



Transit Advisory Board

September 9, 2021

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at

Alvarado Transportation Center

100 1st St SW

2nd Floor, Santa Fe Training/Conference Room

Albuquerque, NM 87102

OR

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 843 1250 5191

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

Members Present

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

Staff Members Present

Doreen De la Cruz, Facility Office Manager (ATC & ZOOM), Danny Holcomb, Director (ZOOM), Mark Eshelman, Senior Project Coordinator ATC & ZOOM; Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC & ZOOM)

Visitors Present

David Grubbs, T4B (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. Don McIver motioned to approve the agenda, Ryan Lee Haack 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Markie Anderle, Harris Balkin, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the August 12, 2021 minutes. Patricia Salisbury motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Jennifer Jackson 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury. Don McIver, abstain.

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

David Grubbs: I'm a student and it will make it easier if buses were free or if you didn't have to show a school ID. There was a time when I did not have a school ID and my age was questioned because of my height.

Harris Balkin: They rarely check ART bus passes, but I would suggest going to an administrator at your school.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair

Christopher Ramirez: City Council has deferred the Zero Fares policy three times. City Council is gathering some clarification and revision. It seems some City Councilors are trying to reverse the Zero Fare policy. I'm going to continue to advocate for communities most impacted. If you support free fares please reach out to city councilors before their September 20 meeting. Infrastructure Bill and Public Transit is a bill that has been approved by Senate and this will significantly impact health and outcomes for people here in Albuquerque. We'd like to schedule another bus stop clean up and looking to schedule it on October 23.

Director's Report-Danny Holcomb, Director

Danny Holcomb: ART Ridership; 109,096 passengers for August, decrease of 25.40%. Mask mandate has been extended till January 18, new posters will be posted on our buses and bus stops. We have 81 MCO and 22 Sun Van vacancies and we're really pushing to get drivers hired. A new Union contract will be released soon for our drivers.

Steve Pilon: Does the new contract represent a raise?

Danny Holcomb: I can't elaborate because it has not been released.

Harris Balkin: How are we doing on collection of ART fares? EB buses approaching Locust leaving the ART lane rather than sharing the lane.

Danny Holcomb: We can ask Chris Payton where we are on ART fares. I will continue to let Operations know and ask that a supervisor is stationed at that location.

Unfinished Business

Danny Holcomb: RFP update; Budget office will be notifying vendors soon and will start process.

New Business

Mark Eshelman: *(Shared screen; Transit Projects Update Presentation)*

Transit Centers; Alvarado Transportation Center working on renovation the fountain, improvements to the lobby floor, ADA automatic doors. CUTC (Central and Unser Center) undergoing roadway improvements. Park & Ride; Spanish Bit has a new monument sign, access control system at James Dwyer Substation for restroom facility for drivers. New addition to signage and way finding for Montano stop. Maintenance Facilities; Daytona bus parking improvements and restriping pedestrian walk ways, Daytona fire protection for parts mezzanine updating sprinkler system, Gas detection update. Bus Route Facilities; paint, sign detail, lights, canopy improvements. ART Corridor Enhancements; pinned-curd, stop bars and guideways. Bus Stops; ADA bus pad installations at various locations. Bus Shelters; layouts and landscaping.

Steve Pilon: I'd like to see more bike racks installed at the facilities.

Don McIver: There needs to be "look both ways" sign in the cut on Buena Vista on the Central and University area because it's a major bike route into the University.

Harris Balkin: Will EDO station get a lower cut coverings?

Mark Eshelman: Yes.

Patricia Salisbury: There needs to be a ramp at the EB stop on Menaul at Coronado Center in front of the Macy's parking lot.

Christopher Ramirez: Do you have a project update on San Pedro ART station?

Jennifer Jackson: At one time there was a plan to have a shuttle service circular. Perhaps coordinate shuttle service with the bus.

Christopher Ramirez: We're looking at doing some co-branding information and do some advertising on buses about in person lunches for seniors and free fares. I would appreciate if you can attend the Veterans Advisory Board Meeting. Patricia was able to attend a health fair at Senior Centers

Patricia Salisbury: The next Health Fair is at Barela's Senior Center on September 15.

Christopher Ramirez: Kansas City implemented zero fares in December 2019 and their recorded information includes safety incidents on their buses decreased by 60%. They worked with homeless service providers, educational institutions to invest in Zero Fares. Visit the website I noted in the chat.

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

Don McIver: What Councilors seem to be back tracking?

Christopher Ramirez: Councilor Bassan has some security concerns.

Harris Balkin: Thank you to the Adopt a Stop Program for the cleanup at the bus stop at the library in front of Edith.

Steve Pilon: I know the Board voted overwhelmingly in favoring Zero Fares, but I believe it works at cross purposes at improving the quality and frequency of bus service and makes it impossible to charge for Sun Vans and it represents a large revenue loss that makes it more difficult to pay our drivers adequately and improve our services. El Paso just recently proposed raising their fares. I just want to keep the alternate approach out there.

Markie Anderle: LA Metro has also done a Pilot Free Fare Program.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:23 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, 2021; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

16:09:38 From Don McIver : david
16:12:22 From Markie Anderle (She/They) : I had to step away for a moment for urgent call, I will be right back
17:10:46 From Jennifer Jackson : I've got to run. Have a nice evening everyone!
17:15:14 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands/Albuquerque : <https://zerofarekc.com/>
17:23:28 From Markie Anderle (She/They) : In addition to that document, Smart Growth America is a great resource for easy to read reports on various transit topics, and they have a specific social equity lens