



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, March 14, 2024

4:00pm-5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at
Alvarado Transportation Center
100 1st St SW
2nd Floor, Mercer Conference Room

Albuquerque, NM 87102
Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM
Meeting ID: 867 4154 4404
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); Michael Devin (ZOOM); Jennifer Layne Frederick (ZOOM); Ben Garland (ZOOM); Michael Patrick Martin (ZOOM); Jett Metcalf (ZOOM); Dara Osher (ZOOM); Katherine Sullivan (ABSENT)

Staff Members Present

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

Visitors Present

Albert Lee (ZOOM); TAS (ZOOM); Richard Meadows (ZOOM); Ana Rios (ZOOM); Tyler Jordan (ZOOM); Carlos Michelen Stofer (ATC/ZOOM); Sayid Hossaini (ZOOM); Timothy Brown (ZOOM)

Land Acknowledgement

Samuel started meeting with a land acknowledgement reflecting on the fact that Albuquerque and New Mexico sits on unceded 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 add new members Dara Osher and Michael Devin to agenda. Steve Pilon motioned to add new members the agenda, Althea Atherton 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Jennifer Fredrick, Ben Garland, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon, Dara Osher and Michael Devin.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the February 8 meeting minutes. Steve Pilon motioned to approve meeting minutes, Patrick Martin 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Jennifer Fredrick, Ben Garland, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon, Dara Osher and Michael Devin.

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

Patrick Martin: Could ABQ Ride offer shuttle services with vans for businesses or business groups to subsidize increased frequency on routes?

Sayid Hossaini: We should prioritize electric buses and cleaner energy to combat climate change and improve air quality. We want to work towards a greener future for our community by embracing renewable energy and zero emission transportation options.

Steve Pilon: Do buses on base get bus priority?

Ana Rios: We want to encourage Transit and TAB to seek more funding for transportation. We want to see our community to be involved on proposed changes for network study.

Tyler Jordan: Restore transit on Wyoming and Eubank routes. Transit would be used more often if there was more frequency.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Samuel Jensen, Chair

Samuel Jensen: It would be nice to do a retreat with the TAB group. We can figure out something fun to do. We can think and talk about it more.

Althea Atherton: Ice Breakers, workshops, board games, ride a bus route.

Director's Report: Leslie Keener, Director

Leslie Keener: Welcome to new board members. Fixed route, including ART, ridership tracking 75% pre pandemic in January, which was down 3% or '23. We had some technical issues that was causing a reduction in December and January numbers, you may see that trickle in to February numbers. We've gotten that corrected. ART 192,000 riders, Sun Van 16, 360 riders. Applications for sun van are on the rise. 35 new CNG Gillig buses, still working on getting the remaining 5 out. We have Mobile eye technology that give advance warning about a possible collision. 32% vacancy rate overall on department, 36% vacancy MCO, 21% sunvan chauffeurs. 47% vacancy on Mechanics. April 19 is our next hiring event and we will be focusing on mechanics. Bus shelter painting over the next 6 months. Bus stops signs received for our Central corridor.

Mike Davis: New MOA with KAFB, process of working through some new changes and looking at what we can do. Currently we have 10-11 individuals going on base every day. We're working on the security clearance of the bus drivers. The state does have a van pool service for businesses.

Leslie Keener: We have 5 electric buses. We've received a grant last year for 20 battery buses and infrastructure along with on route charging.

Ben Garland: When will bus stop signs be converted?

Leslie Keener: Some have been changed out downtown and Central.

Althea Atherton: Is stop #5694 at Dartmouth and Central still open as a bus stop? Any plans to bring back bus shelter on Louisiana and Central, NE corner? Does electric bus have fewer seats than regular bus? Can drivers wear headphones while driving? Where can you pick up lost and found items?

Andrew deGarmo: Yes to stop 5694. We're looking at alternatives to put at the Central and Louisiana stop.

Leslie Keener: Yes electric buses have fewer seats.

Mike Davis: Lost and found can be picked up at Alvarado Transportation Center.

Samuel Jensen: When is the next stakeholder meeting for ABQ Ride Forward?

Leslie Keener: End of April or early May.

Information Items

Timothy Brown: Transit Signal Priority and automatic walk signals at ART stations

Wide variety of traffic signals in the city, underground infrastructure is from 70's and or 80's, upgraded in early 2000's. Newer things on ART corridor for ART buses. In some cases, we give the buses the jump so they can get out into the intersections before the general traffic and for opposing direction sharing the same lane. Each intersections is set by a cycle length. The cycle is the time that it takes to serve every movement at an intersection. So if I've got you know, northbound, southbound, eastbound, westbound, plus all the associated left turns in Albuquerque on the grid. It's 110 s for basically the first half of the day and 120 s for the second half of the day. Once you do the math that works out to about 30 miles an hour between intersections. The intersections are half mile apart, and so you have really pretty reliable signal timing. As the city is looking at developing, new roads, building new traffic signals, queue jumpers, and that kind of thing can be enormously useful to transit especially if you're looking at making transit competitive with driving a motor vehicle.

The vast majority of our signals in town are governed by the push button, you walk across the street those walk times are defined by the Federal manual that we follow typically 7 s of walk time. By law you are not allowed to enter the crosswalk once that flashing hand starts going in actuality. In some intersections we have it on what's called pedestrian recall and in that case the walk signal comes on every time, no matter what. We are looking at doing that at 2 intersections in particular, on the Art corridor at San Mateo and at Louisiana come on automatically. We've got very high pedestrian volumes at both of those locations and we have a safety issue there. So one of our ideas is to change the traffic signal operation at Louisiana for the pedestrian signals to come on automatically. I'm hoping that will incentivize more people to be crossing in the crosswalks turns out it's really pretty rare for pedestrian to be struck in the crosswalk at Central Louisiana. The vast majority of those collisions that we're seeing are happening outside of the crosswalks. So I'm hoping if I push more people to the crosswalks I can reduce some of those crashes.

Margaret Lucero: ABQ Ride is hosting a TAB & PTAB meet and greet on Thursday, March 28 at 5pm at the ATC. It would be a great time to meet in person, meet new members, interact and collaborate.

Action Items:

Althea Atherton introduced Transit Employee Appreciation Day Resolution

Althea made a motion to approve resolution, Ben Garland 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Jennifer Fredrick, Ben Garland, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon, Dara Osher and Michael Devin.

Resolution approved and passed. See link next to March meeting minutes for Resolution

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

Tyler Jordan: MOU with KAFB, is there anything employees can help with on base?

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:30pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

00:01:03 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Althea Atherton, TAB member at ATC

00:01:15 Jett Metcalf: Sorry to not be in person! A 3 week old is a lot of work lol.

00:01:19 Ana Rios, She/Her/Ella, T4B:Ana Rios, T4B mother organizer

00:01:31 Althea:Reacted to "Sorry to not be in p..." with ♥

00:01:32 Jennifer Frederick: Happy PHI Day for those who celebrate!

00:01:41 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Replying to "Sorry to not be in p..."

Congratulations!!!

00:01:46 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Reacted to "Sorry to not be in p..." with ♥

00:01:49 Althea:Replying to "Sorry to not be in p..."

Congratulations and yes, it is! Maybe we can have Baby TAB someday

00:01:56 Ben Garland: Replying to "Sorry to not be in p..."

Congrats Jett and Emma 😊

00:01:56 Jett Metcalf: Reacted to "Congratulations and ..." with 😊

00:01:57 Patrick Martin: Reacted to "Sorry to not be in p..." with ♥

00:02:03 Althea:Reacted to "Happy PHI Day for th..." with ♥

00:02:13 Jett Metcalf: Replying to "Sorry to not be in p..."

Thank you all! Forgive me if my attention span is a peanut

00:02:33 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): Dara Osher, TAB Member At-Large

00:02:47 Althea:Reacted to "Dara Osher, TAB Memb..." with 🙌

00:02:53 Patrick Martin: Reacted to "Dara Osher, TAB Memb..." with 🙌

00:02:59 Althea:Replying to "Dara Osher, TAB Memb..."

Congratulations! So glad they finally confirmed you

00:03:07 Jett Metcalf: Reacted to "Dara Osher, TAB Memb..." with 🙌

00:03:26 Jennifer Frederick: Reacted to "Dara Osher, TAB Memb..." with 🙌

00:03:42 Althea:Replying to "Ana Rios, T4B mother..."

It was so good to see you at the ATC today!

00:04:22 Althea:Reacted to "Thank you all! Forgi..." with ♥

00:05:28 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Carlos, member of the public, at ATC

00:06:06 Ana Rios, She/Her/Ella, T4B:Reacted to "It was so good to se..." with ♥

00:06:21 Ana Rios, She/Her/Ella, T4B:Replying to "Ana Rios, T4B mother..."

Same, you know I miss my mentor

00:06:35 Althea:Reacted to "Same, you know I mis..." with ♥

00:08:51 tass: Hooray new members!

00:08:57 tass: Welcome!

00:09:05 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): Thank you! :)

00:09:17 Michael Devin: Thanks! :)

00:09:33 Richard Meadows: Richard Meadows, Transportation Planning Manager, Bernalillo County

00:10:44 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Albert Lee, Sustainable Transportation Specialist, City of Albuquerque

00:12:27 Tyler S. Jordan: Tyler Jordan, member of the public

00:14:08 tass: Yes please more transit on KAFB and to and from KAFB

00:14:43 Tyler S. Jordan: Replying to "Tyler Jordan, memb..."

I am the *3079 number

00:14:52 Tyler S. Jordan: Reacted to "Yes please more tr..." with 🖱
00:15:37 Tyler S. Jordan: Transit does NOT got on base
00:15:49 Michael Devin: Reacted to "Yes please more tr..." with 🖱
00:16:09 tass: The city would need to negotiate transit priority at the gates with KAFB. I wish you the best of luck.
00:16:13 Patrick Martin: Replying to "Transit does NOT got..."

157 and 222 do, but only the morning and evening (and 222 only when requested the day before, iirc)

00:16:31 Tyler S. Jordan: Replying to "Transit does NOT g..."

Thank you for the correction. None of my possible routes do

00:16:43 tass: Reacted to "157 and 222 do, but ..." with 🖱
00:18:28 Tyler S. Jordan: Reacted to "157 and 222 do, bu..." with 🖱
00:20:32 Jett Metcalf: Love the idea of a bus ride!
00:21:05 Althea Atherton: If you have other ideas, email me at AltheaRidestheBus@gmail.com
00:21:12 Michael Devin: I'm fully on board (especially if board games are involved!)
00:21:18 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "I'm fully on board (...)" with ❤️
00:21:36 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): I work from home and would absolutely love some face-to-face time!
00:21:43 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "I work from home and..." with ❤️
00:21:55 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): Yes, we should def ride transit together.
00:22:15 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "Yes, we should def r..." with ❤️
00:28:31 tass: I wish you the best of luck with the MOA with KAFB.
00:30:14 tass: Replying to "Transit does NOT got..."

My route is the Route 2. It went on base before Covid. Now it doesn't

00:36:20 Steve Pilon: I saw a crew painting a stop on Gibson today
00:36:43 tass: A lot of people on KAFB would appreciate a bus from one building to another.
00:37:43 tass: Double sided bus stop signs would be great!!
00:38:58 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: The CABQ Sustainability Office is currently applying for a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for additional electric buses and paratransit vans, as well as DC fast chargers, solar and battery energy storage for transit buses/vans.
00:39:08 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "The CABQ Sustainabil..." with 🌟
00:39:10 Jennifer Frederick: Reacted to "The CABQ Sustainabil..." with ❤️
00:39:17 Ana Rios, She/Her/Ella, T4B: Reacted to "The CABQ Sustainabil..." with ❤️
00:39:38 Richard Meadows: Reacted to "The CABQ Sustainabil..." with ❤️
00:39:59 Ben Garland: <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2024/02/28/transportation-transit-officials-done-with-battery-electric-buses/>
00:42:05 Ana Rios, She/Her/Ella, T4B: Reacted to "https://urbanmilwauk..." with 🖱
01:00:11 Althea Atherton: And it's scary as a pedestrian on those roads, too! So fast
01:02:11 Patrick Martin: I like when I go to Denver and discover new colors of red on google maps
01:02:20 Ben Garland: Reacted to "I like when I go to ..." with 😊
01:02:22 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "I like when I go to ..." with ☐
01:02:28 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "I like when I go to ..." with 😊
01:04:47 Patrick Martin: (3.5 ft/s is 2.4 mph)

01:06:24 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): Reacted to "I like when I go to ..." with 😊

01:11:44 Andrew de Garmo | ABQ RIDE: The audible signals are the ones that lead to/from the ART stations.

01:15:25 Tyler S. Jordan: I can save my comments to the end, but here's one if you can answer it. Can we get bus pre-emption on all routes using similar method as emergency vehicles? (This may be compatible with older cabinets)

01:19:30 Patrick Martin: I feel targeted

01:25:45 Steve Pilon: HOw much does it cost to replace old cabinet?

01:26:01 Patrick Martin: 1. How possible is it to utilize the split walk signals at ART stations? (i.e. provide a walk signal on one half but not on the other)

01:26:05 Ben Garland: Thanks for the extensive info Tim, much appreciated. I geek out on traffic engineering.

01:26:11 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): Is it common to have RRFBs without high visibility crosswalks or any crosswalks? I live near the arroyo crossing on Eubank just south of Menaul and there's an RRFB but no crosswalk, and Eubank is a 6-lane divided arterial with a ton of traffic. I was surprised when I moved to ABQ last summer and saw. This seems to be a relatively unsafe bike/ped crossing on a rather awesome bike/ped facility, in my opinion. I was curious if the city is prioritizing small projects such as these that can help enhance bike/ped safety. Thanks!

01:26:14 Althea Atherton: Reacted to "Thanks for the exten..." with ❤️

01:26:24 Althea Atherton: Replying to "Thanks for the exten..."

You are not alone!

01:26:31 Ben Garland: Reacted to "You are not alone!" with ❤️

01:26:52 Patrick Martin: 2. Why not set the pedestrian signals to "pedestrian recall" (provide walk signal when green light turns) for all intersections?

01:27:11 Dara Osher (Michael Baker International): Reacted to "Thanks for the exten..." with ❤️

01:27:19 Tyler S. Jordan: Reacted to "1. How possible is..." with 👉

01:27:30 Ben Garland: Replying to "2. Why not set the p..."

And no RTOR... but, politicians.

01:28:16 Patrick Martin: 3. When a traffic signal is in that blind recall mode you mentioned, it is still the case that pressing the pedestrian request button does not flip the red hand to the green fellow even when there is enough time for a crossing, can that be changed?

01:28:24 Tim Brown: Transit pre-emption works differently than emergency pre-emption, and our older controllers have difficulty with it. Implementing transit priority is possible with our newer controllers, but would also require fairly intensive labor to examine the benefits and drawbacks. This is because any time we borrow to get a bus through an intersection needs to be taken from another movement. In some cases, that time is available, other cases not, depending on how congested the intersection is.

01:29:03 Steve Pilon: Tim Brown - I have seen mixed traffic (ie not dedicated ROW) buses on Wilshire in LA and Burnside in Portland getting TSP. Do you see anything that would prevent mixed traffic TSP on the high frequency routes that come out of ABQ Ride Forward process.

01:29:35 Patrick Martin: Which, as context, a month ago I was actually at Central and Washington trying to get to O'Niell's haha, and the southbound light turned green but neither half of the pedestrian crossing gave a walk sign

01:30:12 Tim Brown: New cabinets themselves are not super expensive, around \$25K with all the internal equipment. Downside is that we have over 400 signals with old cabinets, so that's quite a lot of money. The other problem is that our older communication system, copper twisted pair, ONLY works with an old cabinet. In order to maintain our communications with the signals, we

have to leave the old cabinets in place until we replace the comm with fiber optic, which is VERY expensive.

01:30:35 Michael Devin: Reacted to "1. How possible is..." with 👍

01:30:49 Steve Pilon: Tim Brown- How much to replace old cabinet along streets like San Mateo and Menaul

01:30:54 tass: Reacted to "Is it common to have..." with 👍

01:31:02 Patrick Martin: 4. I can understand the cycle lengths being ~110 seconds in "the grid", but in Nob Hill they're still about that long :(

01:31:32 Patrick Martin: Replying to "4. I can understand ..."

about 110 seconds at central and Washington, for example

01:31:35 Ben Garland: Is there any way that TAB could help the city get grants for all of the signal improvements that are needed?

01:31:52 tass: Thank You

01:31:56 Tim Brown: Split walk signals are possible. We may have a way to program that ART stations, but I'm not sure. I'll have to check with my staff.