



Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, August 8, 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/89298831390>
Meeting ID: 892 9883 1390
Phone#: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782

Members Present

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

Staff Members Present

Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ATC/ZOOM); Leslie Keener, Director (ZOOM); Mike Davis, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Bobby Sisneros, Deputy Director (ZOOM); Jessica Luna, Facility Office Manager (ZOOM); Chris Bergs, IT (ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Albert Lee (ZOOM); TASS (ZOOM); Ana Rios (ZOOM); Peter Rice (ZOOM), Richard Meadows (ZOOM); Christopher Ramirez (ZOOM); Baruch Campos (ZOOM);

Land Acknowledgement

Steve 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 4:03pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the August 8 agenda. Althea Atherton made a motion to amend correction of title to Resolution from "Resolution Urging the City of Albuquerque to Continue the Zero Fare Program" to "Resolution Urging the City of Albuquerque to Celebrate the Zero Fare Program" Patrick Martin made a motion to approve the corrected agenda. Dara Osher 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Samuel Jensen, Ben Garland, Patrick Martin, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, and Katherine Sullivan.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Jensen asked for a motion to approve the June 13 meeting minutes. Steve Pilon made a motion to approve the June 13 meeting minutes, Michael Devin 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon, and Katherine Sullivan.

Samuel Jensen-abstain

Patrick Martin-abstain

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

Christopher Ramirez: Thank you to TAB for working with T4B and ABRU on Resolution.

I'm excited the TAB has supported Resolutions on Zero Fares. The Transit Dashboard is great and has very transparent information. It's great to lift up ACS as a first responder for our bus stops and buses to make our buses safer. A lot of the data shows behaviors are related to behavioral health or the need for a social worker or a cop. Asking TAB to push back on the false information that is creating a lot of fear on our buses.

Patrick Martin: I like the new turquoise color at San Mateo ART platform.

Michael Devin: Thank you to ABQ Ride staff for clarifying rules about taking a bike on a Sun van being used for fixed route.

Althea Atherton: Thank you Leslie for sticking out Council meeting till late and for all the time you put in after hours.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Samuel Jensen, Chair

No Chair update

Director's Report: Leslie Keener, Transit Director

Leslie Keener: June ridership ART 178,236 riders decrease of -10.5%, Fixed route 528,498 riders increase of 0.8%; Sun Van 14,876 riders decrease of -4.3%.

FTA approved transition to Automatic Passenger Counters (APC), so we'll see a big jump in ridership, as those are more accurate than fare box entries. We're continuing to run into vehicle availability. We're still having high short on the mechanic's side. They are working some mandatory overtime to make sure we make lineup. We had our hiring event on July 26 with 68 interviews, 27 MCO's, 20 Sun Van Chauffeurs, 1 Mechanic III and 4 Mechanic Helpers. Customer Service will be fully staffed. We did great for Bus Stop Maintenance positions. Vacancy rates: 25% SVC, 36% MCO, 45% Mech III and 80% Mech II. We have and Transit Safety Officers and PSA's riding buses. Long Ranger Security Plan was extended to December 31. Parametrix is moving along With internal staff surveys, data analysis. They will be doing comparative community analysis. They will start reaching out to communities similar to us and their network. In the next month or two there will be more public outreach. Press Conference on Saturday, August 10 at 11:30am at CUTC emphasizing Rules to Ride and talking over safety efforts and security. Council passed bus wrap resolution allowing advertising on buses between wheel wells, below the windows and on the back. We are bringing back the 790 route on August 19, starting at NWTC, to University area south with a turnaround in CNM area. Service will be during weekdays, 1 hour headway, and last trip returning to NWTC at 7:46pm

Mike Davis: Connect has been in service 4 months with 3,000 trips. We just had a quarterly review with Spare. Ridership continues to rise.

Althea Atherton: PSA are city services and are prohibited from advertising for 120 days before an election.

Ben Garland: Any sense of the demographics or riders on Connect?

Mike Davis We don't have good information on demographics, but could look into it in the future.

Patrick Martin: Happy to see restriction on wraps on windows. Great job to ABQ Ride on managing route cuts so well.

Steve Pilon: What is the route of 790?

Leslie Keener: Route remains the same, but does not go to UNMH.

Samuel Jensen: When will the new 790 schedule be up? Has there been talk on extending hours on Connect? When a new RFP is put out for bus ads, is there a way to put stipulations on what is advertised? Can Parametrix present at next meeting?

Leslie Kenner: IT will be out by end of week. All advertising has to be approved by department. We can reach out to Parametrix to see if that will work for them.

Mike Davis: We haven't talked about extending hours, but we can look at that and right now our peak hours are 3pm-5pm.

Ben Garland: How does it work if several people are at one stop requesting Connect?

Mike Davis: You can request a ride and request multiple rides can be put in, software will allow that.

Althea Atherton: Who sets the holiday schedule?

Leslie Keener: Transit staff

Samuel Jensen: I'd like to see service running 365 days a year.

Action Items:

Resolution Urging City of Albuquerque to Celebrate the Zero Fares Program, presented by Althea Atherton and T4B

Changes and corrections were made by Transit Advisory Board members.

Resolution approved and passed by:

Althea Atherton, Michael Devin, Ben Garland, Samuel Jensen, Patrick Martin, Dara Osher, Steve Pilon and Katherine Sullivan.

See Resolution on TAB website, next to August Meeting Minutes.

Information Items

Althea Atherton: I'd like to have a retreat in October with TAB members.

Ben Garland: Urban Land Institute is doing their sip and social Tues, August 13 at Tractor Brewing 4pm-6pm.

Samuel Jensen: NMDOT is hosting a Safety Summit at UNM August 27-28. Perhaps a staff member from Transit can attend.

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

Althea Atherton: Met someone with mobility concerns about taking the bus safely, perhaps we can keep that in mind for future and help people with those concerns, so they are not just limited to Sunvan.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:08pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2024; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM) or in person

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

00:10:00 Christopher Ramirez (they or he): Christopher Ramirez, Together for Brothers
00:10:14 Richard Meadows: Richard Meadows, Bernalillo County
00:12:35 Peter Rice / Downtown Albuquerque News: Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News
00:14:22 tass: No comments
00:20:55 Christopher Ramirez (they or he): It's the APD Chief Medina. But he's been told not to repeat this false information.
00:21:53 Christopher Ramirez (they or he): Thanks again everyone for supporting tonight's resolution!
00:22:19 tass: Reacted to "It's the APD Chief M..." with 🖤
00:44:17 Richard Meadows: Would you consider a Sawmill stop on the 790 (Rio Grande and Bellamah?)
00:44:34 Althea Atherton (TAB): Replying to "Would you consider a..."

That's a great idea!
00:45:37 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: Reacted to "Would you consider a..." with 🖤
00:47:27 Althea Atherton (TAB): Big fan of no gun ads on the bus! We want to be family-friendly
00:47:51 Althea Atherton (TAB): Reacted to "Would you consider a..." with 🖤
00:48:01 Ben Garland: Would be great to have restrictions on the color schemes used in ads too, so that it doesn't clash or distract from the official branding
01:06:38 Ana Rios, She/Her/Ella, T4B: Thank you all!
01:08:30 Althea Atherton (TAB): This is the article I mentioned: <https://citydesk.org/2024/city-beefs-up-bus-security/>
01:08:44 Ben Garland: https://newmexico.uli.org/events/detail/4790C729-2404-4E05-98AD-B58C7A54A7AB/?utm_source=realmagnet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Aug24%20SS%202
01:10:46 Patrick Martin: it's actually really impressive
01:10:59 Albert Lee (he/him), City of Albuquerque: NMDOT Transportation Safety Summit 2024 <https://www.dot.nm.gov/new-mexico-transportation-safety-summit/>
01:11:05 Ben Garland: Reacted to "NMDOT Transportation..." with 🖤