



Transit Advisory Board Agenda
October 8, 2020
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM
Meeting ID: 977 3894 1972
Phone#: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782

Members Present

Christopher Ramirez, Chair (ZOOM); Harris Balkin (ZOOM); Rachel Hertzman (ZOOM); Brendan Miller (ZOOM); William Moore (Phone); Orville Pratt (ZOOM); Patricia Salisbury (Phone)

Staff Members Present

Zechariah Freeman, Marketing Communications Coordinator (ZOOM); Stan Low, IT Division Manager, Application Development Manager (ZOOM); Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM); Sandra Saiz, Fixed Route Manager, (ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Nate Begay (PHONE); Rex Colorado, New Flyer of America (PHONE); 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, it's on pueblo land and referred to as Tiwa people. We are all on Tiwa land and 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 October 8, 2020 agenda. William Moore moved to approve the agenda and Orville Pratt 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Rachel Hertzman, Brendan Miller, William Moore, Orville Pratt and Patricia Salisbury.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the September 10, 2020 minutes. Patricia Salisbury made a motion to approve the minutes and Orville Pratt 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Rachel Hertzman, Brendan Miller, William Moore, Orville Pratt, and Patricia Salisbury.

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

Patricia Salisbury needs clarification why buses are not allowed to stop on fixed routes when they are on detour, but other drivers had stopped for her before when the bus was on detour.

Sandra Saiz: If there is not a normal stop we can set up a temporary stop, but we should be accessing those already existing stops. I will look into it and address it.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez

Chair Ramirez: I'm still following up City Council and Mayor's Office regarding the resolutions. I'm hearing folks are still considering both resolutions we submitted in May about fare free transit during COVID and in July about mobilizing police for protest. I was asked to join the Human Rights Board of the City of Albuquerque for their monthly meeting. They are going to adopt our second resolution and submit that to the Mayor and City Council. The speaker I had lined up to speak about their experience of being a dependent transit user during COVID had to cancel last minute.

Director's Report-Sandra Saiz, Fixed Route Manager

Sandra Saiz began her report with ridership numbers. Para transit SunVan service, August ridership 7,031 trips compared to last year this is a decrease of about 68.3 percent. ART bus, July ridership 91,841 passengers, nothing to compare to. Fixed route, September ridership 349,035 passengers compared to last year, this is a decrease of 54.67 percent.

Danny recently received a copy of the resolution regarding the use of transit vehicles for police during protest back from legal, but has not had a chance to review it.

We also received an email from Rail Runner a couple weeks ago that they will start to implement an abbreviated schedule, but today received another email they are holding off on service, until further notice.

Update from Operations, we are working on CDL and training for the drivers. We are doing hourly cleaning in Operations, spot cleaning on frequently touched surfaces on buses. We also received a new free standing temperature scanner/tablet, which allows more accurate readings, at all of our facilities. If an employee's temperature is above normal they are not allowed in the building and we ask them to call the NMDOH hotline. Employees have to go through screening every time they are entering the building.

William Moore: Needed clarification on Rail Runner service

Brendan Miller: Needed clarification on Para transit ridership.

Rachel Hertzman: Received the resolution to approve, but asked Chair Ramirez if it can be sent 24 hours before we meet?

Chair Ramirez: I will do that moving forward.

Zechariah Freeman: We just concluded our first MCO driver recruitment program, Ad Wallet, it's a great resource that you pay to use. We ran a campaign for driver recruiting from the Northwest side of Albuquerque and South valley. I'm still working with HR to see what a spike looks like in relation to people applying because the City website is where they are directed to. There is more to that and I will provide my email address if anyone wants to contact me about that.

We just completed a bus stop audit and took pictures of all the stops that have old, out dated material. We are working on a project with Lamar to fill as much of their unsold inventory. We have plans to reach out to UNM & CNM Art and Photography Department for student art, City employees and grade schools to see if they would be interested in having their art displayed on a bus shelter.

We need our social media to be more interesting. We can also show off our own people to Albuquerque, which will help our moral.

We don't want to dependent on job sites, when it comes to recruiting drivers, so having one more venue for us to effectively advertise is important. We did an employee survey to see what kind of resources we have within our employee group. We tried to make it fun with games and raffles to try to make employees happy about working for Transit. When we're not working on recruiting we are working employee appreciation.

Chair Ramirez: Can we partner with Transit, in terms of social media to share stories of people who depend on the bus right now to get to work, and medical resources. Also promote people wearing mask appropriately and in different languages?

Zechariah Freeman: We are working to add more stories for social media to talk about Albuquerque centric experiences. I sent out a team to interview passengers and bus drivers to ask for their experiences. We are active on Facebook and Twitter

Harris Balkin: I want to remind everybody to share on Facebook to get the message out to a bigger population base.

Unfinished Business

Chair Ramirez: Any update on RFP study?

Sandra Saiz: No update at this time.

Chair Ramirez: TAB & ABQRide engagement project. I was not able to follow up with the group, but I will so we can have a proposal of activities to move forward for the next meeting.

Patricia Salisbury: I want to remind you October 16 – November 3, I will be working the elections.

Chair Ramirez: Also a reminder ABQ Ride will be free on November 3 for Election Day.

Chair Ramirez: San Pedro ART station update: I recently had some communication with Senator Heinrich's staff and they are going to help me do some research on what happened with this ART planning project and possible federal grants that will provide 1.3 million that will be needed to complete the San Pedro ART station.

Sandra Saiz: I do not have an update, but I will send a message to Danny so there is an update for the next TAB meeting.

Patricia Salisbury: There was also a discussion about canopy plans for Rio Grande and Central.

Harris Balkin: Rio Grande station currently has a smaller canopy that have been put up.

Patricia Salisbury: They are gone, they were just put up temporarily.

New Business

Chair Ramirez: We did not vote in July about our meeting schedule. The resolution states that we will meet the second Thursday of each month from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Margaret can add the resolution to ABQ Ride's website so the meetings are available to view by the public. We do need a motion to approve the calendar.

Patricia Salisbury made a motion to approve the resolution, Harris Balkin 2nd the motion.

Harris Balkin made a motion to vote on the resolution regarding meetings for Transit Advisory Board, Rachel Hertzman 2nd the motion.

The motion was voice approved by Harris Balkin, Rachel Hertzman, Brendan Miller, William Moore, Orville Pratt and Patricia Salisbury

Chair Ramirez: Mr. Pilon was not able to join today's meeting due to a conflict, so we will postpone his presentation.

Second Round of Public

Rex Colorado: It is great how accessible the TAB meetings are.

Sandra Saiz: We got on the radio to make sure we are using the stops, if requested by a passenger. Tonight we will print a notice for the drivers so they know to use the stops. I apologize for the confusion. This is an easy fix and I appreciate the feedback.

Adjournment

Chair Ramirez, chair asked for a motion to adjourn, Patricia Salisbury motioned to adjourn meeting. Rachel Hertzman 2nd the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2020; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM)

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

16:05:16 From Rex Colorado : I joined twice, as I need to be mobile soon after daughter's volleyball game, I'm in CST out of Houston...trying to learn how to better support ABQ Ride. Rex C.

16:16:30 From Z 505 : I am going to leave and re-join in order to fix audio.

16:39:37 From Christopher Ramirez : christopherramirez@mac.com

16:39:59 From Christopher Ramirez : christopher@togetherforbrothers.org

16:40:18 From Z 505 : zfreeman@cabq.gov

16:40:28 From Rachel Hertzman : not all of us are utilizing f-book