



**Transit Advisory Board**  
Thursday, February 08, 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:  
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 (ZOOM); Ben Garland (ZOOM); Michael Patrick Martin (ZOOM); Jett Metcalf (ZOOM); Katherine Sullivan (ZOOM)

**Staff Members Present**

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); Christopher Ramirez (ZOOM); Michael Devin (ZOOM); Parker Garcia (ZOOM), Baruch Campos (ZOOM); Tyler Jordan (ATC/ZOOM); Brittne Aguirre (ATC/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 4:03pm.

**Approval of Agenda or Additions**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the January 11 meeting minutes. Patrick Martin motioned to approve January 11 meeting minutes, Steve Pilon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Jennifer Fredrick, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Ben Garland, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

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

Baruch Campos: Transit Equity Day collaboration was great. We partnered with Transit and thank you to everyone who showed up. 450k awarded to transit security. We'd like to weigh in on that, please keep us in the loop.

Christopher Ramirez: We can use other strategies to improve bus and bust stop safety other than policing and security. Transit ambassadors, deescalating training for driver and passengers, promoting positive events at transit facilities. I've never seen a public version of a FTA safety plan. A company will come in and tell us what we already know. I'm concerned about giving this company, who doesn't have a history of doing this kind of work, 450k to move forward on bus safety plan if it's centered around policing.

Samuel Jensen: TAB has made multiple statements in support of having more of a holistic view of safety and security on buses.

Patrick Martin: CNG buses look great! What is the update on the bus wraps?

Brittnie Aguirre: I've been doing some training on how to recognize human trafficking and that's a huge problem here. I would love for Transit to advocate for that.

Leslie Keener: We've had a big push from FTA. We are developing some training for our drivers for that.

### **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: *shared screen ABQ Ride Dashboard*

We currently have 50 volunteers for our Adopt A Stop program. We appreciate the support and volunteers in that program. We had a hiring event on January 19 with 51 applicants, 28 going through the process. We're still struggling to find Mechanic II & III. MCO and Sun Van Chauffeurs vacancies are coming down. Next hiring event is April 19. Still working on Transit –Related Metro Security Data, we will post it on our dashboard once we've verified numbers with Metro. New bus wraps legislation is basically taking away any advertising on exterior of buses, we can still do vehicle wraps, but strictly branding ABQ Ride. City Council passed legislation in March to do the study. We went out to RFP twice with no bidders and then had to go into the open market. Parametrix is the company we went with, you can pull up EC-24-2 on City Council website. It will have scope of the contract and everything that is required, as far as public outreach and engagement involved. There's going to be various levels of safety and security interventions. We'll be reaching out as we proceed. APD Transit Safety Officers working on Central between San Mateo and Wyoming. 10-15 new Gillig buses out, we have 35 total and hope to see more rolling out in the summer. We just awarded a new contract for exterior bus cleaning out at Ken Sanchez. Network study internal workshop in March.

### **Information Items**

*Mike Davis shared screen on ABQ Ride Connect (Microtransit) presentation*

Microtransit is as shared ride public transit service often used as a complement to fixed route service. Microtransit uses small vehicles to provide service to riders who aren't sufficiently connected to existing transit routes. Spare platform will be used to create the most advanced microtransit solution. Initial zones Southwest Mesa and Rio Grande, 5 electric vehicles, mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm, free fare, rider app or phone bookings. Launch date March 18, 2024. 1 year pilot program

Steve Pilon: Was this a grant or coming out of general budget? Door to door service?

Mike Davis: Yes, curb to curb service. General budget funds

Althea Atherton: Is 36 bus still going to be a regular route with this new service? Are we training new drivers for this service? Can hours of operations be extended to later in evening?

Mike Davis: Route 36 will remain. Driver can be a Sun Van Chauffeur or Motor coach operator. We'll start with our extra board drivers. We have that flexibility as we test out the service.

Ben Garland: How is service going to be synchronized with their fixed route? Do you have any estimates on trip distance?

Mike Davis: Passengers can use the service to go anywhere in their zone. 3 miles/ 10 minutes average trip distance.

Steve Pilon: What do you do with overflow? This is a premium service and concerned about over demand, but worried about being zero fares.

Mike Davis: Limited seating on vehicle, passenger will be notified if trip is full. We are building in over flow and will be using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, Lyft.

Patrick Martin: Is 5:30pm last pick up? Might think about extending to 6pm to synchronize with train times.

Mike Davis: Service is done by 5:30pm

Jennifer Fredrick: What is process to get the word out?

Bobby Sisneros: Marketing is going to do some geo marketing in the 2 zones.

Mike Davis: This will also be on Transit App.

Althea Atherton: As a ride am I accepting Lyft terms when I accept a ride? If I want to take an infant with car seat?

Mike Davis: Lyft has their own training, on over flow time it will go to Lyft drivers. Yes, you can enter number of passengers and indicate car seat needed. There will be one built in.

Tyler Jordan: Will there be carpooling?

Mike Davis: Shared ride service with our vans, but with Lyft it's a single trip.

Steve Pilon: Do we pick up the Lyft tab?

Mike Davis: Prearranged contract with a set amount.

Patrick Martin: With the driver shortage is this a service we can support?

Mike Davis: With our recent hires, were are confident we can do this service with a small amount of staff.

Samuel Jensen: Where and how was the decision made?

Mike Davis: Staff discussions, looking at other cities that do Microtransit and spoke with various vendors that. Collaboration with several people.

Samuel Jensen: Concerned and frustration on the lack of public input before a decision was made. These things should be decided by public and public representatives. Concerned about the impact on existing service and work force. This sort of service has a horrible cost per passenger compared to fixed route. This would be great service to have for fixed route after 6pm, because unless you live on Central you have no service. We should be putting more effort into our fixed route service.

Mike Davis: This has not been announced to the public and we've had some great feedback tonight. This is a pilot project we want to dive into it and see how good of a fit it is.

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

Christopher Ramirez: I would like to see Transit get input on new pilot programs in the future. We need to start collaborating with the county and pueblos.

Michel Devin: I've been attending these meeting and like what you all are doing. I've submitted my application for TAB last week. I live in district 8 and ride my bike and bus throughout the city.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 5:23pm

### **Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person**

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

00:01:00 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Althea Atherton, TAB member at ATC  
00:04:38 Patrick Martin: this is why people have liked increased frequencies so much in the ABQRideForward project :)  
00:06:58 Richard Meadows: Richard Meadows, Bernalillo County  
00:06:59 Michael Devin: Michael Devin, ABQ resident and regular transit rider  
00:07:02 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Christopher Ramírez (they or he), Together for Brothers  
00:07:06 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: And transit rider  
00:07:09 Peter Rice - Downtown Albuquerque News: Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News  
00:07:20 Parker: Parker Garcia, resident and transit user  
00:08:45 tass: I have no comment at this time  
00:09:46 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: <https://www.krqe.com/video/albuquerque-transit-equity-day-pays-homage-to-rosa-parks/9399918/>  
00:14:06 Jennifer Frederick: valuable contribution Chris. . .  
00:14:12 Patrick Martin: Reacted to "valuable contributio..." with 🙌  
00:15:56 Althea: <https://www.krqe.com/news/investigations/an-expensive-fix-city-on-track-to-approve-450k-to-study-bus-security-problem/> this is where Christopher and I found out about the study  
00:16:14 Jennifer Frederick: Reacted to "https://www.krqe.com..." with 🙌  
00:17:16 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: T4B and ABQTRU will follow up with transit about the safety contract and the FTA safety plan too  
00:26:21 Jennifer Frederick: from my experience I have seen the uptake in security interactions in the Central ART busses and there have been very rapid responses to drivers - I think it will make a difference over time - those responding have been very appropriate and calm  
00:26:49 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Can we please get the number again?  
00:27:11 Bobby Sisneros (ABQ RIDE): @ Christopher O-22-47

00:27:18 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Replying to "@ Christopher O-22-4..."  
Thanks Bobby

00:28:11 Bobby Sisneros (ABQ RIDE): Reacted to "Thanks Bobby" with 🍌

00:28:17 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Replying to "@ Christopher O-22-4..."  
Is it EC-24-2?

00:28:27 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Replying to "@ Christopher O-22-4..."  
Thanks Leslie

00:28:48 Bobby Sisneros (ABQ RIDE): Reacted to "Is it EC-24-2?" with 🍌

00:31:17 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:What's the timeline for ABQ Ride Forward  
and public workshops?

00:31:59 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Samuel ACS has told T4B and ABQTRU  
they need resources to be able to show up for Transit.

00:39:26 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:This is great to hear. I have seen impact of  
micro transit in Mexico and other communities especially rural-ish communities.

00:39:56 Jennifer Frederick: Reacted to "This is great to hea..." with 😊

00:49:08 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: How many electric vans will you be using for this  
program?

00:49:08 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Hoping with the pilot that we can share with  
county or others like the Pueblos about the amount that it might cost for other areas to be  
added!!!!

00:49:39 Leslie Keener: Replying to "How many electric va..."  
  
5 ford etransit vans

00:49:50 Leslie Keener: Reacted to "Hoping with the pilo..." with 🍌

00:50:06 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Replying to "How many electric va..."  
Thanks Leslie!

00:50:15 Richard Meadows: Thanks for that suggestion, Christopher. I believe Mountain View  
community would be interested in this idea.

00:50:46 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Replying to "Thanks for that sugg..."  
Agreed

00:51:09 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Great to hear about not removing fixed  
routes in these two neighborhoods!

00:54:37 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:They can also just go to another destination  
(clinic/grocery store/park/school) in the zone?

00:54:49 Leslie Keener: Replying to "They can also just g..."  
that's correct

00:56:56 Ben Garland: Reacted to "that's correct" with 🍌

00:57:48 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:What's the name of the company that is  
supporting the micro transit?

00:57:52 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:Reacted to "that's correct" with 🍌

00:58:04 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Replying to "What's the name of t..."  
<https://sparelabs.com/en/solutions/microtransit>

00:58:07 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Replying to "What's the name of t..."  
Spare Labs

00:58:12 Ben Garland: Partnering with Lyft seems problematic legally... would ABQ Ride be covering  
the liability for those trips?

00:59:56 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque:For Southwest Mesa - is that East boundary  
Coors?

01:00:44 Patrick Martin: Replying to "For Southwest Mesa -..."

it looks like it

01:00:55 tass: Integrating the Microtranist with the Transit app is a good idea.

01:01:10 Jennifer Frederick: Reacted to "Integrating the Micr..." with 👍

01:01:36 Ben Garland: Basically because Lyft more or less allows any yahoo with a car to be a driver for their service, who may or may not have insurance, may be a bad driver, etc.

01:09:03 Ben Garland: Would be interesting to see what the cost is per passenger (or per passenger mile?) for Connect vs fixed route service once we have 6 months of data.  
(I have to shut down my laptop, my battery is about to give out on me... have a nice night everyone)

01:09:45 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: What's the timeline for the project — March-June 2024?

01:13:32 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Did Transit consider planning with TAB or transit riders for input?

01:15:26 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Also just truly worried about investing publicly in fairly early stage venture capital backed organizations that may have not have actual longevity  
<https://sparelabs.com/en/blog/series-a-announcement>

01:16:25 Patrick Martin: Agreed completely with Samuel

01:16:32 Patrick Martin: Reacted to "Also just truly worr..." with 👍

01:16:33 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Reacted to "Agreed completely wi..." with 👍

01:22:24 \* Steve Pilon \*: See Jarrett Walker comments on microtransit.

01:23:08 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Replying to "See Jarrett Walker c..."  
Do you have a link?

01:24:09 \* Steve Pilon \*:  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=jarrett+walker+on+microtransit&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS929US929&oq=jarrett+walker+on+microtransit&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHC AEQIRigAdIBCDg5ODhqMGo0qAIA sAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Microtransit%20Has%20Broad%20Appeal%2C%20Despite%20Clear%20Drawbacks](https://www.google.com/search?q=jarrett+walker+on+microtransit&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS929US929&oq=jarrett+walker+on+microtransit&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHC AEQIRigAdIBCDg5ODhqMGo0qAIA sAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Microtransit%20Has%20Broad%20Appeal%2C%20Despite%20Clear%20Drawbacks)