

The Wichita Transit Advisory Board met in regular session.

Present:

Sanford Alexander, LeAnna Beat, Troy Bruun, Jason Gregory, Robert Hamilton, Patricia Hileman, Michael Loop, Michael May, Robert Metoyer, Jeff Preisner, Rebecca Robertson, Moji Rosson, Greg Schneider, Janet Wilson, Robert Yelverton

Absent:

Shannon Bohm, Matt Byrum, Stan Reeser

1. Opening

The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on October 17th, 2018 in regular session by Chair Rosson.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Rosson presented a motion to the board to approve the minutes for the September 17th, 2018 Transit Advisory Board meeting. Minutes were approved as distributed, moved by Alexander and second by Preisner.

3. Public Comment

No public comments.

4. Discussion Items

a. Common Courtesy Kansas

Sheryse Navarro with Common Courtesy Kansas presented information to the Transit Advisory Board regarding alternative transportation services that her company provides. Her services are primarily used by senior citizens unfamiliar with how to book rides with Uber and Lyft. Navarro carries a Master's Degree in Aging Studies. She started her company about a year ago based on a similar model out of Atlanta, GA. She stated about two years ago the Red Cross discontinued rides for senior citizens. This discontinuation of services had a real impact on senior in the rural areas. Common Courtesy Kansas primary duties are to schedule rides using Uber or Lyft, which are rideshare companies. They are able to book these trips 24 to 48 hours in advance. There is a fee that is added this is typically \$3.00. In the portal that Navarro is able to access she can input information regarding the traveler as well as notifying the traveler when they can expect their ride. Lyft and Uber are an application rideshare service and many senior are hesitant to provide credit card information so they can send payment directly to Common Courtesy Kansas and the rides operate on a spend down basis.

b. Connecting Communities

James Gamez presented information regarding a Wichita Area Transit Feasibility Study that was entitled “Connecting Communities”. This study was used to gauge the demand interest and identify where residents live and work within the surrounding community. These areas were Andover, Derby Haysville and Maize. The feasibility study consists of three phases:

- Project Initiation
- Community Engagement
- Report Development

The first phase, Project initiation, began in April of 2018 and consisted of four parts (Kick-off, Review of existing transit, Regional Analysis, Existing conditions). The second phase, Community Engagement, consisted of six parts (Project Launch, Online Survey, Community Stakeholder meetings, Development of service alternatives, Follow up online survey and Follow-up Stakeholder meetings). The third phase, Report Development consisted of four parts (Refinement of service alternatives, Draft Final report, Board and Stakeholder presentation and Final Report). The surrounding cities identified as stakeholders were Andover, Derby, Haysville and Maize.

After careful analyzation of the 300 survey responses, 38% from Haysville the following recommendations were considered:

- Haysville – Wichita – Derby connector would cost approximately \$350K, timeframe for implementation would be 0 – 2 years.
- Andover – Wichita fixed route extender would cost approximately \$350K, timeframe for implementation would be 3-5 years.
- Maize – Wichita connector cost to be determined, timeframe 6 -10 years.

After some discussion some of the Transit Advisory board members inquired why Bel Aire, Kechi and Valley Center were left out of this study. However it was explained that these are baby steps towards our goal of regional transportation. The final report will have the details regarding this study.

5. Information Items

a. Ridership report

Ridership is up year to date by 12% with all services considered. The fixed route service is up 6% this September 2018 over last September 2017. The Q-line ridership in September 2018 is almost equal to last year, so there is very little change. Paratransit did a total of 6,485 rides in September, with a weekday average of 323. The TAB members commented that they would like more detailed reports regarding what percentage of the Q-Line ridership is lunch and special events, such as Open Streets that may have impacted ridership.

b. Financial Report

The Financials for the 3rd quarter were presented by Michelle Stroot. Expenditures were up year to date by 10.7% from 2017, and up \$921K for the year. Three new paratransit vans were purchased for \$290K was a large part of the increase in expenditures year over year. Personnel services are up 1.6% year to date. Wichita Transit manages the 5310 grant and passes funds through to other local transportation providers in the area through a selection process. Contracted maintenance saw an increase from last year due to the maintenance department is down by 2 mechanics. Internal IT and City Administrative charges are up because the first 3 quarters were not charged in time in 2017.

The 3rd quarter revenues is 1,502,989.58. Revenues are up 0.3% YTD from 2017. Fare revenues are the bulk of the increase in local revenues. In 2017, private contributions of \$120K for the Q-Line were reported. None have been reported in 2018, but are expected during the 4th quarter. Hyatt funds are received at the end of the year, so far \$363,063 of these funds have been spent. If revenues had been received the Transit fund would have a balance of \$126,932.32.

c. Director's update

Chair Rosson opened the floor to for the Director's report. Mike Tann announced that Scott Wadle, the Assistant Director would be presenting information relating to parking and Wichita Transit. Scott discussed the parking plan and the online survey regarding parking in the Downtown Wichita area. There will be an open house on the 7th or 8th more information will be distributed once available. Board member Beat inquired about the streetscape and bike lanes and how they relate to Wichita Transit. Scott stated that this is a large complex issue and we want to make sure that non-motorized user are safe.

7. Other Business

Mike Tann would like to hold a Mini Transit workshop/informational session for new and interested existing members. A doodle poll will be emailed to the Transit Advisory Board.

8. Announcements

The next Transit Advisory Board meeting will be held on December 5th, 2018. This will be a combined meeting for both November and December.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.