



**Transit Advisory Board**

Thursday, January 12, 2023

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: 874 0610 7003

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

**Members Present**

Samuel Jensen, Chair (ZOOM); Steve Pilon, Vice-Chair (ZOOM); Jennifer Layne Frederick (ZOOM); Ben Garland (ZOOM); Jennifer Jackson (ZOOM); Michael Patrick Martin (ZOOM); Jett Metcalf (ZOOM); Don McIver (ZOOM); Rikk Murphy (ATC/ZOOM); Joseph Perez (ABSENT); Hal Simons (ABSENT); Katherine Sullivan (ZOOM)

**Staff Members Present**

Leslie Keener, Director (ZOOM); Mike Davis, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Andrew DeGarmo, Principal Planner (ZOOM) Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM), Bobby Sisneros, Deputy Director (ZOOM)

**Visitors Present**

Charles Davis (ZOOM); Peter Rice (ZOOM); Albert Lee (ZOOM); Theresa, TAS (ZOOM); Althea Atherton (ZOOM); Luis Colunga, T4B (ZOOM); Baruch Campos, T4B, (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 4:01pm.

**Approval of Agenda or Additions**

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Don McIver motioned to approve the agenda, Rikk Murphy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Jennifer Layne Frederick, Ben Garland, Jennifer Jackson, Samuel Jensen, Michael Patrick Martin, Don McIver, Jett Metcalf, Rikk Murphy, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the December 8 meeting minutes. Ben Garland motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Steve Pilon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Jennifer Layne Frederick, Ben Garland, Jennifer Jackson, Samuel Jensen, Michael Patrick Martin, Don McIver, Jett Metcalf, Rikk Murphy, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

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

Justine Formain: Is bus stop at International Library bus stop going to be removed?

**TAB Chairperson's Report – Samuel Jensen, Chair**

Samuel Jensen: I look forward to working with everyone, serving the community and having productive efficient meetings together.

**Director's Report: Leslie Keener, Director**

Leslie Keener: Shared screen Zero Fares November report *zero fares report on ridership, maintenance, operating, marketing costs and updates*. <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/our-department/reports>  
Fare Equity analysis was passed at the last Council meeting, 22-47, O-22-62, 22-70 was deferred to next Council meeting. Proposed routes suspensions are posted on transit website. We are currently accepting public comment until January 23. In process of a route equity analysis, per FTA, will also that will be passed up to council for review. Movement and replacement of signage is on hold until our Network Route study is complete. International District bus stop will remain. We will continue to watch it and if anything progresses we'll make a decision.

Patrick Martin: Why reduction in early hours and late hours on 66?

Andrew DeGarmo: We're cutting frequency in AM because that's where our lowest ridership is and later trips are disproportionately difficult to provide service because those are the last trips out there. These are proposals and we do want to get feedback from the public.

Don McIver: Regarding driver shortage, any studies on job requirements related to cannabis?

Ben Garland: Can we get security data for each route to see where the problem routes are? Why are driver's leaving? Status on JWA Network study?

Leslie Keener: Drivers are leaving to internal and external jobs, exit surveys are being done as much as we can. We are emphasizing on recognition.

Andrew DeGarmo: Jarrett Walker & Associates (JWA) would like to do an update at the next TAB meeting.

Rikk Murphy: Is there overtime opportunities being offered? Can senior staff help pick up shortages? Can you address Justine's comment in chat about security on the buses distracting drivers?

Leslie Keener: Overtime is being offered to MCO's and Sun Van chauffeurs. Supervisors are filling in, but we have to be careful their duties don't fall behind. We're putting some better processes in place with our city and contracted security. We are aware of it and trying to combat it.

Samuel Jensen: Cutting the 790 seems like it will be a problem with ridership retention and hard to reinstate. I would rather see cuts in frequency, than full route cuts.

**Information Items:**

Mike Davis: E-bike/scooter policy updated was presented at the last TAB meeting. Minor changes were made. Policy allows E-bike/scooters on buses. Gas powered bicycles are not allowed on buses.

Steve Pilon: Rather than people bring bikes on bus have a secure place to lock bike or better quality racks.

Margaret Lucero: Bicycle and Trail Facility Plan is putting together a Stakeholder Advisory Committee for bicycle advocates and representatives of community-based organizations to help make recommendations, publicize and get the word out to the bicycling community. There will be three to four meetings, first begins on January 30 at 1pm. Contact information in chat.

**Action Items:**

Baruch Campos: We've introduced and TAB passed City of Albuquerque 2023 Transit Equity Day Resolution. We are planning an event on February 4 at the Alvarado Transportation Center. We want to engage with the community who are transit dependent.

Samuel Jensen asked for any questions, comments or a motion to approve Resolution. Rikk Murphy made a motion to approve. Don McIver 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

The motion was voice approved by Jennifer Layne Frederick, Ben Garland, Jennifer Jackson, Samuel Jensen, Michael Patrick Martin, Don McIver, Jett Metcalf, Rikk Murphy, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

Resolution passed and approved.

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

Albert Lee: Climate action plan meeting in December focusing on Transit and Vision zero. Please visit website and complete survey. *Survey in chat below*

Justine Formain: Will you need an ID to get a free pass? Security on buses needs to be trained to deal transit customers and have customer service skills.

Leslie Keener: Legislation O-47 does not require ID for you to get a pass.

Steve Pilon: Patrick raised some issues in chat, perhaps we can talk about them at another meeting. Can we look at increasing average speed of buses and increasing efficiency?

Samuel Jensen: Is Network study looking at stop spacing?

Andrew DeGarmo: No, it is not part of their scope.

Althea Atherton: Great way to keep buses moving along quicker is not add a fare pass, if we're concerned about bus speed. Contact Baruch for Albuquerque Bus Riders Union. *Info in chat*

**Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 5:29 pm

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person**

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

00:02:08 Patrick Martin: fyi I poorly scheduled a flight so I'll have to drop for a bit midway through during takeoff...

00:03:56 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Margaret Lucero, Transit @ ATC

00:04:12 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Rikk Murphy @ ATC

00:04:35 Bobby Sisneros (ABQ RIDE): Bobby Sisneros, ABQ RIDE @ ATC

00:04:51 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Justine Formain, public @ ATC

00:04:55 Althea: Althea Atherton, bus rider

00:05:02 Mike Davis: Mike Davis, ABQ RIDE @ ATC

00:05:12 Patrick Martin: Patrick Martin, TAB member

00:10:14 Jennifer Frederick: Jennifer Frederick TAB  
00:33:59 tas: I thought there is a shortage of bus drivers AND bus maintenance people.  
00:34:49 Leslie Keener: that is correct, we are short mechanics  
00:35:16 Andrew de Garmo (ABQ RIDE): Correct. To Don's question, the maintenance personnel are also "safety sensitive" so also are part of the drug free workplace-type rules.  
00:35:26 Leslie Keener: vehicle servicers are also hit hard, they both have a higher vacancy rate than drivers  
00:37:07 Patrick Martin: I heard a rumor that drivers are staying on long enough to qualify for unemployment and then quitting, is that 1. how it works and 2. true?  
00:38:01 \* Steve Pilon \*: I don't think you can get unemployment if you quit, can you?  
00:38:31 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: From Justine @ ATC Security on the bus is standing there talking to driver, not doing security. Distracting the driver and driver is not going to antagonize security.  
00:42:51 Patrick Martin: hot tub in the driver seat  
00:43:17 \* Steve Pilon \*: At least seat heaters  
00:44:41 Patrick Martin: I might have to drop for a bit, so here's my question in the chat: is there anything that can be done to make the routes faster? I'm thinking mainly signal priority, dedicated lanes, removal of joint nearside/farside stops?  
00:45:11 Patrick Martin: (faster = more service per driver, in addition to just being better quality)  
00:45:39 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Andrew can you respond to Patrick's question? Thank you  
00:48:14 Andrew de Garmo (ABQ RIDE): These are great ideas but unfortunately not easy, short-term fixes. The "easiest" is removing stops - but stop removals are controversial. If a stop isn't used much, there's not much benefit; if it's used a lot then it's hard to remove.  
00:49:39 Patrick Martin: by removal I just mean for example 157 can stop both nearside and farside Central, do we know the effect of ie making it just farside?  
00:51:08 Patrick Martin: My understanding is that ART has signal priority at least sometimes, do we know if that is working, how effective it is, and how hard that would be to implement on other routes?  
00:53:51 Andrew de Garmo (ABQ RIDE): Understood on the stop removal concept.  
00:57:18 Katherine Sullivan: Hi Patrick, to respond to your unemployment question, it depends on the circumstances of each separation. If it's a voluntary quit it may or may not be covered. Generally the process is that an individual files for unemployment and the company is asked by the State to provide information related to the separation. That information--and even if it is provided--determines if the individual will receive unemployment or not. Individuals also have to work for a certain amount of time to be eligible for benefits and that is also based some on work history.  
00:58:56 Patrick Martin: Thanks! I don't really believe the rumor fwiw  
00:59:43 Patrick Martin: Seconding the 790 thing; I think 157 is the only remaining connection for NW/rio rancho to nob hill area?  
01:00:16 Patrick Martin: nob hill area meaning the entire SE in that  
01:00:53 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Definitely second the 790 concerns. Was my only way to get to UNM from home as a west side resident.  
01:01:44 Andrew de Garmo (ABQ RIDE): ART does have signal priority. It's not as simple as would first appear for both equipment and programming. We've gotten sidetracked more recently but have been working on trying to make sure it's as effective as possible. It's certainly an option to expand to other routes for the future but not quick and easy.  
01:01:49 Jennifer Frederick: I don't know if this is helpful - a book that was written by a Seattle bus driver, whose bus I used to ride, about his choice to drive one, if not the, most difficult route (#7 night) - unusual person with a unusual personality - but some great insight - just a FYI  
<http://www.nathanvass.com/book.html>

01:03:37 Patrick Martin: I like the policy, I think you've addressed all of my concerns!  
01:03:38 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Good progress on this!  
01:05:42 Patrick Martin: Thanks Andrew for the responses!  
01:06:52 Leslie Keener: speaking of bus stop maintainers....we just increased from 4 maintainers to 8...fully staffed is 11 and we are hoping to get there with the next posting  
01:07:10 Samuel Jensen: That's great news!  
01:07:22 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Great progress!  
01:07:46 Katherine Sullivan: Fantastic! That's really great progress!  
01:08:33 Patrick Martin: I was invited through a separate role for this, intending to attend as well  
01:11:17 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Stakeholder Advisory Committee bicycle & trail facility plan Valerie Hermanson vhermanson@cabq.gov first meeting Jan 30 1pm-3pm  
01:12:05 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Link to the current Bikeways & Trails Facilities Plan (2015): <https://www.cabq.gov/planning/bikeways-trails-facility-plan>  
01:12:49 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Good work T4B!  
01:13:32 Jennifer Frederick: I like it very much  
01:13:45 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): You are doing great Sam!  
01:15:50 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: I agree Jett!!  
01:16:11 Jett Metcalf (he/him/his): Can you link the survey here  
01:18:11 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Climate Action Plan community engagement meeting recording and public survey: <https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/climate-action-plan#CAP-community-engagement>  
01:24:10 Ben Garland - TAB: Not that there isn't room for improvement, but the stop spacing here is overall not nearly as tight (and inefficient) as other places I've lived.  
01:25:28 tas: ABQ Riders Union??  
01:26:19 Baruch Campos-Gallardo: Contact Baruch for more information for our Albuquerque Bus Riders Unions Meeting at [Baruch@togetherforbrothers.org](mailto:Baruch@togetherforbrothers.org)  
01:29:11 Don McIver: Hear hear  
01:29:18 Leslie Keener: yes i agree with Ben, thank you all so much  
01:29:23 Leslie Keener: it makes a big difference  
01:30:38 tas: Thank you