



The Wichita Transit Advisory Board met in regular session.

Present:

LeAnna Beat, Shannon Bohm, Troy Bruun, Matt Byrum, Dorsha Kirksey, Catherine McMurray, Craig Perbeck, Mika Pyyhkala, and Greg Schneider

Absent:

Jason Gregory, Darryl Kelly, and Moji Rosson

1. Opening

The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 10:01 A.M. on July 15, 2020 in regular session by LeAnna Beat.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Beat tabled the approval of minutes due to not having a quorum. Quorum was met at 10:04 A.M. Member Bohm proposed a motion to the board to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2020 Transit Advisory Board meeting. The minutes was second by Vice Chair McMurray. Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Public Comment

No one signed up to make a public comment to the board.

4. Discussion Items

A. Emporia Street Update

Shawn Mellies, Chief Design Engineer with the City of Wichita, provided an update with the Emporia Street Project. Shawn provide the board with an analysis of the existing roadway and the proposed changes. The adopted 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Program has \$400,000, collected from a couple property sales in the area, to convert Emporia to a two-way street, enhance on-street parking, add traffic signals, signage, and pavement marking.

5. Information Items

A. Marketing Report

A copy of the marketing report was emailed to the board with the current focus points:

- New programs and partnerships with Houck Transit Advertising to display sponsored messages throughout the buses at a lower cost.
- Veterans Ride Free Partnership with the Veteran Affairs and United Way (Starting approximately the end of July)
- Wichita State University transportation proposal and service information (A bid was submitted for the RFP and transit is thoroughly planning for the possible selection)
- FTA Safety Management System (Required to Adopt before the end of the year)
- 20 Ride Pass Design and Promotion Planning

In addition, Nate gave updates on past and upcoming community involvements.

B. Director's Report

Director Tann informed the board members of the Director's report. Key points were presented as follows:

- WT operation updates with the COVID-19 pandemic
Ridership and revenue dropped 50% during the COVID-19 statewide shutdown. Schools and companies either closed completely or reduced the number of operating shifts. Fixed route ridership is slowly increasing back to pre-covid levels while ADA Paratransit is back to the pre-covid numbers. CARES Funding was granted to the Transit Department for prevention, preparation for, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Transit must spend the money first and request for reimbursement from the CARES Fund. Transit Agencies are encouraged to spend the money now since there is not a guarantee timeframe that the money will remain available. An FTA FAQ sheet will be sent to board members to answer any questions regarding the CARES Funding.
- Status of Service Contracts
The Transit general fund was reduced by 5% for the next three years. USD259 and Wichita State has a transportation plan in place for when students return to school. USD259 has provided requirements and Wichita Transit is prepared and available to meet those needs. This not only allocates dedicated funding but will also strengthen relationships with our partners.

- Wichita State University RFP

On July 8th, Wichita Transit responded to a WSU RFP. The RFP focused on expanding or incorporating our route system into WSU campus loop and metroplex loop systems. It appears that our proposal to provide route service for WSU faculty and staff is being considered by the WSU administration.

- Battery-Electric Buses

First battery-electric bus will arrive on Monday, July 20th. A total of 11 electric buses will be here by fall 2020. The Marketing team is working on wrap design for the Q Line and WSU. Once those concepts are ready, they will be presented to the board for approval. Transit intent is to show off the new electric bus to the board next month and have a roll out for the public later.

- Multimodal Project Update

In November, transit was awarded \$17 million for a transportation center to be built. The center would be built on Sycamore and Oak, between Texas and Burton Street. The Multimodal project is at the beginning stages. A NEPA Environment Study must be completed. Transit is partnering with WAMPO to complete the needed study. For the grant money to be dispersed, we must have a conceptual design. Hopefully an RFQ would go out by the end of August. Transit anticipates this project will move quickly. Overall, we believe expanding transit service for leisure and business with this project. A document will be sent out to the board members to showing what was submitted to the grant application.

6. Other Business

- The agenda will be modified to replace other business to reflect old business and new business. This will change will ensure that all items are getting addressed and to enhance communication.
- Crash Analysis presentation will be emailed out to the board members for their review. If there are any questions regarding the presentation, they can be emailed to the transit staff and Amanda for answers.
- There are still vacant seats on the board that need to be filled. Interested parties could apply online at <https://boardsict.wichita.gov/board/2037> or in person at the Council Office located in City Hall.
- It is requested that board members review and update their contact information. If there are any changes, please send information to transit staff.

7. Announcements

None.

8. Meeting adjourned shortly at 11:15 A.M.