

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

Sanford Alexander, Matt Byrum, Robert Hamilton, Patricia Hileman, Darryl Kelly, Michael Loop, Michael May, Robert Metoyer, Rebecca Robertson, Moji Rosson, Greg Schneider, Janet Wilson

Absent:

LeAnna Beat, Shannon Bohm, Troy Bruun, Jason Gregory, Jeff Preisner, Stan Reeser, Robert Yelverton

1. Opening

The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on March 20, 2019 in regular session by Chair Moji Rosson.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Rosson presented a motion to the board to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2019 Transit Advisory Board meeting. Minutes were approved as distributed.

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. Hadassah P. requested to address the board regarding the lack of shelters or benches at the bus stop at Palisade. Staff was made aware of this request.

4. Discussion Items**a. Electric Buses**

Ken Dimick, Program Specialist, gave an update regarding the procurement of the seven electric buses. He stated that the buses would begin arriving in June 2019 and that Wichita Transit is working with Westar Energy regarding the infrastructure needed to charge the electric buses. Wichita Transit will receive three from the bus company CCW, they will be refurbished 30 foot buses. The electric buses will replace the trolleys. The electric buses are about \$900,000 a piece, the batteries are about \$200,000 a piece and will need to be replaced every six (6) years. The savings from switching from fuel to electric would be about one million dollars per bus. The buses would hold a charge for five hours if in use and 12 hours if not running. The board inquired about what would happen if there was a power outage, would our current generator be able to power up the vehicles. Unfortunately, our current generator would not be able to charge the bus, and currently

would not be cost effective. Some of the benefits of transitioning to a cleaner vehicle are smaller environmental footprint, lower maintenance costs, and lower noise pollution. We believe that there would be an increase in ridership also because of the novelty of riding an electric bus.

b. Micro Transit

Scott Wadle, Senior Management Analyst presented information to the board regarding Micro Transit. He stated that they had a conference call with TransLoc to review the results of the simulation analysis that evaluates two potential pilot configurations - South City (Spirit/McConnell area) and West (South of the Airport). Board member Wilson stated that when these pilots take place let the general public know so they can get support and become successful. This program would be similar to Uber vans.

c. Scooter Presentation

Scott also presented a brief overview regarding the Scooters. He has presented information to DAB 1, 2 and 6 to gain input regarding the policies and interest in this program. Members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback regarding scooters. There isn't a specific date in mind, potentially early May. This is depends heavily on getting the municipal code changes and addressing the skateboard/Scooter confusion.

5. Information Items

a. Transportation Department report

Scott Wadle presented information regarding the Parking Fund. He stated that some of the lots managed by The Car Park have transitioned from the mobile payment vendor Mobile Now to Park Mobile. The Park Mobile system will also allow for parking reservations, and can be used at sporting events. Transit Advisory Board members have indicated that adding the price of the parking into the cost of a ball park ticket could be helpful. This would allow for park and rides. Security is an issue that has been raised when it comes to parking downtown. We will present information regarding security incidents at a later date. Information regarding the parking lot use of Block I (Douglas), Macy (215 Main) and SOB (State office Building). He stated that the data regarding the use of Block I continues to unreliable due to errors with the parking equipment. The SOB garage continues to be underutilized. However, the Macy garage continues to show an average 90 percent occupancy. If this continues the city should consider a rate increase to keep the occupancy below the industry best practice of 85 percent. Staff are working on a contract to get the parking equipment at the City Hall campus replaced. Related to that project, the City is getting estimates for installation of new data fiber. Scott also highlighted several parking projects that are underway.

b. Marketing Report

Nate Hinkel presented information regarding the Wichita Transit marketing efforts. We placed a full page ad in the WSU Visitors guide, we are preparing for new fare boxes and electric buses, and we are continuing our marketing efforts for new routes and services.

Some of our community related events are as follows:

- March 27th – We all Eat, 21st & Ridge Extension office
- March 28th – Enders Elementary School career fair
- April 13th – Medical Mission at Home, Mueller Elementary School
- April 26th – Riverfest Trolley trivia for April Final Friday

Wichita Transit participated in the Transit Day at the Capital in Topeka, and Nate attended the South West Transit Association annual conference in El Paso, TX. Other marketing efforts include a trade agreement with KMUW, print and digital ads with “The Sunflower” WSU newspaper.

c. Director’s Update

Mike Tann, Wichita Transit Director, presented information regarding the ridership, he stated that overall ridership is improving. We are drilling down into the numbers. In 2012 and 2022 we are expecting the NCAA to return and it is important that Transit is view as a solution to the growing needs of our community. We are reviewing the survey results about the Bel Aire community. Northeast Magnet High school has over 100 buses in that area and with the development of the Medical Office park on Webb road Wichita Transit is needed more.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Announcements

None.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.