

**Transit Advisory Board**

December 10, 2020

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 953 6373 7806

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

**Members Present**

Christopher Ramirez, Chair (ZOOM); Kathy Foster, Vice Chair (ZOOM); Harris Balkin (ZOOM @ 5:30pm); Rachel Hertzman (ZOOM @ 4:37pm); Brendan Miller (ZOOM)); William Moore (Phone); Steve Pilon (ZOOM); Orville Pratt (ABSENT), Patricia Salisbury (Phone & ZOOM)

**Staff Members Present**

Danny Holcomb, Director (ZOOM); Stephanie Dominguez, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM); Zechariah Freeman, Marketing Communications Coordinator (ZOOM); Chris Payton, Fiscal Manager (ZOOM)

**Visitors Present**

Terra Reed, Vision Zero Coordinator, Division of Municipal Development, City of Albuquerque (ZOOM); Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM)

**Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Ramirez would like to start off the meeting with a land acknowledge. 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 4:11 pm.

**Approval of Agenda or Additions**

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the December 10, 2020 agenda. Patricia Salisbury moved to approve the agenda and Brendan Miller 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Kathy Foster, Brendan Miller, William Moore, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes. Brandon Miller requested an edit on page one under Land Acknowledgement to change inexistence to in existence. William Moore made a motion to approve the amended minutes and Kathy Foster 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Kathy Foster, Brendan Miller, William Moore, Steve Pilon and Patricia Salisbury.

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

Terra Reed: I’m happy to be here. Vision Zero is a traffic safety effort the city is taking on to address policy, street design, education and encouragement. We are working on an action plan to help guide the city. We put out a survey to get feedback to help implement a plan. I will include it in the chat.

Brendan Miller: I would like to suggest implementing service on the 8 Menaul to serve 12th Street, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and all other routes along 12th Street to match the weekday routing, so it’s the same schedule 7 days a week.

Patricia Salisbury: I second what Brendan is suggesting.

**TAB Chairperson’s Report – Christopher Ramirez and Kathy Foster, Vice Chair**

Kathy Foster: I would like to propose the Transit Advisory Board come up with a Mission Statement and as we’re forming the Mission Statement I also propose we come up with a Stakeholder Analysis.

Chris Ramirez: I’d like to have individual conversation with TAB members about that and also want to invite Transit staff to help co-create the Mission Statement.

Kathy Foster: Please put any questions or comments in the chat.

Patricia Salisbury: I thought we had already come up with a Mission Statement and decided to have it read before each meeting.

Chris Ramirez: We can look into to that because we don’t want to start from scratch if there has already been work done. I’d also like to bring up the announcement made, by the department, of the significant hour changes and cuts to the routes. Please take a look at those so we can help support getting routes back up.

**Director’s Report-Danny Holcomb**

Danny Holcomb began his report with ridership numbers. November’s ridership was 295,324 passengers for fixed route, compared to November of last year this is a decrease of about 57 percent. Margaret Lucero sent out an email to the TAB members with the ridership numbers.

We are doing everything we can to get to the point of opening routes back up and increasing service, once we are able. I’ve received concerns about routes, 50, 97 and 8. We’re looking at ridership numbers and have more flexibility on creating bigger extra board and adding helper vans to those areas of concern.

Brendan Miller: Do you have response to the 8 Menaul adjusting it from 6th St. to 12th St. on weekdays and weekends?

Danny Holcomb: Yes, I mentioned route 8.

William Moore: Is there a reason the ART buses are using Lomas Avenue?

Danny Holcomb: Constructions or detours on Central.

William Moore: So Lomas is not part of a designated route for ART?

Danny Holcomb: No, if there is construction, detours or protests on Central we are going to use Lomas.

William Moore: How will the passengers know there’s a detour?

Danny Holcomb: The road supervisors let passengers know and it’s also on our website.

William Moore: Does the bus stop on Lomas?

Danny Holcomb: There are no stops on Lomas.

William Moore: Does someone inform the passengers on board of the detours.

Danny Holcomb: Yes, our bus driver will inform them as much as they can.

William Moore: Is there a monitoring processes in terms of pollution. I saw a bus on the road that probably shouldn’t have been.

Danny Holcomb: Please call it in to 311 with a bus number and we’ll have maintenance look at it. All of our buses go through a line up for refueling, cleaning and if there’s any work that needs to be done maintenance is responsible for taking care of it.

Brendan Miller: The 790 ARTx blue line was converted to an ART route a few months back and that route does serve Lomas.

Danny Holcomb: Thank you Mr. Miller for reminding me about the 790.

**Unfinished Business**

Chair Ramirez: We can start with Mr. Pilon’s presentation.

Steve Pilon: *Mr. Pilon presented with a slide show* *titled:* *Transit System Re-Design: Houston 2015 Miami-Dade 2020*. We have the RFP being considered and seems like a lot of places are doing it. Mr. Pilon introduced Jarrett Walker, master mind behind these Transit designs. Goals of ridership-oriented networks: replace automobile trips with transit trips, serve more riders with same resources, reducing environmental impact through lower VMT (vehicle miles travel), ensuring that everyone has access to some transit service. Coverage or Ridership, goal determine types of service. Mr. Pilon’s slide showed the difference of goals with types of service with Legacy system at 50% ridership & 50% coverage and redesigned system at 80% ridership & 20% coverage.Legacy system: radial and oriented to old downtown, peak hours weekday commuters; New system: grid and multi-centric, all time, increased midday, evening and weekend service. With the Houston redesign 2015: ridership results increased from 39.5 million boardings to 42.5 million boardings, an increase of 7.5%.

Rachel Hertzman: What is the difference between Albuquerque and Houston in terms of funding source and population?

Steve Pilon: Houston is probably five times bigger than Albuquerque. I’m not sure what funding source they have. I believe they have an independent funding agency. They have their own board that’s not run by the city. They have a Transit agency that oversee multiple jurisdictions.

*Continued with presentation*

Second example: Miami-Dade Re-design: Surveyed riders on key choices, released two different network concepts for discussion and debate. 84% of respondents agreed that MDT should change the bus system so people can get more places more quickly. 59% of respondents preferred the ridership concept and 26% preferred the coverage concept. Evaluation: Move stops father apart? 72% respondents said that stops should be at least a fourth mile apart.

Chris Ramirez: Reminded Mr. Pilon of his 15 minute mark.

*Continued with presentation*

Steve Pilon: New Network results: with redesign, someone living in Liberty City can get to 60% more jobs and 50% more people in same time as before redesigned.

Lessons for Albuquerque: Redesign process, Ridership focused re-design would support/ reinforce existing plans, Existing users vs New users. Last two slides show maps of Albuquerque with various destinations hospitals, shopping, employment centers, entertainment, etc. If we wanted to recreate a ridership oriented network that formed the basis of the backbone of the Transit system for Albuquerque we can run the lines projected here. *(slide includes a map of ridership oriented network for Albuquerque)*

Chris Ramirez: If there are any questions or comments for Mr. Pilon please put add those to the chat. We will move on to RFP update.

Danny Holcomb: We continue to work on it. The key members are Mr. Payton, Ms. Dominguez and Mr. De Garmo. We will also want to get some input from the TAB members.

Chris Ramirez: We are moving forward with staff appreciation by providing breakfast burritos for the Transit staff. I’m working on gathering community and TAB member donations.

Chris Ramirez: Mr. Holcomb do you have any updates on San Pedro station?

Danny Holcomb: We are working on our options and pushing as hard as we can to get it going.

Chris Ramirez: I’m very interesting in this process, I understand there has been some funding issues, but that funding has been found by Councilor Davis to help make this happen. Is that correct?

Danny Holcomb: To be determined.

Chris Ramirez: I’d like to move into New Business with Ms. Dominguez’s presentation about how we can support our drivers being paid fare wages.

**New Business**

Stephanie Dominguez: I want to start off by saying all essential workers are important and appreciate the work everyone does. We have taken a look at Motorcoach Operator (MCO) wages compared to Solid Waste wages. I want to go over a few differences between the two. Minimum requirements are the same, however, in order to become a MCO you need two years of continuous driving experience and a valid license. It is not required to have a CDL when applying for a MCO. We do training with individuals to obtain their CDL. We also hire individuals who already have a CDL. Solid Waste drivers require to have three years of CDL driving experience.

I took a look at where the employees fall in terms of pay classification. MCOs fall under four different pay rates; probationary rates at $14.28/hr., $16.32/hr. with 178 drivers, $17.34/hr. with 8 drivers and $20.12/hr. with 6 drivers. Solid Waste drivers have two pay steps, probationary rate at $18.34/hr. and $19.34/hr. with most of their drivers at that rate.

Chris Ramirez: Ms. Dominguez can you email this information with the TAB members? As the Transit Advisory Board, what is the number we can ask the City to commit to bringing the Transit drivers in parity with the Solid Waste drivers?

*Presentation was emailed to TAB members after the meeting.*

Stephanie Dominguez: I can work with Chris Payton to get the cost of what that would be too see an equal pay between the two. Both Transit and Solid Waste drivers are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, so any wage increase is negotiated with 624 Blue Collar or 624 Transit. Both have the same Union President.

Chris Ramirez: We’ll move onto Chris Payton’s presentation: ABQ Ride & Budget process

Chris Payton: *Mr. Payton presented with a slide show.* We have a 1.1 Million Annual Budget (all funds except CIP). Revenue Source: GRT; Interfund and fund balance; enterprise, property tax, intergovernmental, charges/permits. General process for budget is as follows: five year forecast, budget call memo, budget instructions to departments, departments submit budgets, CAO budget hearings, proposed budget documents due to City Council, City Council considers budget proposal, budget adopted, Departments submit organization chart to match FY/22 approved budget. Most increases to our budget are cost of living increases. COVID response for the department is costing us about $500,000 annually and this expected to be absorbed by existing budget.

Chris Ramirez: Are there particular taxes or ability to raise funds for Transit? Is there anything that we can advocate to raise funds and create revenue for Transit?

Chris Payton: One area we would like to see more funds for CNM and UNM. We get a very modest amount of money to provide service for them. COVID is having a lot of impact on revenue.

Steve Pilon: How much of the budget is isolated between departments? For example, the money that is brought into the Aviation department has to stay in that department, also with Solid Waste. Is that correct?

Chris Payton: Yes, that is correct. They’re really restrictive about the use of their funds.

Chris Ramirez: Mr. Payton can you please share your presentation with the board? I’d also like to move on to Mr. Freeman.

*Presentation was emailed to TAB members after the meeting.*

Zack Freeman: There is an existing poster of Rosa Parks that will be redone for Transit Equity Day.

Chris Ramirez: We have received a lot of good Press because of our graphics and language is in English and Spanish. I think it makes sense to update the graphics you have.

Zack Freeman: I believe it should be fresh and new every year. Using the same poster every years shows a lack of imagination. I do like the idea of including different languages. Please share our social media and encourage people to follow us.

Patricia Salisbury: I hope there is information included about Rosa Parks.

Chris Ramirez: I agree with Patricia

Kathy Foster: Thank you Mr. Freeman. I do social media for a Grant so I appreciate the suggestion to share and invite people to follow.

Chris Ramirez: Mr. Freeman I would also like to invite you to our future meetings to share ideas to bump up social media.

Zack Freeman: It is important to get as much as support from TAB.

Kathy Foster: It might be a good idea to show us on the next meeting how and where to like, comment and share.

Chris Ramirez: I’d like TAB to join me in sending Mr. Moore well wishes and lots of good energy. Thank you Mr. Moore for your time and dedication to the Board.

William Moore: Thank you and you’re welcome. I enjoyed my time on the Board.

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

No public comment

**Adjournment**

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

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 2021; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM)**

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

16:14:49 From Margaret Lucero to Christopher Ramirez(Privately) : You skipped Brendan

16:23:26 From Terra Reed: Vision Zero survey: https://arcg.is/rrmCK (will be closing it at EOB tomorrow!). You can also reach out to me if you have specific questions/comments beyond the survey: treed@cabq.gov

16:23:45 From Terra Reed: And in Spanish if anyone needs it: https://arcg.is/1G9CT1

16:39:05 From Christopher Ramirez: See your hand Mr. Miller

16:40:50 from Christopher Ramirez: Welcome Ms. Hertzman

16:41:17 From Christopher Ramirez: Please let me know if you have any questions for Mr. Holcomb.

16:42:15 From Steve Pilon: I had the same observation

16:43:05 From Rachel Hertzman: Thank you Chair Ramirez. My apologies for being late, I was on a work meeting. My hope is that you will excuse me. Also, I noticed that on the CABQ website, it looks like my term expired in September 2020. Please clarify. My understanding was that it had been renewed. Thank you.

16:43:06 from Steve Pilon: as Brenden

16:53:47 From Rachel Hertzman: Steve, Did I miss their funding source info?

16:59:44 From Terra Reed: All, I've got to run for another commitment. I looks forward to getting to know you all better!

17:00:10 From Kathy Foster: Thank you, Terra!

17:26:04 From Margaret Lucero to Christopher Ramirez (Privately): Do you need to extend meeting

17:31:54 From Margaret Lucero to Christopher Ramirez (Privately): I extended meeting for 15 minutes

17:34:12 From Christopher Ramirez to Margaret Lucero (Privately): Thank you. We will end before that

17:36:34 From Zack Freeman: Email zfreeman@cabq.gov

17:39:12 From Kathy Foster: happy holidays, everyone!