

The Wichita Transit Advisory Board met in regular session.**Present:**

Sanford Alexander, LeAnna Beat, Troy Bruun, Matt Byrum, Robert Hamilton, Patricia Hileman, Michael Loop, Rebecca Robertson, , Greg Schneider, Janet Wilson

Absent:

Shannon Bohm, Jason Gregory, Michael May, Robert Metoyer, Jeff Preisner, Stan Reeser, Jeff Preisner, Moji Rosson, Robert Yelverton

1. Opening

The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on January 16, 2019 in regular session by Vice-Chair Alexander.

2. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Alexander presented a motion to the board to approve the minutes for the December 5, 2018 Transit Advisory Board meeting. Minutes were approved as distributed, moved by Loop and second by Wilson.

3. Public Comment

Members of the public were instructed that if they would like to comment they would need to sign up in advance and comments would be limited to five minutes per person. Attorney Magana would be our timekeeper for this purpose.

Sharla Mills with DA4A requested to address the board. She just wanted to thank Wichita Transit for bringing back service to the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC). She stated that since service has been restored they are seeing more consumers.

Andrew Crane requested to address the board. He wanted to draw attention to a service that is currently in place at the Eisenhower Airport, a service called Aira. This is an application that is used to assist individuals who are visually impaired. He would like for Wichita Transit to look into providing this at the Transit Center. He also wanted to thank Wichita Transit for addressing accessibility of the stop at New Market Square.

Tracy A. requested to address the board regarding the issues with the system changes that were made in 2016, and how they continue to effect customers today. She also felt that the half fare prices should be extended to the monthly or weekly fares. She mentioned the lack of benches and the reduction of service hours at the Transit Center. She is not impressed with our service overall. She again mentioned that there are several stops that are not ADA accessible.

4. Information Items

a. 5310 Workshop Update

Mike Tann presented a brief overview of the 5310 Grant program. Wichita Transit is responsible for oversight related to this program that provide transportation services to disabled and elderly individuals in the Wichita area. This funding is a pass through to other agencies such as KETCH, Envision, and Starkey. This funding provides over \$800k in funding and is service based. The application deadline is March 15th, 2019, and runs from June 2019 to July 2020. Raven Alexander conducted a workshop with several agencies. In the past this funding was administered by the state. Raven Alexander is our general point of contact regarding the 5310 oversight. As questions and concerns arise we will address those with the FTA, once they become available and return responses to key stakeholders.

b. Marketing

Nate Hinkel provided the marketing report to the board. He discussed that the new brochures would be available in less than a week. There were route changes that took effect in December and we would be conducting direct mail surveys to gather some input from our riders. We have been in contact with 360wichita.com and they are willing to do come advertising on their site at no charge. On February 4th a pilot project for mobile hot spot will start. The mobile hotspot will be available at neighborhood centers. The SayYes program is in the process of being modified and we reviewing it as an extension of the school program. Our newest route 202 is a partnership with WSU and will run north to 29th and Oliver to the south WSU campus on Harry. This route is scheduled to begin service on January 22, 2019. Nate met with the Marketing Committee regarding more advisory board participation with the development of an ambassador program. However at this time there are no real specific details.

c. Transportation Department

Scott Wadle presented information to the board regarding parking in downtown Wichita. This was the first report that specifically addressed parking, occupancy and use. There are three garages that we monitor they are as follows: Macy's, Block I (Douglas) and SOB (State of Building). Typically we don't want to see occupancy above 90%, because this would indicate that there is a capacity issue and a rate change may be needed. In addition to the garages, Transit staff are responsible for multiple pay lots extra capacity at all of the lots. There are several parking related projects that Old town garages, Market Street Garage, State Office Building Garage and City Hall. A few of the board members mentioned that parking around Century II is difficult, some were surprised to learn that there were over 2K parking spaces in that area. Many were unaware that they could access the garages for parking. The suggestion was made to market parking more so the public is aware of where parking is available. Scott stated that the parking rates and info is available on Wichita.gov website.

d. Director's update

Vice-Chair Alexander opened the floor to for the Director's update. Mike Tann commented that ridership is up 4% from last December, and 13% overall from last year. The partnership that we have with USD 259 has proven beneficial not only to Wichita Transit but also the schools. The Mayors briefing was held at the Welcome Center at WSU to introduce our new route 202 service. In partnership with WSU all students and faculty can ride any route for free. Route 202 travels north to the WSU Metroplex all the way south to WSU South campus on Harry. Next Tuesday, January 22nd a new pilot regarding the scooters, there will be some sort of change in the ordinance. We have new fareboxes and there is potential for new media and ticket vending machine at the Transit Center. There is an accessibility study underway and Scott Wadle is the contact. In this study we hope to identify various accessibility challenges and address them where possible.

7. Other Business

Vice-Chair wanted to remind board members that if they have met or if there are any reports these should be included for meeting. Patricia Hileman stated that the Finance committee has met several times and the Communications committee met on January 4th and discussed a Transit ambassador program.

8. Announcements

Janet Wilson announced that the WIN – Annual meeting would take place on January 28th at 5:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church. They will be meeting with new elected officials and the tickets are \$25/person or a table for \$160. Food would be served at 6 p.m. at the panel would begin at 6:30 p.m. members of the board was invited to attend.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.