



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, May 9, 2024

4:00pm-5:30 pm

In Person Meeting at
Alvarado Transportation Center
100 1st St SW
2nd Floor, Mercer Conference Room
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM
<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/81653519780>
Meeting ID: 816 5351 9780
Phone#: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782

Members Present

Samuel Jensen, Chair (ZOOM/ATC); Steve Pilon, Vice-Chair (ZOOM); Althea Atherton (ZOOM/ATC); Michael Devin (ZOOM); Jennifer Layne Frederick (ABESNT); Ben Garland (ZOOM); Michael Patrick Martin (ZOOM); Jett Metcalf (ABSENT); Dara Osher (ZOOM); Jennifer Restrepo (ABSENT); Katherine Sullivan (ZOOM)

Staff Members Present

Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM); Andrew deGarmo, Principal Planner (ZOOM), Sandra Saiz Transit Manager Fixed Route Operations, Madeline Skark, Marketing and Communication Specialist (ATC/ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Kelsey Walker (ZOOM); Aaron Sussman (ZOOM), Albert Lee (ZOOM); TASS (ZOOM); Ana Rios (ZOOM); Carlos Michelen Stofer (ATC/ZOOM); Peter Rice (ZOOM), Monty (ZOOM); Hally Bert (ZOOM)

Land Acknowledgement

Samuel started meeting with a land acknowledgement reflecting on the fact that Albuquerque and New Mexico sits on unceded indigenous land and indigenous people still comprise over 14% of the population of our State. That population faces many disparities that are disproportionate compared to other populations of New Mexico. Through this committee, I'd like to work towards equity for all people in the State, including indigenous people and honor their stewardship of this land.

Call to Order

Samuel Jensen, Chair, began the meeting at 4:02pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the May 9 agenda. Patrick Martin made a motion to approve the May 9 agenda, Althea Atherton 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, and Katherine Sullivan

Approval of Minutes

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the April 11 meeting minutes. Dara Osher motioned to approve April 11 meeting minutes, Patrick Martin 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Ben Garland, Patrick Martin, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, and Katherine Sullivan

Michael Devin-abstained
Samuel Jensen-abstained

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

Patrick Martin: Typically if a car is not detected at an intersections the green light is skipped, the ART lanes currently goes protected, left, all traffic, then end. Is there any way ART doesn't have to wait for the protected lefts to complete before moving?

Carlos Strofer: New ART station floors are looking nice with the epoxy. While on an ART bus all passengers were kicked off by the driver because the driver smelled marijuana. Is that a new policy?

Madeline Skrak: New PIO for Transit

TAB Chairperson's Report – Samuel Jensen, Chair

Samuel Jensen: Contact your Councilor to encourage to keep or increase transit budget.

Information Items

Aaron Sussman, Toole Design and Kelsey Walker, Toole Design presented [ABQ RIDE Forward Network Plan Phase III: Recovery Report](#)

Samuel Jensen: What happened to the non-budget revenue neutral option? How will you address demographic gap moving forward?

Andrew deGarmo: We just have decided for public input simplicity purposes now because getting back to 2019 service levels is already a little bit ambitious. Now we just focus on this recovery network because that's really what we can manage in the next couple years. We're going to make a concerted effort again to let our current riders know, we're going to be doing it all summer so it gives more time for people to learn about the effort and try to get their responses.

Aaron Sussman: We're going to keep our feedback period open through August 31.

Andrew deGarmo: This meeting was to present the report and give you a preview. A lot of this is still in motion, but we really wanted to show you guys the results of the planning effort we had put together so far. We're asking to help us spread the word. We're looking at June 5 for Stakeholder Workshop 4:30pm-6:30pm.

Samuel Jensen: We can set aside more time next month to talk about this.

Director's Report: Sandra Saiz, Fixed Route Operations Manager

Sandra Saiz: March fixed route, including ART, 553.9K passengers and 15.8K passengers for Sunvan. Budget update for Transit, our Budget submission is proposed at \$65.4 million for FY25, up from \$58.2 million in FY24. The \$7.2 Million increase includes: \$2.6M is to cover federal matching requirements for new grants that Transit has received, the primary one being for zero emission vehicles to be added to the fleet in 2027. \$1.9M for annual cost of living wage and benefit increases and mid-year positions changes. Last year, our budget was reduced by about \$5 million due to cost savings from reduced service. They have restored half of this amount or \$2.5M for our budget this year.

Adopt a Stop Community Cleanup is asking for volunteers Saturday, June 1 9am-12pm, meet at Uptown Transit Center to help clean bus stops along Route 66. All cleaning equipment will be provided.

Andrew deGarmo: Posters will be going up about San Mateo frequency. We'll be adding a bus to San Mateo Route on June 1.

Action Items:

No action items

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

Carlos Strofer: Spanish version on ART bus for instructions on where to put your bike does not make any sense.

Althea Atherton: People who ride the bus are capable and knowledgeable enough to distinguish what a realistic next step is and a dream plan. I want to make sure that we're not saying anything as a board to imply that people don't know what's good for them. I think a lot of times they do know what's good for them. They do know that they're carrying their groceries and coverage actually is more important to them in their own personal lives. I want make sure we're being respectful of transit independent riders who are brilliant and wonderful people that I talk to every day.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:33pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 13, 2024; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

00:02:03 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: Margaret Lucero @ ABQ Ride at ATC
00:02:23 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: Samuel Jensen, TAB member @ ATC
00:02:38 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: Althea Atherton, TAB member @ ATC
00:03:06 Ben Garland: I'm on a bus, can't talk
00:03:21 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: Carlos Strofer, member of public @ ATC
00:03:31 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Dara Osher, TAB Member
00:04:01 Aaron Sussman, Toole Design: Aaron Sussman, Toole Design
00:05:04 hally bert (The Wilderness Society - Urban to Wild Albuquerque): hally bert - The Wilderness Society: Urban to Wild Albuquerque
00:05:28 Kelsey Walker, Toole Design: Kelsey Walker, Toole Design
00:08:22 tass: tass, member of public who rides transit
00:10:05 tass: No comments
00:17:09 Patrick Martin: deadline to sign up for public comment was 4pm :(
00:21:35 tass: Will the ABQ Ride Forward presentation be available online too?
00:22:47 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: Replying to "Will the ABQ Ride Fo..."

Yes it is currently on the ABQ ride network study website
00:31:10 tass: Reacted to "Yes it is currently ..." with 🖐️
00:32:30 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): What are the shaded areas on the high coverage concept?
00:33:01 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Thanks!
00:37:29 hally bert (The Wilderness Society - Urban to Wild Albuquerque): In the Phase II Report it looks like 76% of survey respondents were white. Bus riders who are white make up 37% of the weekday riders and about 56% of the City of Albuquerque is white. Additionally, less than 6% of survey respondents were under 24 years old. 16% of weekday ridership is under 24 years old and 31% of Albuquerque is under 24 years old. How will the Phase III engagement proactively address these gaps?
00:48:51 Ben Garland: It would be interesting to see an overlay of the separated bike paths on the recovery network.
00:49:05 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Reacted to "It would be interest..." with ❤️
00:49:08 Ben Garland: Reacted to "It would be interest..." with ❤️

00:49:27 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Reacted to "It would be interest..." with 👍
01:05:11 hally bert (The Wilderness Society - Urban to Wild Albuquerque): What ways is the city changing its approach or investing in different strategies to addressing the gaps in previous engagement efforts?

01:09:36 Michael Devin: Reacted to "It would be intere..." with ❤️
01:14:56 tass: Please announce the new ABQ Ride Forward survey on the ABQRIDE facebook page
01:16:41 Patrick Martin: Is SNL still involved in the stakeholder meetings? I know there was some issue in the past?

01:17:14 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Replying to "Is SNL still involve..."

01:17:32 May I ask what SNL is? I imagine it's not Saturday Night Live...
Patrick Martin: Replying to "Is SNL still involve..."

01:17:39 Sandia National Laboratories
Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Replying to "Is SNL still involve..."

01:18:24 Ooooh. Thanks!!
Ben Garland: Huh weird, my mic was on.

01:18:38 Would it be within the scope of the Toole Design contract to overlay the protected bike network onto the recovery network? I'd like to see ABQ Ride consider themselves as part of an overall transportation network.
Monty:My question is this: Has there been a recent policy change on passengers being banished from bringing onboard small disability carts/wagons (unless the items fit inside a medium-sized trash can bag)?

01:19:30 Monty:Myself and others have experienced a large # of drivers refusing admittance if we are carrying groceries in small carts.

01:19:39 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: Sandra can you respond to Monty's question please
01:20:30 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Question: 1) will demand response be a contracted service or operated by ABQRide?

Comment: 2) It would be nice to see the point jobs maps updated with data newer than 2018/2019 (pre-pandemic)

01:21:24 hally bert (The Wilderness Society - Urban to Wild Albuquerque): Thank you!
01:22:33 Patrick Martin: discussing at the next meeting also gives me more than 10 minutes to figure out what I want to ask :)

01:25:38 Monty:How soon will the April 2024 minutes be posted to the website? Seems to be missing.
01:27:17 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: April minutes will be posted tomorrow morning, they were approved tonight

01:27:31 Monty:Thank you. :)
01:28:06 ABQ Ride Mercer Room: You can always request a draft copy 10 days after a meeting
01:28:18 Monty:Reacted to "You can always reque..." with 👍
01:34:22 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Comment from the CABQ Sustainability Office:

We are beginning outreach for the ABQ Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and would like you to participate and spread the word.

1) The City is seeking applicants for a Community Task Force who can authentically represent and connect to communities of color, indigenous, and historically underserved communities.

<https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/regional-planning-efforts/central-nm-task-force-application-2024>

2) Community Visioning Survey 2024

<https://www.cabq.gov/sustainability/regional-planning-efforts/community-visioning-survey-2024>

01:34:25 Monty: That is the most behind route IMHO. San Mateo is often skipping buses as it is. :P
01:35:19 hally bert (The Wilderness Society - Urban to Wild Albuquerque): Thank you for letting me say
comments out of order ☺ I appreciate all of your hard work.
01:35:29 Monty: Some of the Spanish signs on the ART buses also are word-for-word but not complete :)
01:36:47 tass: Thank you
01:36:50 Aaron Sussman, Toole Design: Thank you!
01:36:55 Dara Osher (She/Her, TAB Member): Thanks for all your hard work on the network
redesign! Transit is super hard...
01:37:02 Ana Rios: Thank you!!