



## **Transit Advisory Board**

Thursday, June 9, 2022

4:00pm-5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at

Alvarado Transportation Center

100 1<sup>st</sup> St SW

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Santa Fe Training/Conference Room

Albuquerque, NM 87102

OR

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 821 1734 5800

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

### **Members Present**

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

### **Staff Members Present**

Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM); Bobby Sisneros, Interim Transit Director (ZOOM), Andrew DeGarmo, Principal Planner (ZOOM); Megan Holcomb, Project Support Specialist (ATC/ZOOM); Chris Payton, Associate Director (ZOOM); Margaret Dunham, Motorcoach Operator (ATC/ZOOM);

### **Visitors Present**

Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM), Althea Atherton (ZOOM); Dionna Arellano, Constituent Service Rep, City of Albuquerque (ZOOM); Albert Lee (ZOOM); Brian Ehrhart (ZOOM); Cate Miller (ZOOM); Daniel Manzano, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, City of Albuquerque (ZOOM), Charles Davis, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Gabriel (ZOOM); Alejandro Villezcas, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); Walter Fazio (ZOOM); Gustavo Gonzales, Biotech Hydrogen (ZOOM); Ian Yazzie, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); Jacoby Smith (ZOOM); Luis, Together for Brothers, (ZOOM); Murphy Fisher (ZOOM); Rotem Olsha (ZOOM); Rory Swenson (ZOOM); Lu (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 4:03pm.

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

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Don McIver motioned to approve the agenda, Steve Pilon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Rikk Murphy, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the April 14 minutes. Don McIver motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Patricia Salisbury 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Rikk Murphy, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the May 12 minutes. Harris Balkin motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Patricia Salisbury 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Jennifer Jackson and Patricia Salisbury. Don McIver, Rikk Murphy and Steve Pilon abstained

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

Althea Atherton: As transit redesign continues I hope it focuses on frequency of routes.

Walter Fazio: Please restore Eubank route to Kirtland Air force Base.

Patricia Salisbury: Please communicate with the community about their transit needs during the system redesign.

Gustavo Gonzales: We're looking to partner with Transit agencies to deploy hydrogen hubs and provide hydrogen.

**TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair**

Christopher Ramirez: Motorcoach, passengers and bus stop safety is important. We hope to hear the plan with Heading Home. Together for Brothers is working on community de-escalation and intervention trainings so we can make it safe for Transit. We want to make sure the City Charter language access, which give directions for TAB's specific goals and how we work with department, is listed on Transit website.

Luis: *shared stories from surveys regarding zero fares Together for Brothers is collecting*

*“Zeros Fares helped since vehicle has broken down”*

*“Zero fares are good, they have positive impact on the community and they should stay.”*

*“Helps gets me to work every day.”*

Steve Pilon: Hydrogen is not necessarily produced by extraction. You take solar panels, you create electricity from the sun and it's a way of storing energy that's being harvested from the sun.

Don McIver: The 766 bus was not marked correctly. The Washington Post did an article on a bus driver in Denver and the conditions she's experienced during the pandemic. Safety and security issues may be a lingering effect of the pandemic and not zero fares.

Patricia Salisbury: We need a bus stop at Winrock. I'd like participate in the Together for Brothers survey.

Christopher Ramirez: I will ask Luis to share link for survey.

Gustavo Gonzales: Hydrogen can also be used with renewable sources.

**Director's Report-Bobby Sisneros, Interim Director**

Bobby Sisneros: Fixed route ridership for April 2022 458,194 passengers increase of 28.65%. ART ridership for April 2022 154,429 passengers, increase of 51.0%. We are facing a shortage in Motorcoach Operators, please bear with us.

Rikk Murphy: Busses are very full again, which is great.

Alejandro Villezcas: Does this take into account the age groups?

Bobby Sisneros: These are total passengers.

Christopher Ramirez: Can we see a quarterly ridership by routes?

Bobby Sisneros: Yes we can provide that quarterly.

Christopher Ramirez: Margaret, can we post Jarrett Walker presentation on TAB website?

Margaret Lucero: Yes, that information is in the minutes too.

Steve Pilon: Can we see an estimate on revenue for ridership?

Bobby Sisneros: Yes we can get that information.

Patricia Salisbury: Asking that the Menaul bus does not change routes on Saturdays. It's a great time to market bus riding now that gas prices are so high.

Bobby Sisneros: You will be seeing and hearing commercials this week on C.W., KRQE, KOB, KOAT and radio stations to promote routes and stay in your lane campaigns.

Harris Balkin: I'm on board with marketing because we need to hold on to the ridership. It's finally getting into gear and some of the things taken away from COVID are going to come back.

Patricia Salisbury: Park and Rides also need to be promoted.

Andrew DeGarmo: Public policy protocol; we seek input on capital projects that are going to create or changes to facilities that will change the public's use of our services. ART is an example. Park and Ride facilities we do initial studies to try to get something for people to react to, then seek public input by public comments with email or phone.

Christopher Ramirez: At what moment does a project initiate any kind of community input?

Andrew DeGarmo: It's when change will affect people and their experience with transit.

Chris Payton: Busses and vans are being cleaned every night, since January we are fogging our busses and vans. We're utilizing an outside firm for that. It's costing about \$50,000 a month. The bus manufactures have developed units that can fit on the bus and can that automatically.

*Shared screen: How it works, Thermo king Air Purification Solution*

This is one of the better products we've seen. It does not produce ozone, LED light do not contain hazardous materials, it's proven to be 98% effective in deactivating certain viruses and remove dangerous and odorous VOC's such as formaldehyde and toluene.

Christopher Ramirez: What is the current policy if the driver suspect's fentanyl is being smoked on the bus?

Bobby Sisneros: Driver is asked to pull over, call it in to dispatch, open doors and exit the bus. A supervisor will come out to clear the area. In some cases, AFR will be called.

Steve Pilon: Is drug use a problem mainly on the 66, ART or particular routes?

Bobby Sisneros: We do see it across the system.

Chris Payton: Overview of Budget Process

*Shared screen with highlights*

5% raise for city employees, 2% COLA, 3% added by City Council, PPE and cleaning \$202,600, Studies for SunVan Paratransit and Zero Fares \$400,000, Zero fare pilot \$1.5 million.

We have not generated any savings because of the pilot program.

Rikk Murphy: Walter was asking about Kirtland bus can we address his question.

Bobby Sisneros: We are experiencing a shortage in drivers.

Andre DeGarmo: We don't have the drivers to operate the buses. The 157 at Louisiana and Gibson gate is going on base, but does have reduced service. The 96 commuter goes on base twice.

Rikk Murphy: Can we raise salaries to attract more applicants?

Bobby Sisneros: We are currently looking at that.

Steve Pilon: Have we managed to narrow the discrepancies what Transit and Solid Waste are paying?

Bobby Sisneros: Yes, we are now paying more.

**Action Items:**

*TAB Committees/Working Groups: due to time action item skipped*

Christopher Ramirez: *Shared screen: Resolution of TAB Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023*

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. TAB will not meet in July 2022. Don McIver motioned to approve the agenda, Steve Pilon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Rikk Murphy, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

Christopher Ramirez: We are currently waiting to receive applicants for TAB, so TAB can review and give comment and feedback.

**Information Items:**

Rotem Olsha: We are interns from USC. We are coming in with an unbiased view on how zero fares is working in Albuquerque.

Jacoby Smith: We currently have 320 surveys, our goal is 1,000. We're hoping to use some of that data to prove both choice independent riders and their frequent usage, so we want to focus on Community outreach ridership frequency and also the well-being of the bus drivers.

Christopher Ramirez: Can you give a timeline for report findings?

Jacoby Smith: We're hoping to leave our framework with Bobby and you can review them at your August meeting.

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

Dionna Arellano: Thank you for everyone's help at last week's bus stop clean up.

Margaret Dunham: I want to see about updating drivers paddle boards. Protocol on how to handle fentanyl smoke on the bus has not been communicated to the drivers. Overall safety is important we need more security.

Bobby Sisneros: We will work on the first thing in the morning.

**Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 5:33 pm

**Next Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2022; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person**

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

00:18:20 Don McIver: Harris is here now  
00:33:30 Steve Pilon: Can H2 be used in LNG buses? Is there a lot of modification required?  
00:34:02 Steve Pilon: for Gustavo  
00:36:37 Gustavo's iPhone: Yes, great question. LNG buses will not work with Hydrogen.  
00:41:39 Don McIver: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/06/06/bus-denver-pendemic-violence/>  
00:43:42 Luis (He/Him):  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefxoOvOdA8ZsGsHqIW4Ok8O7yFxcss72F3SMVYnOCN2T27Aw/viewform>  
00:57:26 Charles Davis: stepping away to field a call, feel welcome to message me if there arises an issue with which I may assist.  
01:24:48 Brian Ehrhart: @Andrew de Garma: regarding the issues of extra time for the bus drivers getting onto KAFB, do you have a sense if the main issue is extra time due to waiting in line to get through the base gates? Or is it just the added physical distance to the route?  
01:25:22 Andrew de Garmo (ABQ RIDE): Mainly just the travel time due to the distance  
01:26:25 Brian Ehrhart: Thank you!  
01:29:04 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: We appreciate the work of the First Lady's alma mater to address these issues.