



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, October 12, 2023

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: 813 5620 8507

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

Members Present

Samuel Jensen, Chair (ZOOM); Steve Pilon, Vice-Chair (ZOOM); Althea Atherton (ZOOM) Jennifer Layne Frederick (ZOOM); Ben Garland (ABSENT); Michael Patrick Martin (ATC/ZOOM); Jett Metcalf (ATC/ZOOM); Katherine Sullivan (ZOOM)

Staff Members Present

Charles Davis, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Andrew DeGarmo, Principal Planner (ZOOM); Megan Holcomb, Marketing & Communications Specialist (ZOOM); Leslie Keener, Director (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM); Bobby Sisneros, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Mike Davis, Deputy Director (ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Peter Rice (ZOOM); Albert Lee (ZOOM); TAS (ZOOM); Richard Meadows (ZOOM); Steven Pan (ZOOM); Sayid Hossaini (ZOOM); Jesus Hernandez (ZOOM); Michael Devin (ZOOM) Aiden (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 4:02pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Jett Metcalf motioned to approve the agenda, Patrick Martin 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Jennifer Layne Frederick, Samuel Jensen, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the August 10 meeting minutes. Jett Metcalf motioned to approve August 10 meeting minutes, Jennifer Frederick 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Jennifer Layne Frederick, Samuel Jensen, Jett Metcalf, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

Althea Atherton- abstain

Patrick Martin- abstain

August 10 meeting minutes approved.

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the September 14 meeting minutes. Jett Metcalf motioned to approved September 14 meeting minutes, Patrick Martin 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Jennifer Layne Frederick, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin and Jett Metcalf,

Steve Pilon- abstain

Katherine Sullivan- abstain

September 14 meeting minutes approved.

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

Patrick Martin: Names of ART stations are not announced the same on ART buses.

Jett Metcalf: Transit App resolved the 1 mile GPS signal. It has improved and is really effective.

Aiden Ortiz: Bus Rider organizer with T4B. Organization series meeting tonight 6pm-7:30pm, series of meeting is over the course of 6 weeks. Albuquerque Bus Rider Union monthly meeting is Wednesday, October 18 4pm-5:30pm. Link for meetings are in the chat.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Samuel Jensen, Chair

Samuel Jensen: Welcome Althea Atherton to TAB and thank you for all the work you put in to transit. Don McIver has resigned from TAB, due to conflict. Thank you to the amazing driver on route 141 last week. He was polite, courteous and helpful.

Director's Report: Leslie Keener, Director

Leslie Keener: Shared August ridership numbers 639,309 riders, 8.5% increase. Service route changes effective October 1, reducing frequency. Vacancies have not changes too much. 43% of MCO's vacant, 41% of mechanics vacant. We're having a hiring event October 17 & 27 10am-3pm at Ken Sanchez Facility. ABQ Ride Forward route study, phase II public engagement is up for review. We're in the process of setting some meetings with the consultants to discuss progress forward. Zero Fare Pilot Project Evaluation report and Pass identification program report has been submitted on September 30. Recommendation given to council is to continue to with zero fares and not have pass identification system. Resolution R-23-163, with amendments, passed at last council meeting directing Transit and Rio Metro to conduct a study to consolidate ABQ Ride and Rio Metro.

Samuel Jensen: Do you know if council talked to Rio metro board on how much interest there is on this consolidation? Has there been any sort of talk with other agencies on how they are able to be fully staffed?

Leslie Keener: During council it was mentioned they had some interest. There has been many conversations with FTA reps and other agencies. We are looking at incentive pay and other things to help with recruiting.

Steve Pilon: How many routes does Rio Metro have? Any chance of alleviating some of our problems with personnel. What's the size comparison with ABQ Ride and Rio Metro?

Leslie Keener: They are smaller than ABQ Ride.

Katherine Sullivan: Recruitment is hard and I'd like to offer my help in any way.

Information Items:

ART Signal Priority, presented by Patrick Martin

See link next to October 2023 minutes to download ART Signal Priority presentation

Andrew DeGarmo: I'm not sure that with any signal priority system to get to 0 delay at traffic signals. We're working with a consultant who has helped in the past to do some improvements to the signal priority system.

Samuel Jensen: Does this contract need to go through council?

Andrew DeGarmo: It does not. There has been casual conversations about potentially expanding signal priority east. I mean, I would say, from my perspective, it would be great. But we haven't really moved those conversations further. We've been more focused on trying to optimize what we have.

Samuel Jensen: Would signal priority function better if we were able to switch to a headway based system instead of each line on ART every 15 min?

Andrew DeGarmo: They are not closely related.

Steve Pilon: I'm glad we're thinking of ways to speed up the average speed of the buses. One key to making bus system competitive is reducing travel time. I'd like to see more measures on queue jumpers when we roll out the network redesign.

Patrick: Is it feasible to say it would help at an intersection to let ART go before the left turns?

Andrew DeGarmo: I asked early on, the answer was no, they can't vary which order phases happen in. There's safety built into the way signals work to make sure the phases that conflict with each other never happen at the same time. So changing whether a bus goes first or the left turn goes first would violate the way that safety system is set up.

Samuel Jensen: When will consultant start the work and can you ask them to come talk with us?

Andrew DeGarmo: Yes, I can certainly ask. We're probably a couple months away.

Margaret Lucero: ABQ ride would like to invite TAB members on a ride along to pass out pizza coupons for Rider appreciation day on October 24

Megan Holcomb: Would any of our TAB members be interested going on TV to promote it? I can send out details if you are interested.

Action Items

Patrick Martin: Transit is aware of this and we would want more aggressive transit signal priority, in terms of higher quality on ART and expanded to the rest of the system.

Patrick Martin withdrew TAB Resolution: Improved Transit-Related Signalization

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

Michael Devin: I ride route 2 and southern layover stop listed on schedule is not the stop the drivers spend for the layover. There are riders missing the bus, because of that.

Althea Atherton: Rules are changing about drug testing for transit applicant's non-binary. I'd like to pass a resolution. I can do a short presentation too.

Patrick Martin: City Council elections are coming up and Bike ABQ did a survey on council members and question was thoughts on helping driver and mechanic shortage at ABQ Ride. If you're interested in their responses in 4 districts that are up for election.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:34pm

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

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

00:00:45 Tass: Good Afternoon
00:01:41 Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant: Good afternoon
00:04:54 Althea May Atherton: Get well soon, Steve!!
00:06:13 * Steve Pilon *: thanks
00:06:15 Peter Rice - Downtown Albuquerque News: Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News
00:06:47 Aiden's iPhone: Aiden ortiz youth organizer with T4B
00:07:11 Michael Devin: Michael Devin here, just an ABQ resident seeing what TAB is about :)
00:10:42 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Albert Lee, Sustainable Transportation Specialist, City of Albuquerque
00:11:58 Tass: Adding to the gent's comment. It would be nice if the bus announcements didn't announce the defunct commuter routes
00:12:07 Bobby Sisneros (ABQ RIDE): Thanks for sharing that information.
00:13:55 Aiden's iPhone: To sign up for any of the organizing series meetings, please visit : bit.ly/fall23bu
00:13:59 Sayid Hossaini: Sayid Hossaini with together for brothers
00:14:03 Sayid Hossaini: Reacted to "To sign up for any o..." with ♥
00:14:11 Aiden's iPhone: To sign up for the Albuquerque Bus Riders Union meeting, please visit: bit.ly/fall23bus
We look forward to seeing you there!
00:21:19 Tass: I recommend retention bonuses for drivers and mechanics. At one year, 2 year, 3 year, etc
01:10:03 Patrick Martin: note that the bar chart in the lower right of the wyoming slide is the wrong station pair -
- my mistake!
01:23:35 Patrick Martin: if you want to see that presentation again or have further questions, feel free to reach out via email! patrickmartinmath@gmail.com
01:30:00 Tass: Michael is correct about the Route 2 layover stop
01:33:24 Althea May Atherton: altheatherton@gmail.com
01:34:24 Tass: Thank you