From Nicole Tenny to Margaret Lucero(Direct Message) : Thanks, so much!!! :)
16:58:09 From Nicole Tenny to Margaret Lucero(Direct Message) : If you haven't heard back from her, would you mind giving me screen share access as well? I'm sorry, I'm not sure where she went :)
17:03:18 From Margaret Lucero to Nicole Tenny(Direct Message) : Yes I can do that. Thank you

17:21:04

From Jennifer : I've got to run-- I've got my own childcare issues this evening! Have a nice evening everyone.