



Transit Advisory Board

April 8, 2021

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 924 5599 2320

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

Members Present

Christopher Ramirez, Chair (ZOOM); Kathy Foster, Vice Chair (ZOOM); Markie Anderle (ZOOM); Harris Balkin (ZOOM); Ryan Lee Haack (ZOOM); Jennifer Jackson (ZOOM) Don McIver (ZOOM); Brendan Miller (ZOOM); Rikk Murphy (ZOOM); Steve Pilon (ZOOM), Patricia Salisbury (ZOOM); Hodgin Serrullo (ZOOM); Jacqueline Smith, PTAB (ABSENT)

Staff Members Present

Zechariah Freeman, Transit Marketing Communications Coordinator (ZOOM), Danny Holcomb, Director (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM); Ava Montoya, Public Information Officer (ZOOM); Chris Payton, Associate Director (ZOOM); Lloyd Williams, Deputy Director (ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Nate Begay, Valle de Oro, National Wildlife Refuge (ZOOM); Rachel Hertzman (ZOOM); Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Terra Reed, Department of Municipal Development Division, Vision Zero Coordinator (ZOOM); Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM), Rachel, Wilderness Society (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 4:02 pm.

Christopher Ramirez: I realize we recognized Orville Pratt for his 14 years of service at our last meeting. I'd also like to recognize Rachel Hertzman and thank her for her service. Welcome to all the new members. We now have a full board.

Rachel Hertzman: I was not aware my position was not renewed. I should have been notified in advance. I do not accept the explanation that the board is full (*shared screen TAB website states members needed*). This is tacky. I think it shows a lack of integrity and respect for me. I donated masks to Transit in the fall and I do a thorough job with my responsibilities. I'd appreciate a response.

Christopher Ramirez: I apologize I'll follow up with the City to make sure we figure out a better way in communicating in the future.

Brendan Miller: I was not planning on announcing this till next month, but July will be the last meeting I was planning to attend and resign my membership. I will be moving to Santa Fe. Hearing this makes me want to

resign my membership immediately and offer my sincerest recommendations that they reapply Rachel in my place.

Christopher Ramirez: Brendan I will follow up with you about next steps on your announcements.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Christopher Ramirez would like to remove Karen Navarro's presentation she will not be able to attend today's meeting also Harris Balkin can ask his questions during the Director's report. Christopher Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the changed April 8, 2021 agenda. Steve Pilon moved to approve the agenda with the noted changes and Ryan Lee Haack 2nd the motion.

The motion was voice approved by Markie Anderle, Harris Balkin, Kathy Foster, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver (abstain, did not receive agenda), Brendan Miller, Steve Pilon, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgins Serrullo.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes. Patricia Salisbury made a motion to approve the minutes and Brendan Miller 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Markie Anderle, Harris Balkin, Kathy Foster, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver (abstain, did not receive agenda), Brendan Miller, Steve Pilon, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgins Serrullo.

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

Markie Anderle: I'm a Planner a Consensus Planning. I am enthusiastic about transit as a user and excited to work with the group.

Rikk Murphy: I am a Senior Academic Advisor at UNM. I'm a loyal transit rider, except when I'm riding my bike. I'm excited use my own passions to help on the board.

Ryan Lee Haack: I work for APS in the Facilities Designer Construction Department. I also commute to work on bike and bus. I'm excited to serve with my fellow board members.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair

Christopher Ramirez: I'd like to remind the board if you have any questions you can follow up with me or Transit staff. Often we are in situations where we have to listen to public comments outside of board meetings and I feel we can and should speak for the board, but I'd like to also make sure that the way we conduct ourselves and how we treat Transit staff with professionalism. I have a commitment and the board has shared that our Transit system is more equitable for transit dependent riders. We are continuing to work on signage with Zack Freeman around free fares. Patricia and I will be attending the Senior Affairs Advisory Committee to make sure our seniors are aware how they can ride the bus for free. I'm interested in making sure free fares are part of our budget moving into Fiscal year 2022. I've asked about American Rescue Plan and how much of those funds ABQRide and Sun Van will be receiving. I'm excited about how we can help support and advise where those funds can be allocated.

Director's Report-Danny Holcomb, Director

Danny Holcomb began his report with ridership numbers. March's ridership was 356,489 passengers for fixed route, compared to March of last year this is a decrease of 43.44 percent. San Pedro ART station will break ground in August. We'll be working on canopies on our east, west and Old Town platforms. Chris Payton can give an RFP update

Christopher Ramirez: Where will funds for San Pedro station be coming from?

Danny Holcomb: Local funds.

Chris Payton: Generally City's budget process runs from January through May. Fiscal year begins July 1 to June 30. We're working on FY22 budget. The entire city budget was submitted to city council on April 1 and the budget officer will present the department budget to city council through committee of the whole meetings. There aren't a lot of changes to the budget, coming out of a pandemic. We are working on bringing back part time drivers in hopes to fill out driver vacancies. We are looking at adding additional security on our buses to help protect drivers and passengers. The warranty period lapsed related to landscaping that was added to ART project. So Transit is working with Solid Waste to provide maintenance. The budget for Transit is 49 million and this does not incorporate anything from the American Rescue Plan, that money is still being determined.

Steve Pilon: What was the budget last year?

Chris Payton: It was about 49 million.

Rikk Murphy: How many open driver positions are there?

Lloyd Williams: 63 Motor Coach Operators and 8 are going through the hiring process.

Brendan Miller: Could the City please provide the TAB with a breakdown of operating costs for each transit route?

Chris Payton: We should be able to provide that to you at the next meeting.

Steve Pilon: What's the pay difference on the Transit and Solid Waste drivers?

Lloyd Williams: There's about a three dollar difference.

Christopher Ramirez: Is there anything we can do to help support that pay gap?

Lloyd Williams: We're in the middle of negotiations. It's my hope that their representation come back with something that is closer to Solid Waste driver pay.

Christopher Ramirez: The Union representing Transit and Sanitation drivers are the same, so is this a budget issue?

Lloyd Williams: We need to also keep in mind the schedules are hard to compete with Sanitation.

Christopher Ramirez: We've expressed our explicit support for free fares for all riders. Is that built into the budget or how can we advocate to Council to make sure free fares is built into the budget?

Chris Payton: We are still waiting to hear from the Administration and City Council. If you'd like to take part on that there is public comment at these meetings.

Christopher Ramirez: We will work with City Council and the Mayor. Are there any new routes or services being built into the budget? Is it maintaining all the routes or is there any reduction to routes or frequency?

Chris Payton: No new routes. Right now, maintaining the routes. We are not at full service, so that is initially our goal.

Steve Pilon: We need to be on a glide path to pay equity. I think for the idea of free fares we need to take other factors into consideration.

Christopher Ramirez: Steve are you asking a question about the budget? If you're making a statement about something else we can find another time to do that.

Steve Pilon: You brought up free fares. I wouldn't say were unanimous. I have a question about free fares that need to be raised.

Christopher Ramirez: Steve, we voted as a board and we supported that with majority of board members

Chris Payton: Regarding Patricia's question in the chat, what proof of age is required to ride free. We are asking for an ID to be provided when boarding the bus.

Christopher Ramirez: Steve, if there's a question about the budget I'll let you do that.

Steve Pilon: I don't have a question about the budget, but I'd like to have an opportunity to revisit free fares for everybody.

Chris Payton: *Responding to question in chat about special ID.* We have talked about a special ID. We may not be able to roll that out until the end of the year.

Harris Balkin: A couple of concerns that I've been voicing and have not received any answers to. The ART buses are running out of their lanes periodically. I was also present at an accident outside of my building on Arno where a tragic accident happened and from what I understand it was not the driver's fault, but I have asked about pin curbs. This has become an important issue and I have also emailed Councilman Benton and have not received a response. The TVM's are still not accepting credit cards for single or full day rides.

Lloyd Williams: I wrote the questions down and will talk with Danny.

Markie Anderle: Where the information is available for how much fare collection cost in comparison to the revenue that is generated by fare collection?

Chris Payton: We can gather that information and provide it, but it's between 300 to 500 thousand dollars annually.

Christopher Ramirez: What are the expenses for fare collection?

Chris Payton: The amount I mention would be for armored car service, accounts receivable, customer service agents to handle revenue, maintaining fare boxes, etc...

Christopher Ramirez: *(Rikk asked a question in chat)* TVM's are Ticket Vending Machines.

Kathy Foster: Can we be provided with the fare box recovery fee rate?

Chris Payton: We can provide that. It would be for FY20.

Address Steve Pilon's questing in chat, what are fare box revenues?

Chris Paton: I can address that with Markie's question.

Patricia Salisbury: I wanted to know what the details are about the bus that pulled into the ATC, last week, with bullet holes in the windshield.

Lloyd Williams: It was a case of road rage with two other vehicles that had nothing to do with our bus.

Christopher Ramirez: How are we educating drivers about why it's important for them to wear a mask? If there's a mask requirement for passengers that should be extended to drivers too.

Lloyd Williams: I can address it personally. Please make sure to give me specific dates, times, bus numbers, etc.

Christopher Ramirez: I'm assuming the policy is if the driver is driving they're supposed to be wearing a mask whether there's passengers or not.

Lloyd Williams: I will get that answer and report back at the next meeting.

Steve Pilon: How are we on getting drivers vaccinated?

Lloyd Williams: I don't know the exact numbers, but we are trying to get them in as soon as possible.

Unfinished Business

Danny Holcomb gave an update on San Pedro ART station in Director's report.

Kathy Foster: We've started a stakeholder analysis and we'd like to create a mission and vision where we are serving everyone. Chris and I are making phone calls and sending emails. So we are thinking of having a retreat the week of June 21 for all board members where we can come up with a mission and vision for this advisory board.

Christopher Ramirez: We will make sure to follow Open Meeting Act. If you have not heard from Kathy or me please feel free to reach out to us to give us your ideas.

Kathy Foster: *Read chat from Brendan Miller.*

Adam Leuschel: The Mayor's office has taken the position that the Open Meetings Act (OMA) does apply to all City Boards and Commissions. I would advise all boards to follow the OMA.

Karen Navarro was not able to attend meeting

New Business

Lloyd Williams: I was a Transit Deputy Director for 13 years in El Paso, Texas. We were able to do some awesome stuff with the transit system. We became the top system in North America a couple years ago and that's the goal for Albuquerque. Our ridership deserves it. I've done government contracting setting up transit systems inside military bases. I'm a proud military veteran. I'm excited to be here and we have a great team of people here.

Ava Montoya: I'm the Public Information Office for Transit. I look forward to putting lots of positivity out there about what we do and our mission as whole. I am a New Mexico Native. I'm happy to be here and look forward to working with everyone.

Steve Pilon: Lloyd, I'm excited about you being here. I've always admired El Paso's Transit system and hope you can bring some of your experience with the bus route system you had down there. I'd like to see us adopt some of those policies. Can you do a presentation on the El Paso BRT system?

Lloyd Williams: I will see if I can get some of that information from them.

Christopher Ramirez: Since December we've invited Transit staff to come in and we look forward to hearing from all levels of the Transit Department. Zack, I'm sorry we will have to move your presentation to the next meeting.

Zack Freeman: I will demo everything I put together for you at the next meeting.

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

Terra Reed: May is bike month and we've been thinking about the relationship with biking and transit. I'm working with Zack and Ava on a video on how to properly put your bike on the bus, so people can feel comfortable doing that. The City is working on a virtual bike to work day, May 21. I'll share that information and make sure to send it to Zack and Ava to share on social media. Chris I appreciate your comment about doing some videos in the future in Spanish.

Harris Balkin: This has been a very productive meeting and I am rather disappointed on how Ms. Hertzman was notified today, given all that she has done.

Adjournment

Chair Ramirez, chair asked for a motion to adjourn, Harris Balkin made a motioned to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 13, 2021; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM)

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

16:08:22 From Margaret Lucero to Christopher Ramirez(Privately) : Helen said she sent Rachel an email on Tuesday

16:21:58 From Kathy Foster (She/Her) : I am unable to upload files to the chat.

16:22:26 From Kathy Foster (She/Her) : May I please ask the host of the Zoom meeting share the documents in the chat? Thank you.

16:26:42 From Kathy Foster (She/Her) : Welcome!

16:30:05 From Margaret Lucero to Kathy Foster (She/Her)(Privately) : Hi Kathy,

16:30:23 From Margaret Lucero to Kathy Foster (She/Her)(Privately) : How do I share a doc in the chat/

16:31:51 From Kathy Foster (She/Her) to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : HI! In the chat, there should be an option to upload a file. I forwarded your email to Don.

16:33:27 From Margaret Lucero to Kathy Foster (She/Her)(Privately) : I'm sorry I don't see an option for that, maybe I'm not seeing it.

16:33:47 From Christopher Ramirez : That's great news!

16:33:53 From Christopher Ramirez : Where did the funding come from?

16:34:54 From Margaret Lucero to Kathy Foster (She/Her)(Privately) : I also forwarded it to Don. I did send the invite, I'm not sure why he did not receive it.

16:34:55 From Kathy Foster (She/Her) to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : Maybe it's disabled to ensure the compliance with open meetings?

16:36:34 From Margaret Lucero to Kathy Foster (She/Her)(Privately) : I'll make sure to send him a test invite before the next meeting, so there's no issues.

16:37:18 From Kathy Foster (She/Her) to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : I saw his name on the list. He said he received my FWD. I'll ask him if he received yours and if not to check other folders. Thank you!

16:39:21 From Christopher Ramirez : We will take some questions for Chris about the budget. You can drop them in the chat or "raise your hand."

16:41:19 From Brendan Miller : Could the City please provide the TAB with a breakdown of operating costs for each transit route? Thank you!

16:41:55 From Rikk Murphy : How many open driver positions are there?

16:47:56 From Christopher Ramirez : I see your hand Steve

16:49:47 From Patricia salisbury : What proof of age is required to ride free

16:54:30 From Rikk Murphy : isn't there a special id from transit?

16:55:48 From Don McIver : I get a sticker from CNM for free rides that is put on my id.

16:57:30 From Markie Anderle (She/Her) : Does the department collect information in the budget on how much we spend on fare collection?

16:58:12 From Steve Pilon : yes they have an idea how much it costs to collect fares

16:58:50 From Christopher Ramirez : Markie I see your question. Thanks Kathy.

16:59:58 From Markie Anderle (She/Her) : Thank you Kathy & Steve- a follow up to Steve's comment, and clarification of my question would be where is fare collection cost information available?

17:01:59 From Steve Pilon : I'm not sure but I think it was something like\$ 400-500K/year

17:02:28 From Rikk Murphy : what's a TVM?

17:03:25 From Steve Pilon : That's what I recall too

17:03:55 From Steve Pilon : And what are farebox revenues?

17:15:08 From Brendan Miller : We have had retreats before.

17:16:15 From Brendan Miller : I don't believe the Open Meetings Act applies to us as we are an advisory board.

17:16:33 From Brendan Miller : Only the City Charter or Code.

17:16:50 From Terra Reed : OMA applies to all appointed boards and committees

17:18:53 From Margaret Lucero : I believe Helen Maestas offers these trainings a couple times a month.

17:19:31 From Jenny Jackson : I just took the OMA training and it was helpful!

17:21:58 From Steve Pilon : may I ask Lloyd a q about El Paso?

17:22:33 From Patricia salisbury : Welcome to Albuquerque!

17:24:16 From Lloyd Williams PhD (ABD); MBA : I'm excited to be here and am very grateful to be a part of this department and this city. I look forward to working with all of you and doing some awesome things together.

17:31:04 From Christopher Ramirez : That would be helpful Terra!

17:31:20 From Christopher Ramirez : Maybe T4B can help with some videos in Spanish or other languages about riding with your bike on the bus!~

17:33:39 From Patricia salisbury : I agree!

17:34:23 From Steve Pilon : Welcome Lloyd and new board members