



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, August 14, 2025

4:00pm-5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at:
Alvarado Transportation Center
2nd Floor/ Mercer Room
100 1st Street SW Albuquerque,
NM 87102

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via
ZOOM:
<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/82559374945>
Meeting ID: 825 5937 4945

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

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Members Present

Althea Atherton, Chair (ATC); Carlos Ströfer, Vice-Chair (ATC) Michael Devin (ZOOM); Ben Garland (ATC) Michael Patrick Martin (ZOOM); Jordon McConnell (ATC); Dara Osher (ZOOM); Steve Pilon (ZOOM); Jennifer Restrepo (ABSENT); Montel Richardson (ZOOM)

Staff Members Present

Margaret Lucero (ATC); Madeline Skrak (ZOOM); Leslie Keener (ZOOM); Mike Davis (ZOOM); Andrew DeGarmo (ZOOM); Chris Bergs (ZOOM); Eugene Lujan (ZOOM) Leo LaPlante (Phone); Shaun Chancey (ATC)

Visitors Present

Albert Lee (ZOOM); TASS (ZOOM); Peter Rice, (ZOOM); Erin (ZOOM); Chris Love (ATC); Mariel Leon Lazcano (ZOOM); Amanda Sofio (ATC) Renee (ZOOM); Skylar (ZOOM); Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn (ATC); Erin (ZOOM); Michela Gaidelis (ZOOM) Omega Delgado (ATC)

Land Acknowledgement

Althea Atherton began the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

Call to Order

Althea Atherton-Chair, began the meeting at 4:05pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Chair Atherton asked for a motion to approve the August 14 agenda. Carlos Strofer made a motion. Jordon McConnell 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Patrick Martin, Jordon McConnell, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, Montel Richardson and Carlos Strofer.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Atherton asked for a motion to approve the June 12 meeting minutes with one edit to the date change from May 8 to June 12. Patrick Martin made a motion to approve the minutes with the edit, Carlos Strofer 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Patrick Martin, Jordon McConnell, Dara Osher, Montel Richardson and Carlos Strofer.
Steve Pilon -Abstained

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

Albert Lee: Sustainability office is working on a draft regional action plan for Central New Mexico regional future initiative. We are currently finalizing the plan. Can we schedule a time with TAB to present initial findings?

TAB Member General Comment:

Steve Pilon: Can we receive an update on ABQ Ride Forward?

Patrick Martin: ABQ Ride Forward does not seem to be accessible. Can the bike rack female and male straps on ART be more balanced? Can ART dividers pin curbs be removed for bike access crossing Central?

TAB Chairperson's Report – Althea Atherton, Chair

Althea Atherton: We are in heavy recruiting mode for Ambassadors there are currently 5 ambassadors. We do about two hours of volunteering a week. Please reach out to me if you are interested in joining. We have 2 vacancies on our Board and currently waiting for one to be approved at the next council meeting. There are 5 terms ending in September, please reapply and continue on our board.

Director's Report: Leslie Keener, Director

Leslie Keener: Art ridership closed at 2.3 million. It was a 1.9% decrease that we had, although I will say June, we had 186,503 riders, which was up 4.6% from the June prior. Our fixed route closed fiscal year 25 at \$7.5 million an 11.5% increase over the prior fiscal year. That's actually 82% of our fiscal year 19 pre-pandemic, ridership. We have also been seeing some missed service from January to end of June. We were probably missing about, on average, 175 hours a week of missed service. We've continued to make some improvements with the hiring and within the operational organization, where we've been able to drop that to an average of only about 26 hours a week. We will have the 790 return on the 18th. Our sun van service closed FY25 at 196,827 riders. That was a 3.5% increase over last year. June, we saw 16,822 riders, which was a 13.1% increase over, the prior to June. Connect service closed FY 25 with, 14,685 riders and to date we're at 17,752 riders. We're sitting at a 96%, positive review rates on that, that program. We are starting to plan for the first phase of the network implementation. It is over the span of a few years. It's about 16 phases. Hopefully, we'll be able to get it done in a 3-year timeframe instead of a 5-year time frame, but it will be dependent, as you all know on our staffing levels, both for our drivers and for our mechanics. But we really do think that the first phase will be able to be in a good spot to be implementing that, around, winter of this year. We've brought on nearly 50 MCOs in the past four and a half months. We've got a vacancy rate of about 36% right now on the MCO side, in the mid-80s, which is really exciting for us. Our sun van drivers, we're down to a 16% vacancy rate. We had a hiring event on July 11th, and we actually saw 15 applicants that we're proceeding with on the vehicle maintenance side. So we are continuing to work on that, although we are still sitting at a 45% vacancy rate with our vehicle maintenance side. In Council, we've got a couple things going on right now. You'll see some things for Uptown Connect we are asking for immediate action on the 18th for, adding some funds to our Pacific Cap so that we can progress that from 60% to 100% design. We are introducing on the 18th the FY 25 Q4 security report. We are working with Parametrix who did the long-range security study with us to really streamline our reporting between the agencies and develop some dashboards that will help us in more real-time understand where we're having, issues and where we can deploy our resources in a better manner. We've got the Joint Development Agreement that will be going before Council. The EC for the Network Implementation Plan. Andrew's working on that. We'll talk about it at the next meeting. We're also were going to bring Huitt Zollars out and have them do a brief on the consolidation study

Andrew wants to discuss the, network route numbering with new ABQ Ride Forward Network study. I would just ask that you provide that within the chat or in the public comment.

Andrew de Garmo: Questions and feedback we're asking for is how we number or indicate routes that have long or short lines?

Informational Item:

Presentation on Proposed Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan: Designating a Portion of Menaul and Rio Grande Blvd. as a Major Transit Corridor, by Omega Delgado

Althea Atherton asked TAB members if they are interested in having an emergency meeting before the next scheduled TAB meeting to pass a Resolution to support this project.

Skylar: With the change to transit corridor would we be extending the SU1 mixed use parking requirements to that area?

Omega Delgado: The entitlements are tied to zoning, so that wouldn't change your zoning. A property owner would still have to go through the process of requesting a zone map amendment to the EPC.

Patrick Martin: Can we do an unofficial straw pull on the subject: Does TAB like this and people can unofficially say things until we get the emergency meeting set up?

Ben Garland: Do you have any sense of where you expect the opposition to be from public and other councilors?

Councilor Fiebelkorn: We heard some concerns from the North Valley about making sure to keep the roundabouts on 12th Street.

Carlos Strofer made a motion to schedule an emergency meeting to present and vote on a Resolution supporting designating a portion on Menaul as a major transit corridor on August 28 at 4pm, Jordon McConnell 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Patrick Martin, Jordon McConnell, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, Montel Richardson and Carlos Strofer.

Action Items:

Althea Atherton shared screen on Resolution to Support to End of Minimum Parking Mandates

TAB members discussed, made changes and additions to Resolution.

Carlos Strofer made a motion to approve the resolution with changes, Ben Garland 2nd the motion. Resolution was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Patrick Martin, Jordon McConnell, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, Montel Richardson and Carlos Strofer.

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

Patrick Martin: I prefer "L" suffix also dashboard staffing data, showing wrong data for MCO staffing for missed service.

Jordon McConnell: If there's no letters at the end of the route numbers as long as it's consistent across the system.

Steve Pilon: "S" or "L" at the end of the number so you know how far it is going.

Althea Atherton: I like letters for routes.

Carlos Strofer: I don't mind the "L", but something intuitive.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:24pm

Emergency Meeting Scheduled Thursday, August 28 2025; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person