

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

Sanford Alexander, LeAnna Beat, Shannon Bohm, Troy Bruun, Jason Gregory, Robert Hamilton, Patricia Hileman, Darryl Kelly, Michael Loop, Greg Schneider

Absent:

Matt Byrum, Michael May, Jeff Preisner, Rebecca Robertson, Moji Rosson, Greg Schneider, Janet Wilson, Robert Yelverton

1. Opening

The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on June 19, 2019 in regular session by Co-Chair Sanford Alexander.

2. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Alexander presented a motion to the board to approve the minutes for the May 15, 2019 Transit Advisory Board meeting. Minutes were moved for approval by Hamilton and seconded by Bruun.

3. Public Comment

Although there were no public comments. Co-Chair Alexander had two questions regarding the article in the paper. Was the Transit Center moving and what exactly is the six level garage? Mike Tann, Transit Director stated that these would be addressed in the Transportation report and Director's Update.

4. Discussion Items

None.

5. Information Items**a. Marketing Report**

Nate Hinkel presented the Marketing report to the board regarding the updates that are taking place at the transit center. The idea is to create an interactive experience at the transit center. Our intern, Lauren Kerr is a Wichita native who attends school at Missouri State. She will be working with Nate on website updates and how to videos. Additionally, the follow the updates were also provided:

- World Refugee Day – June 20th, Hilltop Community Center 4- 8 pm
- City of Wichita Touch-a-truck event Saturday, July 13th, OJ Watson Park, 9-11am
- Summer Youth program update – our own free summer rides program
- Marketing for TransLoc micro transit pilot project

- Wichita Weekend with iHeart Radio aired June 9.
- Working on trade agreement with KMUW and Intrust Bank Area
- Full Page ad in the WSU Visitors guide – released Summer 2019

b. Transportation Department Report

Scott Wadle provided a brief overview of the Transportation report due to time constraints. Security continues to be addressed in the parking garages. The following parking updates were provided:

- Block 1, one of the adjacent businesses has keys to the gate and their employees are popping the gates in the evening, resulting in inaccurate occupancy counts and lost revenues.
- Occupancy at the 215 S Market Garage continues to be near the 85% best practice, may warrant a price increase to shift demand to other lots.
- Extra capacity exists at all the lots.

There are several ongoing projects in process. The highlights include:

- The Car Park is now producing monthly customized reports based on accrual instead of cash, to better enable tracking of the parking system. City Staff are working on creating a composite report to track monthly performance throughout the year.
- Staff from Wichita Transit are taking over the financial responsibilities from the City Manager’s Office. The Old Town invoices went out late for May, but June has been distributed on time.
- Parking Fund Lots are in the process of being sold by the City:
 - 324 S. Market
 - 319/325 S. Broadway
 - 122-114 N Emporia
 - 500 E. Douglas

Parking along Douglas by Mead Street will be transition to 2 hour parking because business are complaining that customers aren’t able to visit businesses because of parking is completely filled. Meeting with Occidental and Cargill is planned to discuss this issue. The Parking plan is being drafted now and will be presented to the Steering Committee for review, discussion and recommendations. Scott presented to the Co-Chair that someone from the Transit Advisory Board sit on the Steering Committee as a representative of Transit. Scott explained the Steering committee is a temporary committee and more information is available on the City Website. The time commitment is approximately as needed about an hour and half to two hours. Scheduled as needed typically around 4:30pm or 5:30 pm. Scott stated he would circle back to Co-Chair Alexander regarding a representative. The parking ambassador retired and the position is in the process of being filled. On a temporary basis one of the Transit Supervisors will be conducting parking enforcement. Scooter update the

City ordinance has been approved and we are working with two scooter vendors, Veoride and Zagster, on a pilot program. Two major events coming up, Oldsmobile of America, renting two lots and Music theater of Wichita will be at Century II will utilizing the garages free of charge and Wichita Transit will be providing shuttles. Bike share has seen its highest use about two weeks ago, unfortunately the graphs were not updated. It's important to understand that the bike itself is a smart apparatus and not the station so you could end your trip and park the bike at a restaurant and not at a station and someone else could check out the bike and ride off with it. Scott wanted to address the article regarding the Parking Garage and the layout of business around the ball park. So Wichita Transit is submitting an application to the FTA for a multi-modal transportation center. It will have some bus terminals and it will be six stories and will provide approximately 500 parking spots for that area. The planning department notes this center in one area and the article notes it in another area. Scott allowed Mike Tann to provide additional details regarding this plan.

c. Director's Update

Mike Tann, Wichita Transit Director, provided some general transit updates as well as addressed the Multi-Modal project in Downtown Wichita. The idea is to generate a free all day transportation services that would allow someone to park and ride to various locations in downtown Wichita. We are hoping to create a commuter bus service from Far West to Far East. This was a competitive bid process and in order to be considered we have to apply for this grant funding. This is about creating opportunities for the public to use different modes of transportation. Realistically the transit center should not be located so close to Arena related events due to traffic congestion issues. So we are looking at reasonable solutions for the long term.

It's a grant of 423 Billion dollars that will go to 50 states, in the scope of transit projects we want to make sure we have projects ready to go. This is the first step in a number of plans for transit. There will be charging stations for cars, ideally these would be provided by Tesla as they pay businesses to provide this service. There were several questions and comments regarding the placement of this facility and the reasonableness of placing this facility away from downtown and how it ties into the current parking plans. Mike Tann, stated that the current transit center was built in 1994, and the design is somewhat out dated. The grant funding was released on May 15th, 2019 and submissions are due June 21, 2019. It would be highly unlikely that we would be awarded something, but if we don't apply we are guaranteed to get nothing. Maximum reward amount of this grant would be 10% of the total amount, so it would be \$43 million dollars. The FTA knows if they put the capital investment out there people will use it.

We are nine Transit Bus Operators down at Wichita Transit, and we really don't want to put any additional stress on the current drivers. Board member Hileman, stated the school board previously authorized 290,000 for transit, next school year that will be increased to an amount not to exceed 600,000 for next school year. Total allocated for

transportation services is at 24 million dollars. The parents have the ability to approach the school board regarding the 2 mile distance in transporting students. Mike Tann stated as we begin to plan for the upcoming school year we know we have capacity to carry more individuals. Our overall ridership has seen a 12% increase in ridership, there is a tremendous amount of room for improvement. In approaching the next generation we are able to show them that riding the bus is not scary and we are able to offer travel training. The funds that we generate from actual ridership accounts for about 14% of our overall revenue. There are several route designs planned to incorporate our services to Schools and they are set routes. We are not allowed to compete with a private industry in providing transportation to students per FTA guidelines. Dominique Parker will be presenting the proposed new routes. There are a total of nine routes that will be adjusted these include the following routes:

- Route 11 – Ridge Road
- Route 12 – Tyler Road
- Route 16 – South Seneca
- Route 21 – North Hillside
- Route 22 – East Harry
- Route 24 – East Douglas – VA
- Route 25 – East Central
- Route 26 – South Hydraulic
- Route 28 – Grove

Changes to these route will allow for students and parents to access the buses more easily. Changes to Route 24 will still service the VA but it will be by request, Board member Hamilton would like for transit to review this proposed change as it could have a negative impact on established riders. Parker explained that there have been several recent accidents at the VA that influenced this decision. Route 28 will service the Chester Lewis school area, which is a hugely deserving area that would benefit from the transportation service. Mike Tann, stated that there will be two public hearing meetings to address any concerns or questions regarding the proposed changes.

7. Other Business

Scott Wadle will be attending the All – American Cities competition along with several other City of Wichita delegates in Denver, CO.

8. Announcements

Michael Loop provided a brief update regarding Janet Wilson. She is currently in rehab and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.