The Wichita Transit Advisory Board met in regular session.

Present:
Ellen Abbey, LeAnna Beat, Shannon Bohm, Matt Byrum, Darryl Kelly Jr., Dorsha Kirksey, Catherine McMurray, Mika Pyyhkala, and Troy Tabor

Absent:
Jared Curello, Jason Gregory, and Shana Chivon Stephens

1. **Call to Order**
The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 9:59 A.M. on March 17, 2021 in regular session by Chair LeAnna Beat.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
Member Abbey proposed a motion to the board to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2021, Transit Advisory Board meeting. The minutes were seconded by Member Bohm. Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. **Public Comments**
No one signed up to make a public comment to the board.

4. **Discussion Items**

   A. **Places for People Presentation - M. Hunt**

   Mary Hunt, the Principal Planner for the Metropolitan Area Planning Department, provided the Transit Advisory Board with the Places for People Presentation. In the late 2015 and early 2016, the City and County adopted the Community Investments Plan 2015-2035. This plan focused on population and employment growth, residential and commercial development, and reinvestment in older neighborhoods of Wichita. As of June 19, 2019, the plan was adopted by City Council and governing bodies to move forward with implementation steps. These steps include establishing a Wichita Land Bank, changes in the zoning regulations, and identifying appropriate incentives that will prompt redevelopment in the Established Central Area. For more information please visit: www.wichita.gov/placesforpeople
B. 5310 Grant Allocation Overview - R. Alexander

Raven Alexander, Wichita Transit Transportation Coordinator, provided the Transit Advisory Board with a brief overview of the Section 5310 program. The program is focused on improving mobility for seniors and individuals with the disabilities throughout the country by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding transportation options. WAMPO issued a call for projects, facilitated selections for screening of projects, and convened a project committee that recommended projects for the governing body(s). Applications were reviewed and funding recommendations will be allocated from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023.

C. Optimal Electric Bus Overview - Director M. Tann

Director Tann provided the board with an updated regarding Wichita Transit fleet. Wichita Transit paratransit buses are aging beyond the 6-year life expectancy that the FTA gives. Paratransit buses provide complimentary ADA services to senior and the disable community who are unable to use the regular fixed route service. Currently, Wichita Transit has a total of 24 cutaway paratransit buses. In 2019, these buses burned 92,000 gallons of gasoline, emitting over 1.9m pounds of carbon dioxide in the air.

The Federal Transit Administration issued a call for projects for a Low or No Bus Emission grant application. This application will provide federal funds to assist Wichita Transit in reaching its goal with replacing diesel and gas-powered fixed route and paratransit fleet with an all-electric fleet by 2030. Director Tann provided the board with a presentation reiterating the advantages of the new state of the art all electric Optimal EV bus, how it will lower operating cost, reduce carbon footprint, and benefit the people of Wichita.

The Transit Advisory Board voted and passed (7-0) for Wichita Transit to move forward with the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Bus Grant application process. Updates will be provided to the board.

5. Information Items

A. Delano Multimodal Procurement Update – K. Dimick

Ken Dimick, Program Specialist Procurement for the City of Wichita, provided the board with a procurement update. Key points discussed include:

- Selection Committee reviewed the 9 total Request for Qualifications (RFQ) proposals on March 8, 2021 and short listed the proposals to 4 companies for further evaluation:
  
  Garver, SJCF Architecture, TranSystem, and WSP

- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Interviews

  Scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2021
• Award Design Contract
  Tentative for April 20, 2021

Updates will be provided to the Transit Advisory Board.

B. Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (WBPAB) Update
No update available at this time.

The Wichita Transit Advisory Board and Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board will continue being two separate advisory boards. Updates will be shared at the Transit Advisory Board meetings each month and upon request.

The next WBPAB will be held on April 12, 2021 @ 5:30 PM.

C. Marketing Report
A copy of the marketing report was emailed to the board with the current focus points:

• Schedule updates, recent and upcoming
• Preparation for the Q-Line return to service late May
  Contingent to the COVID-19 impact.
  Financial Support letters will be sent out to downtown businesses soon.
  Q-Line Bus wraps are near completion.
• Transit fleet electrification promotion with Evergy
• Ticket Vending Machine and Mobile Ticketing testing, preparation for promotion
• Promotions with MyStop Mobile app, Hiring, WSU and School routes, apparel branding update
• Ridership Summary
  Fixed Route bus ridership in February 2021 was near the ridership numbers reported in January.
  The Veteran Ride Free Pilot Program maintained steady ridership averaging over 2,900 rides for the past several months.
  WSU Routes ridership accounted for over 34,100 rides and maintained 87% of ridership in 2019.
  Wichita Public School Students are averaging 78 weekday rides per day

D. Director’s Report
No Director Report.
6. **Old Business**
   - Outreach to Appointed Body

7. **New Business**
   - Transit Advisory Board Visit Wichita Seat Vacancy
   - Transit Advisory Board District III Vacancy

8. **Announcements**
   - Jared Curello
     Jared Curello, a former Transit Advisory Board Member, will fill the vacant District III seat on the Wichita City Council. Jared will be sworn in at the next City Council Meeting.
   - Election of Officers
     Election of Officers will take place at the May 19, 2021 Transit Advisory Board Meeting.

9. **Adjournment**
   Member Abbey proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Member Kelly Jr. The meeting adjourned shortly at 11:39 AM.

The next meeting of the board will be held on **April 21, 2021 @10:00 AM**.