



Transit Advisory Board

February 11, 2021

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 938 8331 9316

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

Members Present

Christopher Ramirez, Chair (ZOOM); Kathy Foster, Vice Chair (ZOOM); Harris Balkin (ZOOM @ 5:04 pm); Rachel Hertzman (ZOOM); Brendan Miller (ZOOM); Steve Pilon (ABSENT); Orville Pratt (ZOOM), Patricia Salisbury (ZOOM); Jacqueline Smith, PTAB (ABSENT)

Staff Members Present

Stephanie Dominguez, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Rex Colorado, New Flyer of America (ZOOM); Jessica Dyer, Albuquerque Journal (ZOOM); Zechariah Freeman, Transit Marketing Communications Coordinator (ZOOM); Jennifer Jackson (ZOOM); Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Stephanie Paiz, Rio Metro Regional Transit District (ZOOM); Terra Reed, Department of Municipal Development Division, Vision Zero Coordinator (ZOOM); Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM); Holgin Serrullo (ZOOM); David Torrez, Transit Bus Stop Maintenance Supervisor (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 4:08 pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Chair Ramirez wants to hold off until the next meeting on the two Resolutions on today's agenda. Chris Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the changed February 11, 2021 agenda. Kathy Foster moved to approve the changed agenda and Patricia Salisbury 2nd the motion.

The motion was voice approved by Kathy Foster, Rachel Hertzman, Brendan Miller, Orville Pratt, and Patricia Salisbury.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the January 14, 2021 minutes. Brendan Miller requested a change to the January minutes. Page 2 under "Approval of Minutes" Brandon to Brendan. Patricia Salisbury made a motion to approve the minutes and Orville Pratt 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Kathy Foster, Rachel Hertzman, Brendan Miller, Orville Pratt and Patricia Salisbury.

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

Brendan Miller: I was driving through intersection of Coors and Central last Monday about 3:30 pm and saw a 66 Central EB bus displaying “Sorry Bus Full” I saw only 3-4 people on the bus. What is the capacity limit for 40-foot bus?

Chris Ramirez: Ms. Dominguez will be addressing the COVID protocols during Director’s report and we’ll make sure your question is answered.

Orville Pratt: I’ve been on the Board for 14 years and have gone through several Mayors and Directors. On our next meeting I will hand in my resignation.

Chris Ramirez: Mr. Pratt thank you for your 14 years.

Patricia Salisbury: I’d like to thank Orville for all his contributions to the Board. He’s been such a loyal member and has contributed so much to our work. I will miss you. I want to also congratulate Transit for their great poster for Transit Equity Day.

Terra Reed: I’d like to give a short presentation at your March or April meeting. We’re working on our Vision Zero Action Plan that will touch on Transit. In terms of how to connect Transit and other transportation services in the City. I also staff the Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee. They are also broadening their scope to cover all active transportation. We’re looking at possibly having a transit rider as a member on that Board.

Chris Ramirez: Thank you Ms. Reed we will follow up with you. We would like to make those connections with other departments and Boards and Commissions.

TAB Chairperson’s Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair

Chris Ramirez: Thank you to Transit Department and Together for Brothers for recognizing and introducing Transit Equity Day/ Rosa Parks birthday, February 4th and offering free fares on that day. We put out graphics every year that are in English and Spanish. There was a press conference outside Alvarado Transportation Center recognizing Transit Equity Day. Ms. Salisbury was also part of that press conference. There was also an announcement that a process is moving forward; students 25 years and younger, seniors 65 and older and veterans will be added to current free fare structure that includes 18 and under. Ms. Foster will be helping facilitate a stake holder analysis with the goal of creating a missions and vision plan. We have been notified that three Board members have applied for re-appointment and two additional members will be filling our four vacancies. You can continue to serve as a voting member, until replaced, if your membership is expired. I want to thank the Transit department for keeping the buses running during a health pandemic and having health and safety protocols. Ms. Dominguez will be reporting on what the policies are.

Director’s Report-Stephanie Dominguez, Deputy Director

Stephanie Dominguez began her report with ridership numbers. January’s ridership was 275,283 passengers for fixed route, compared to January of last year this is a decrease of 63.12 percent. January’s ridership was 81,073 passengers for ART, compared to January of last year this is a decrease of 55.0 percent. *(Margaret Lucero emailed TAB members the ridership numbers prior to the meeting and Ms. Dominguez showed reports with Shared Screen feature)*

We launched our first electric bus, it’s a Proterra Catalyst. It’s currently on Route 66. It gets a range of 150 to 175 miles, battery charged. We have a one year lease and our intent is to rotate it throughout the different quadrants of the city to test the range in different elevation changes.

Our first meeting with administration for our Fiscal 2022 Budget will be Saturday. We can provide a more comprehensive budget update at the next meeting. We will invite our Fiscal manager, Chris Payton, to provide that for you.

We will be launching a new ABQRide Plus app and will replace the ABQRide app. Some features include trip planning, real time bus locations and is available in Spanish. We will be doing a big marketing push to move everybody to the new ABQRide Plus app.

We do limit capacity on the buses between 11-15 passengers. If a driver has a full bus and they see that passengers are still waiting the driver can contact dispatch and we deploy a helper bus on that route to assist. We have more helper buses available if we anticipate an increase in ridership. We also ask dispatch to remind drivers, throughout the day, of the helper buses. The FTA has recently determined masks are required on buses and transfer centers. We have been implementing masks requirement on our buses. We do provide individual packaged, disposable masks for our passengers that do have them. We clean and sanitize buses on a daily basis

Patricia Salisbury: Was there an increase in ridership on Transit Equity Day?

Stephanie Dominguez: I do not have that information yet, we will have it at the next meeting.

Kathy Foster: Is the Transit Department going to be doing anything with capacity on the buses with the new transition to yellow?

Stephanie Dominguez: We are currently analyzing options to increase service and when we have a final determination we will let Board members and the public know.

Chris Ramirez: Do you have a sense if the department will be asking for a budget increase? There was a decrease in the budget based on some of the CARES funding that was provided at the federal government level during COVID. Do we know if we will see any additional decreases potentially in the overall budget?

Stephanie Dominguez: TBD, we will know more Saturday. Keep in mind part of the decrease in the last fiscal year was from Security's transition to DMD.

Chris Ramirez: Are drivers also required to wear masks on the bus if there is a plexi glass divider?

Stephanie Dominguez: Drivers are required to wear a mask and we do provide masks for our drivers as well.

Unfinished Business

Chris Ramirez: Any updates on the RFP?

Stephanie Dominguez: We are close to finalizing the scope and we will invite our Principal Planner, Andrew De Garmo, to the next meeting and give an overview of what that scope looks like.

Chris Ramirez: We will make sure there is room for Mr. De Garmo to present on the next agenda.

Patricia Salisbury: We had always talked about having community input on RFP and hope that is still in place.

Stephanie Dominguez: The TAB members have been very clear that is a key component that you are requesting in scope of the RFP and we're making sure we're paying particular attention to that piece.

Chris Ramirez: We have been talking about TAB engagement projects and at this quarter we are at public involvement and the work we are doing around Stakeholder Analysis. We will be looking at multiple opportunities to help with cleanup projects around bus stops or bring awareness around maintenance.

Rachel Hertzman: Do you want me to wait to ask my question (*see chat 16:30:10*)

Chris Ramirez: I apologize, please address your question around my report.

Rachel Hertzman: Transit Equity Day is important and should be every day. Transit Equity day graphic was really amazing. I would like to be more involved and kept in the loop, maybe that's a one on one conversation I need to have with Mr. Ramirez. It seems like there are stats on ridership, but is there stats of demographics, and neighborhood penetrants in terms of socioeconomics and how public transit and transit use or accessibility is in different neighborhoods?

Chris Ramirez: Ms. Dominguez, would you be able to answer Ms. Hertzman's question about the demographics around passengers?

Stephanie Dominguez: Yes, we do have demographic information. I'd be happy to see what we have and provide it to the Board.

Rachel Hertzman: There are four of us reapplying for the position. I think that will be a great starting point and maybe we can have an action plan item of doing an analysis of that and figuring out places we might want to recommend strengthening. I would really like to be involved with that.

Chris Ramirez: Thank you Ms. Hertzman. I think over the last couple years, we've mentioned that we would like to have that analysis part of the study as well. I'm hoping when Andrew presents that RFP study we can be thinking about that equity analysis within the Transit study and with the other work we do as a Board. My understanding to your other question on Board renewal is your application was submitted and still being considered. If Mr. Leuschel is still on maybe he is able to give you an update.

Adam Leuschel: I do not have an update, but I can reach out to Helen Maestas about that.

Chris Ramirez: All of the Board members who have an expired membership can continue to serve as voting members until you are replaced. Ms. Hertzman you are a voting member until you are replaced.

Chris Ramirez: Ms. Dominguez do you have an update on San Pedro ART station?

Stephanie Dominguez: Our department is continuing to review what is needed to make that operational in addition to identifying a funding source.

Patricia Salisbury: I don't have a question about the San Pedro station, but I do on the Rio Grande and Central station.

Stephanie Dominguez: We recently were approved by State Historical Preservation Office (SHIPO) three canopies; the West, Old Town and East Downtown station. We will start construction this year on those canopies. If those rendering were not shared with you I will make a note of that.

Patricia Salisbury: Are the ticket vending machines (TVM) on the docks operating?

Stephanie Dominguez: We do have one employee dedicated to reviewing the TVMs on the stations daily. Some of our challenges are receiving our components needed to fix those because they come from Mexico and they sometimes get hung up in customs. We do continue to look at them on a daily basis.

Chris Ramirez: I'm hoping the TAB can work with the Transit department to come up with a good solution where we can call on asking the city to make ART free during COVID, because of the challenges around the TVMs. We can look at drafting a Resolution in the next month and working with Transit on giving their input.

Brendan Miller: It might be a good idea to adopt something here where you can purchase bus passes on the bus.

New Business

David Torrez: I have a crew of seven people that take care of almost 3,000 bus stops in Albuquerque. My employees each have a route and take care of 420 to 450 stops. They try to get as much done as they can. There are 311 calls coming in that we have to take care of right away because there are needles or feces at the stops. This is on top of the daily duties, like throwing the trash. We also repair any damages to the stops, put up and take down signs. We are constantly on the move and any volunteer work helps.

Chris Ramirez: Thank you Mr. Torrez for all the work you and your crew do. How long have you been with ABQRide? What can the TAB do to support you and your team's work to keep bus stops clean and safe for our community?

David Torrez: I've been here 23 years. Any volunteer work helps. We have a program Adopt a Stop. You can adopt a stop and help keep it clean.

Chris Ramirez: Thank you Mr. Torrez. Maybe you can connect with Mr. Freeman and think of ways we can lift up or recognize individuals or organizations that are participating and supporting that. Any questions for Mr. Torrez?

Rachel Hertzman: Are you guys prioritized for the vaccination?

Stephanie Dominguez: The State of New Mexico is determining which groups receive the vaccines. We are constantly advocating for our Transit employees. We are in group 1B, but there are in sub sections.

Chris Ramirez: Thank you Mr. Torrez for your time today and 23 years of service. I'd like to move to our next agenda item.

Kathy Foster: I want to talk about the stakeholder analysis and what we are envisioning and this may be a way forward for us to identify our mission, vision and values. When considering the stake holders we want to make sure the community is involved and we take a mindful approach to ensure we have a good engagement with Transit Department and the stakeholders. Take time to think about ideas and bring them to the next meeting. We want to ensure there is an authentic engagement. Ms. Salisbury and Mr. Miller mentioned there was a mission statement at some point. We are having trouble finding the original mission statement, so it may be worth updating it as we bring new members on board. We want to make sure we are identifying the groups that are related to any decision that both the Transit Department and the Board is making. Think of the things we are trying to represent and what we are trying to accomplish.

Chris Ramirez: I'd like to start identifying some stakeholders and hear the input of other community members, essential workers and seniors that are dependent on Transit. Ms. Foster and I will follow up with TAB members, but TAB member are there any stakeholders you would like to share?

Rachel Hertzman: We talked about collaborations, in the past, with Albuquerque Public Schools and I think it would be important to continue with that as well as UNM, Albuquerque Academy, CNM and other educational institutions.

Harris Balkin: There is also an Inner Faith Council which comprises a large number of religious organizations and their leaders and that would tap into a huge group of people that ride the bus to and from religious functions. I'd like to compliment Ms. Hertzman on including APS and I know the teachers have to budget in transportation for the school trips.

Rachel Hertzman: Thank you Mr. Balkin. I serve in this position as an independent citizen and I have to consider the priority of my occupation. We have discussed it in the past and I think it's important to mention.

Patricia Salisbury: There's always been an issue here with the bus stop timing. The stops have to match up with dismissal times for students if they want to take public transportation. It takes a lot of coordination, but it can be done.

Brendan Miller: The essential workers need to be thought of more. In terms of people working the 2nd and 3rd shifts. Maybe having the buses running 24/7 or close to it, so the workers on the really late shifts can get home.

Orville Pratt: Neighbor associations in different areas can supply a good ear listening to us and us to them.

Chris Ramirez: I want encourage TAB and the public to check out the City Planning Department. They are going through the new Community Planning Area (CPA), which is a new neighborhood planning process. It has a lot of information of the stages of the twelve neighborhood areas and what will be done.

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

Rex Colorado: I appreciate you letting me join in.

Chris Ramirez: Which buses does your company provide for the Transit system currently?

Rex Colorado: New Flyer

David Torrez: I appreciate you inviting me to the meeting and if I can help in any way please reach out.

Kathy Foster: Thank you to all the guests. Please feel free to join as often as you can.

Brendan Miller: I look forward to having a conversation with Chair and Vice Chair about Stakeholder analysis.

Rex Colorado: I happen to have new stats and there are 174 of the New Flyer buses at ABQRide, so thank you. I'm here to learn how we can better support.

Adjournment

Chair Ramirez, chair asked for a motion to adjourn, Harris Balkin motioned to adjourn meeting. Rachel Hertzman 2nd the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM)

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

16:02:03 From Stephanie Dominguez to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : can you make me a co-host? Thanks!

16:21:27 From Terra Reed : Can I make a comment Christopher?
16:22:16 From Kathy Foster - she/her : Thank you, Mr. Pratt!
16:25:16 From Christopher Ramirez : Just let us know what month and how much time you need for Vision Zero. I will follow up.
16:27:36 From Margaret Lucero to Christopher Ramirez(Privately) : Mr. Balkin just emailed me to let me know he will be on after 5pm
16:28:14 From Patricia salisbury : I'd like to recommend Dr. Lance Chilton to the Bike Advisory Board.
16:29:23 From Terra Reed : Ms. Salisbury if you would like to give him my email address (treed@cabq.gov), I would be very happy to chat with him about open positions and his interest in the committee!
16:30:10 From Rachel Hertzman : Can I ask for clarification?
16:30:15 From Stephanie Paiz RMRTD : Mr. Freeman, would you mind sharing your posters for the Transit Equity project?
17:16:54 From Jennifer Jackson : I've got to jump off. Thanks for having me!
17:20:08 From Terra Reed : Maybe ACS too as that department moves forward.
17:21:15 From Patricia salisbury : Will sunvan also be free for seniors?
17:23:14 From Patricia salisbury : Catholic schools
17:24:56 From Terra Reed : As a former ABQ Academy public transit rider, I think it could be really cool to work with private/charter schools to help figure out how to encourage their students to ride the bus!!
17:27:03 From Kathy Foster - she/her : Thank you, Ms. Reed!
17:28:42 From Rachel Hertzman : is Vision Zero a stakeholder?
17:32:28 From Kathy Foster - she/her : Yes!
17:32:33 From Terra Reed : <https://cpa.abc-zone.com/>
17:32:54 From Terra Reed : This is where you can learn more about the CPA process. First meeting starts in 30 minutes!
17:33:13 From Terra Reed : (but there are lots more opportunities)
17:35:18 From Kathy Foster - she/her : Thank you, Mr. Torrez!