



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, August 11, 2022

4:00pm-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: 895 2617 1627

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 (ABSENT); Steve Pilon (ZOOM); Jacqueline Smith, PTAB (ABSENT)

Staff Members Present

Carrie Barkhurst, Senior Planner (ZOOM); Andrew DeGarmo, Principal Planner (ZOOM); Megan Holcomb, Project Support Specialist (ATC/ZOOM); Chris Payton, Associate Director (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Patrick Martin (ATC/ZOOM) Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM), Althea Atherton (ZOOM); Albert Lee (ZOOM); Aaron Sussman, Toole Design (ZOOM); Michelle Poyourow, Jarrett Walker & Associates (ZOOM) Leah Houle (ZOOM); Janie Herrera (ZOOM); Daniel Manzano, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, City of Albuquerque (ZOOM), Charles Davis, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Anita Cordova (ZOOM); Alejandro Villezcas, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); Baruch Campos, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); T. Michael Trimm, Together for Brothers, (ZOOM); Lu Kegan, Together for Brothers (ZOOM); Rachel Swanteson-Franz, The Wilderness Society (ZOOM); TAS (ZOOM); 505-766-5197 (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 4:02pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the June 9 minutes. Patricia Salisbury motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Don McIver 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

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

Leah Houle: Bus policy regarding e-scooters is confusing and outdated. Requesting consideration and clarification of the e-scooter policy for Albuquerque city buses as the current policy prohibits foldable scooters on buses, I suggest that policy be changed in accordance with a total lack of evidence for safety concerns. There's no reason our policy should not reflect the same conclusions as those made nationwide. If the current policy does not prohibit foldable scooters on buses, the policy needs to be more clearly written on the website and shared with bus drivers who are currently not allowing a scooters on the buses and stranding people. The current policy is frustrating to people who need to ride the bus to work or want to do so to reduce traffic and carbon emissions that cannot or do not wish to ride a bike due to comfort and cleanliness issues.

Patrick Martin: I understand why electric bicycles can't fit on the front rack of bus, but why aren't they allowed on an ART bus? How difficult would it be to upgrade to allow them to fit better on ART busses and the racks of the regular busses?

Jenny Jackson: Is there a policy change about strollers? We were yelled at by an ART bus driver about having the stroller folded up and ready before boarding the bus. Maybe driver was not clear about policy, but it was a weird tense moment.

Patricia: Driver asked me to fold up a shopping cart.

Althea Atherton: Waiting to hear about my application to Transit Advisory Board.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair

Christopher Ramirez: Thank you to Daniel Manzano and Mayor's office to allow TAB to have input on board candidates.

Daniel Manzano: We have 9 applications for 4-6 positions. I asked for feedback from Transit staff and a TAB working group. We were able to get 4 vacant started through introductions of City Council. Harold Simmons, Jet Metcalf, Jennifer Frederick and Samuel Jensen will be moving forward. We will be touching base with terms that will be expiring.

Christopher: We will be voting next month for Officer Positions. Baruch Campos will share some stories Together for Brothers has been collecting of how people are impacted by zero fares.

Baruch Campos: Together for Brothers has been going out and collecting stories from bus riders, we have over 300 surveys collected.

"Zero fares has helped me by not having to pay for the bus and it makes it easier to get on and leave more efficiently, I use the bus every day now when it became free"

"The free bus has helped me move around town to get to the store see family and get priorities, taking care of I'm really grateful for it, I just wish the drivers were nicer to us."

"It has helped me a lot to get around town when I'm not even from Albuquerque."

“The bus is something important that allows for me to get from place to place, I feel like it's something that should stay for the coming years and there honestly isn't anything negative that's happening to me.”

Director’s Report-Chris Payton, Associate Director

Chris Payton: *Shared screen on Zero Fares report*

Zero Fares report is also on our Transit page, Total June ridership 477,309 30% increase, YTD 5,114,724, Total Fixed Route Ridership FY19 to FY22, Ridership by route, Sun van Ridership FY22 156, 288 passengers, 70% increase. Security calls by Location, Updates and costs incurred: Maintenance and Operating costs \$1,447,510.66. We would like to take some time to look into the electric bike comments and get back with the group.

Christopher Ramirez: I’m concerned about vandalism costs being included in zero fares, it’s important to have an understanding of what the cost associated with zero fares are.

Steve Pilon: It’s important that we know those numbers, not just the happy stories that Together from Brothers is collecting, but also the down side of the revenue lost.

Jenny Jackson: Has vandalism/maintenance cost gone up or has ridership slowly rising? Presenting the vandalism or maintenance costs as a proportion of riders so there’s a better sense of per capita cost and then looking back a few years versus more recently.

Patricia Salisbury: It’s important to promote Transit and Juneteenth was a missed opportunity.

Don McIver: When we talk about revenue loss, we’re not covering the whole budget with fares. What is total budget for Transit?

Chris Payton: 55 million dollar budget.

Christopher Ramirez: Our budget hasn’t changed in the last 10 years.

Chris Payton: Increase of 8 or 9 million dollars.

Steve Pilon: We need to look at maintenance cost per rider, prior to pandemic to see change. If we had that cost in fares that would allow us to expand fares.

Action Items:

Michelle Poyourow: *shared screen Jarrett Walker & Associates presenting: ABQ RIDE Forward: Existing Conditions and Public Engagement*

Without some kind of vehicle or even a bicycle we can't go very far on foot and there's a lot of opportunity out there, that is outside those walls that is farther than we can get to just by walking ourselves out of where we live. So what transit does is it helps expand that wall around people's lives, it makes it so that they can reach more things that they care about reach more opportunities and the way that we described this in transit planning is access transit gives you. Access is going to be a really important measure for this project. This is not accomplished by saying yes to everybody's individual request for transit, you don't get high access from making transit perfect for every individual who comes to the transit agency and asks for something, it's a bigger process than that, and you have to take a high altitude view, to make a really high access transit system.

So, how does access compare for different types of people in the city in the current system in 2019, which is the system that we're focused on. Your network is actually very much oriented towards helping lower income people get access to jobs and other opportunities.

What we see is overall 50% of the residents of the city are close to some kind of service, which means within a half miles walk of about stuff of some kind of service. Frequent service has been concentrated in places where you have lower income residents. Trade off that is going to matter a lot in this network plan.

High Access and Ridership means: Maximum total access to opportunity, supports dense and walkable development, lower emissions, fewer vehicle miles travelled.

High Coverage means: some service near every home and job, insurance against isolation for people in need, service near every neighborhood/taxpayer/electoral district.

The tradeoff is unavoidable, but you can choose a deliberate balance point on the spectrum.

Planning questions in Phase 1:

What are priorities for restoring service?, What are the most important times of day and week for service?, How should the city balance ridership and coverage goals?, For the City's equity priorities, should the focus be on transporting large numbers, or getting service close to many people?

Aaron Sussman: Engagement Objectives: Phase 1 September- October, share information about the study, gain a further understanding of transit related priorities, outline the general types of service design options that ABQ Ride could provide, information public on what is and is not possible through the provision of public transit services given budget constraints. Phase 2: feedback on general network design scenarios, late winter/ spring 2023. Phase 3: next steps and plan implementation, summer 2023

Outreach activities include project website, virtual community meetings, pop-up events, intercept surveys, focus groups, online survey, informational boards, presentations, stakeholder workshop in two phases.

Michelle Poyourow: Core group of stakeholders providing guidance in each phase. Workshop 1 planned for September 27. We would like to TAB members to attend, please rsvp so quorum can be noticed.

Aaron Sussman: Please send any questions to: Andrew De Garmo, ABQ Ride adegarmo@cabq.gov, Carrie Barkhurst, ABQ Ride kcbarkhurst@cabq.gov, Michelle Poyourow, JW & Assoc., michelle@jarrettwalker.com, Aaron Sussman, Toole Design Group, asussman@tooledesign.com

Project website: abqrideforward.com

Christopher Ramirez: Please utilize website, I have to leave the meeting.

Steve Pilon: Increasing the speed of the buses on those high frequency lines seems like a twofer to me you're able to with the same amount of resources. If we invested in Transit signal priority that would make the shape of isochrone look a lot different. Is it operating on ART?

Andrew DeGarmo: Yes

Michelle Poyourow: We do a crude assumption about distance to transit when it comes to walking or biking. There's a lot of diversity about how people get to transit.

Don McIver: What time is September 22 meeting going to be scheduled?

Michelle Poyourow: In the evening

Information Items:

Next meetings and focus working groups in chat

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

No public comment

Adjournment

Margaret ended meeting at 5:42 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 8, 2022; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

00:05:19 Don McIver: Margaret>>>

I only see the minutes from the last meeting, not an agenda for this one. Can you send the agenda again if you have it?

00:07:48 Don McIver: Found it.

00:08:39 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Don, I apologize. I am not at my desk maybe someone can end it to you

00:08:59 Don McIver: I found it.

00:14:24 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Janice Herrera

00:14:37 Don McIver: Looks like Harris is here...video at least...maybe he can confirm now?

00:15:45 TAS: I'm just a citizen who uses ABQ ride and want to have an idea of what's going on with transit.

00:18:08 TAS: No thanks

00:32:42 TAS: To increase Transit Board interest I recommend announced that a Transit Board exists on Facebook every other month. Especially a few days before a Transit Board meeting

00:34:20 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Thank you for that recommendation TAS. I will reach out to our PIO to get that posted.

00:38:03 TAS: Free rides do make onboarding more efficient

00:39:51 Megan Holcomb: <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/our-department/reports>

00:39:53 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Zero Fares Reports - <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/our-department/reports>

00:41:09 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Appreciate the route information Chris

00:47:27 TAS: Could there be an email address that folks can send transit concerns to? Could riders request the commuter routes via email or Facebook messenger? The phone for transit doesn't seem to be staffed sufficiently.

00:51:14 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: Margaret can you help with an email for transit concerns?

00:53:32 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: TAS: 311 is the best way to send your concerns, so they are routed to the correct manager. 243-RIDE is the number to our Customer Service. We can look into a customer service email. I will share this with our Customer Service Manager.

00:59:13 Patrick Martin: Yeah, if fares are only on the order of 1-2 million out of a 55 million budget, it doesn't seem like reinstating them would really allow for much investment, particularly relative to the effects of the fares?

01:04:44 Steve Pilon: Fixed route operating costs for Jan-July was about \$1 million. That is about the same as the foregone revenue for the same period. That tells me that we could roughly double the amount of service if we had that revenue. Transit is funded by a number of sources, each of which may not be that much. Almost every other transit agency in the world charges riders for the service. I don't think it is unreasonable to give zero fare or reduced fares to groups like seniors and students. but I think it reasonable to ask riders to contribute.

01:05:16 Steve Pilon: Sorry Jan-June

01:12:00 Steve Pilon: Alternatively, we could use that revenue to pay our drivers more.

01:18:46 Patrick Martin: But if the electoral districts are population balanced, that's really more of a point for concentrated service in this town?

01:23:46 TAS: Very nice presentation

01:23:56 TAS: food for thought

01:26:24 Patrick Martin: Steve: Good points, I guess that's why we'll have to look at the study to see how much of a benefit the zero fares was for transit quality :)

01:36:11 Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque: August 11: TAB Meeting

September 8: Bus Rider Engagement

October 13: Bus & Bus Stop Maintenance & Safety

November 10: Bus Route & Frequency

December 8: Transit Recruitment

01:37:33 Aaron Sussman - Toole Design Group: abqrideforward.com

01:40:21 TAS: I would like to participate in a focus groups online.

01:40:52 Aaron Sussman - Toole Design Group: @TAS - Please send me an email or fill out the online comment form.

01:41:09 Aaron Sussman - Toole Design Group: We are creating a sign up form, but I will make sure we follow-up with you.

01:41:18 Carrie Barkhurst (ABQ RIDE): You can also email Carrie at kcbarkhurst@cabq.gov if you would like to get on the Focus Group list

01:41:19 Aaron Sussman - Toole Design Group: asussman@tooledesign.com

01:44:06 TAS: Nice presentations, Thank you

01:46:00 Aaron Sussman - Toole Design Group: Thank you all!

01:46:24 Don McIver: Thank you all!