The Wichita Transit Advisory Board met in regular session.

Present in person:
LeAnna Beat, Raven Alexander, Nate Hinkel, Mike Tann, Tia Raamot and Jason Gregory

Guest: Brett Leskowski, Paul Gunzelman

Via web:
Ellen Abbey, Diana Edmiston, Darryl Kelly Jr., Dorsha Kirksey, Catherine McMurray, Mika Pyyhkala, Shana Chivon Stephens, Troy Tabor and Craig Perbeck ALT

Web guest: Jay Hinkel, Tonja Howard, Brad Shores, Brian Ramsey, Chad Perbeck, Brenda Lopez and Stephen Banks

Absent:
Shannon Bohm and Matthew Byrum

1. Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board was called to order at 10:00 A.M. on November 17, 2021 in regular session by Chair LeAnna Beat.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Minutes were not approved at last meeting, November 17 for October 20 meeting. Please approve along with these minutes from November 17 meeting.

3. Public Comments
None

4. Discussion Items

A. TranSystem Update

Brett Leskowski states cost still estimated 30% concept plan. We are at highest level of inflation. Hopeful to get back down to get approval from Council early December. One example of cuts is office space.
Per Mike’s suggestion Brett explained what contingency is. New prices of items such as concrete cost when we bid on project. Look at previous items contractor will use his numbers. We plug in a contingency number that is higher at 30% level. It will be reduced to 15-20% then around 8-10% at final plans. Leaves room for a little bumper so price comes a little higher than we anticipate.

LeAnna Beat request if there is a fill date or ground breaking date? States that possibly giving it time to see unit prices go down. As of right now there is not a ground breaking date

Jason Gregory states as a City leader, with federal dollars coming for major infrastructure for transportation in 2022. Is there potential for other types of money that can be put to this? He would like to see council put pen into it. Maybe set a budget?

Mike Tann states infrastructure money has not been set yet. We do have other programs and money. What is realistic price? Solar power is key component. Ideally this would have been budgeted.

Jason Gregory commented about potential money generational project the right way. Put that out here. Transit improvement, streets and public transportation. So possibly year marking some dollars because of timing and the economy.

Mike Tann mentions capital money is received every year for Transit. Appears on Transit side transportation such at local and state. Federally be regular program money would increase of new influx of dollars and cents. Other programs such as solar power. Realistic price to include add-ons like solar panels. Other agencies are facing these problems as well. Money will be available, current and influx money. Like having subtle ready projects. Our projects are subtle ready. We have a good investment.

There was mention of speaking to our House & Senators like Moran and Marshall.

5. Information Items

A. Marketing Report

Nathaniel Hinkel advised board members of the organic marketing going on.

- Mobil ticketing app is up and running. Download is free RideWichita@wichita.gov. Cards are out on buses for bus drivers to give to public along with posters posted on every bus.
  - Purchase passes with your credit or debit card
  - No need to carry cash or passes to pay your fare
  - Single ride, day, week, and monthly pass options
- Tutorial video coming out. City is hiring a new Video Creator to produce the tutorial video. Should start before end of year.
- Evergy partnered with a second wrap on another bus. Not sure if will be the same as the first bus. ProTerrace highlights battery electric features.
• Working on safety management systems with all city departments on their emergency plans.

• AA Group have far more groups than originally thought. On radar to complete project, however no time yet. They have several different hours and different locations. Some more relevant to Transit

• Like to get digital information they can share with people as desired. Will not be done before the Holidays as LeAnna requested. Once correct and current information is updated we will pull that back in, unless someone knows if it has been updated yet. As of right now it is multiple generation old.

• QR codes work well. Rollover into second year. Seeing several (100) scans a month. Info can always be easily updated.

• Kansas Honor Flight partnership still ongoing. We have done 8 out of 10.

• Ridership higher with WSU & USD 259 25-30%.

• Election Day less than in past at 3,640 rides that day.

• Vets Ride Free second year and doing very well. Utilized over 3,000 a month.

6. **Director’s Report**

Director Tann informed the board members of the Director’s report.

• Fill in on a few things, we are fully staffed in Administrative positions. Maintenance department we have two utility helpers and one temp. staff. Service line short on A & B mechanics. Paratransit is fully staffed. Pre COVID 300 after 360 a day. Impact on budget increase cost per trip. Agencies are dealing with set appointments now. KETCH & STARKEY use own staff is moving back to our transit services. Bus drivers are budgeted for 69 we are down to 49 fixed operators.

• The training program we have there is no interest into it. No one is applying for CDL positions. There are several number of individuals who are retiring. All that is needed for our training program is clean driving records and 18 years of age or older. Transit will train

• Push on Capitol Hill for payment requirements difference of $20.00 an hour to $15.00 for government employees.

• Money year marked for building buses & buildings but no one to drive buses or use buildings. Money cannot continue to be throwing Capitol money to build. The need is in employment for bus operators. Optics, what’s realistic!

• HR department is reaching out to students who are graduation from high
school soon. Students who are not interested in going to college. Military guys are also being contacted. We need to get on FB and advertise. We need to be at 62-65 fixed operators. Creating pipeline of new students to new employers.

- Tia Raamot introduced as our new Transportation Planner, who is replacing Scott Waddle. Tia is an engineer and a planner who has several experiences with different cities and positions. Will work with Paul & Gary on event street projects.

7. Old Business

- None

8. New Business

Phil v Mayor KS Food Bank Challenge November 15 bring a can good to City Hall. LeAnna will be present to take food donations.

9. Adjournment

Catherine McMurray proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by, Troy Tabor & Darryl Kelly. The meeting adjourned shortly at 10:47 AM.

The next meeting of the board will be held on January 19, 2022 @10:00 AM.