



## Transit Advisory Board

June 10, 2021

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 972 8005 3972

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

### **Members Present**

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

### **Staff Members Present**

Doreen De la Cruz, Facility Office Manager (ZOOM), Zechariah Freeman, Transit Marketing Communications Coordinator (ZOOM), Danny Holcomb, Director (ZOOM), Lawrence Kline, Principal Planner (ZOOM), Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM); Ava Montoya, Public Information Officer (ZOOM)

### **Visitors Present**

Andrew (PHONE), Pamelya Herndon, CEO, Social Justice + Change (ZOOM), Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Terra Reed, Department of Municipal Development Division, Vision Zero Coordinator (ZOOM); Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (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 4:04 pm.

### **Approval of Agenda or Additions**

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Harris Balkin motioned to approve the agenda, Don McIver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgin Serrullo.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes. Ryan Lee Haack motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Patricia Salisbury 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgin Serrullo.

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

Pamelya Herndon: We try to make sure to lift the rides and abilities of low and moderate income people and too often we are finding transportation, from the Westside to downtown, is ineffective and inefficient. I ask this committee to please put together a citizens committee to look at and study the transportation on the Westside to

help improve the lives of individuals and they should not be having any ineffective access to any aspects of our lives because they don't have the transportation.

Andrew: Before the pandemic I commuted to work every day through ABQ Ride, my route has been and is still suspended, despite our state moving to turquoise over a month ago. When will routes return to full service?

Terra Reed: Council voted to approve expand all scope of active transportation. Greater Albuquerque Biking Committee is looking at how we can make connections beyond the transit space.

Patricia Salisbury: Christopher and I are talking with citizens and asking what their needs are. We are interested in meeting with Pamela and the people in her organization.

### **TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair**

Christopher Ramirez: The City Council added a 3 million dollar appropriation so we can move to free fares in the next fiscal year. I highly encourage the Mayor and City Councilors to support the budget amendment for free fares. I also want to call on TAB members to do that as well. Zero fares make sense for low income bus riders in Albuquerque. Reminder about Open Meetings Act, avoid large group emails with any discussions taking place. *(Chair Ramirez asked each member present if they had any questions about the Open Meetings Act)*

Adam Leuschel: Please reach out to me or Christopher with any OMA questions. Effective next week Boards and Commissions are allowed to return to in person meetings.

Christopher Ramirez: We are looking at June 26 or July 17 to do a volunteer clean up/maintenance around bus stops. Please use chat to let us know your availability.

Adam Leuschel: You will need to provide notice to comply with OMA, one week in advance, if there is full quorum at this event.

### **Director's Report-Danny Holcomb, Director**

Danny Holcomb: Transit is limited to 50% capacity on buses and vans. We are short 70 drivers, despite the effort of recruitment of drivers. It's difficult to put 100% service. We will add limited commuter service with the help of Sun Vans. Information is on our website. RFP went out on May 21 and closes on July 6. Public participation will be really important when surveys go out. Ridership for May was 345,151 passengers, increase of 25%. Zero fares is working its way through City Council.

Christopher Ramirez: Please put your questions in the chat for Danny.

Zechariah Freeman: *(Presented a step by step video of the ABQRide Plus App. This App includes live location of the buses on route, schedules and ticket purchasing)* Please contact me with any questions or concerns. These videos will be on our website.

Lawrence Kline: *(shared power point presentations: Real Estate Drives the Bus; For Current ABQ RIDE Projects. Presentation was emailed to all board members at the end of the meeting)* Park and Ride sites are a critical part of increasing ride share. Its purpose is to intercept people before they get to the main east/west parts of town. Three feasibility studies currently underway; Southwest, Far East Central and Coors Blvd. Feasible studies include evaluation of demand and sites, concept design and environmental documentation. Three studies driven by three factors; service expansions, ridership market and replacing an old way with significant improvement. Studies will include public input. Uptown falls under Federal Circular; the transit center function

must be retained. Uptown is centrally located. Hope to have a ground breaking by June 2022 for a new project development at Uptown.

Patricia Salisbury: We need a circular at the Uptown Transit center so people can get to the shopping centers.

Lawrence Kline: Winrock is subject to an infrastructure district called TID and one requirement to TID is to start such a circular.

Harris Balkin: Can we address the possibility in the change of signage, partial pin curb or additional policing in the area of Central and Arno as a solution to prevent accidents, illegal U turns, etc.?

Danny Holcomb: We can certainly look at signage. Pin curb is not option in that area.

Christopher Ramirez: How can we look at ways, outside of the RFP, to increase frequency of the 54 and 98?

Harris Balkin: I do know the pin curb was not going to work, but since we have Terra Reed on the meet can the safety issue be address by Traffic safety?

Terra Reed: I'll respond in the chat

### **Unfinished Business**

*TAB Engagement & Stakeholders was not discussed*

### **New Business**

Christopher Ramirez asked Margaret Lucero to share screen on the Resolution of TAB Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2022. Christopher Ramirez asked for a motion to accept the Resolution. Ryan Lee Haack motioned to accept the Resolution, Jennifer Jackson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Rikk Murphy: Can you let us know before if we will meet in person or virtually?

Christopher Ramirez: I will give a one month notice before our next meeting.

The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgins Serrullo.

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

*No public comment*

### **Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 5:26 pm

### **Next Meeting: Thursday, August 12, 2021; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM)**

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

16:07:34 From Margaret Lucero to Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands (Albuquerque)(Privately) : New number just logged in  
16:15:02 From Pamela Herndon to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : The link that was sent to me for the agenda would not open.  
16:16:24 From Margaret Lucero to Pamela Herndon(Privately) : I just emailed it to you.

16:21:56 From Pamela Herndon to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : Thank you  
16:22:14 From Margaret Lucero to Pamela Herndon(Privately) : You're welcome!!  
16:26:11 From Terra Reed : A goal of working toward zero fare transit is also supported in the Vision Zero Action Plan!  
16:28:48 From Patricia Salisbury : I will contact Issac Benton for his support and endorsement of zero transit fare  
16:30:51 From Jenny Jackson : July would be better for me!  
16:30:54 From Don McIver : Both dates work for me.  
16:31:01 From Harris Balkin : could work for me  
16:31:02 From Rikk Murphy : either date works for me  
16:31:22 From Patricia Salisbury : I can volunteer  
16:31:24 From Ryan Haack : I think either date could work for me.  
16:32:00 From Harris Balkin : June 26  
16:32:08 From Hodgins Serrullo : June 26  
16:32:33 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands (Albuquerque) : Thanks everyone  
16:37:28 From Pamela Herndon to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : How much are drivers paid. Is the team willing to train women?  
16:41:35 From Patricia Salisbury : Juneteenth is being held on Civic Plaza next Friday, Saturday and Sunday sponsored by the city. Good opportunity to recruit driver applicants  
16:45:55 From Don McIver : It stopped after it said enter your card....  
16:47:05 From Don McIver : How does this sync up with the existing ABQ ride app and/or text message system....where you call and enter your stop and it tells you when the next bus is expected via text?  
16:48:19 From Pamela Herndon : How do we make the technology available to the populations who use the bus the most?  
16:49:25 From Don McIver : Zac...can you stop sharing?  
16:57:02 From Terra Reed : Definitely let me know as you get closer Lawrence - would be happy to help from either the perspective of Vision Zero or GABAC/GAATC  
17:00:48 From Z 505 : All- send questions about the app or social media to me at zfreeman@cabq.gov  
17:10:04 From Don McIver : Thank you!  
17:10:32 From Ryan Haack : Thank you Lawrence. Would it be possible for the board to get a copy of these slides?  
17:10:35 From Don McIver : I have a question for Danny.  
17:11:00 From Rikk Murphy : I also have a question for Danny.  
17:14:50 From Hodgins Serrullo : I request Lawrence Kline's contacts for further inquiry.  
17:18:58 From Margaret Lucero : lkline@cabq.gov  
17:19:20 From Terra Reed : Danny when you send Mr. Balkin the engineering study for this area, can you CC me so that I can take a look?  
17:20:05 From Rikk Murphy : For Danny, besides a hiring bonus, what about driver equity in the city?  
17:20:29 From Danny Holcomb : My email address is dholcomb@cabq.gov  
17:21:43 From Don McIver : Danny...my question is in regards of funding. Basically, right now Transit has at least two pools of money...money from fares and money allocated by the city (maybe there's more?) When we transition to Zero fares, would that translate into you having less flexibility in spending the increased funding allocated by the city. Would you still have the freedom that money from fares allows you now? (Assuming you have more freedom).  
17:23:12 From Adam Leuschel he/him : I'm going to respond in chat, having audio issues  
17:23:43 From Adam Leuschel he/him : That's correct Chris. The "during COVID-19" and "primarily virtually" language give the Board leeway to make a determination.  
17:24:13 From Adam Leuschel he/him : That's what many boards are doing, so that is definitely possible!  
17:26:50 From Pamela Herndon : It was a pleasure to attend your meeting today. Thank you.  
17:27:11 From Danny Holcomb : The zero fares pilot proposal includes City Council funding to cover the cost of the money that fares brings in. We will have the same flexibility with that money that we normally would have. This money that Council allocated only covers funding for just one year.