



The Wichita Transit Advisory Board Meeting in regular session.

Absent: Diana Edmiston, Jason Gregory, Dorsha Kirksey, and Shana Chivon Stephens

Remote: Ellen Abby, Mika Pyyhkala and Troy Tabor

Guest: Chase Billingham City of Wichita staff present/online; City Manager Robert Layton, Bryan Frye, Tonja Howard, Jay Hinkel, Mike Tann, Raven Alexander, Nate Hinkel, Tia Raamot and Sarah Pineda

Opening

Lead Mike Tann called the regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board to order at 10:01 a.m. on August 17, 2022.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve July minutes by Troy Tabor, seconded by Ellen Edmiston. Unanimously all in favor.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Discussion Items

A. City Manager, Robert Layton speaks on conversion of 2 Boards

Robert Layton discussed the concept of merging the two boards to form a super board. Mr. Layton presented Power Point. The current structural model of operation silos issues. The City does not have a policy linkage or an overarching transportation plan. The slides in the PowerPoint describe the consolidated duties of the integrated transportation board.

Why a Multi-Modal Approach?

- Current model encourages siloed policy development
- Strategic transportation priorities do not exist

- No policy linkage among transit, parking, bike/pedestrian facilities and street network
- Transportation system planning and design is disjointed

Wichita Transportation Advisory Board Duties.

- Create, develop, implement, and revise plans and policies that impact vehicle uses and vehicle parking, fixed route and paratransit buses, and pedestrian and bicycling alternatives
- Integrate bicycle and pedestrian routes and facilities into the City's transit system
- Improve the operation and safety of all forms of transportation in the City
- Establish priorities within and among City transportation sub-systems to be used for allocations in the City's Capital Improvement Program and in project design
- Implement public education efforts and City enforcement of ordinances relating to all forms of City transportation
- Publicly promote the City's transportation systems and development of stable, dedicated funding sources for those systems

Wichita Transportation Advisory Board Membership.

- Initially 15 members
- Mayor and City Council Members each have two appointments
- Wichita-Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board has one appointment
- Members must live in Wichita

Mr. Layton invited input/discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of doing this. Troy: Wichita Transportation Advisory Board dramatic different thing. How would we be more in tune long term. What is City trying to achieve? Reach out to council members. We have continuously asked for funding. How do we make sure we are 100% in tune? Bob: This board will have enhanced power. No way for council to sort through recommendations of power. Unified council will be more respectful. Troy: Exciting moment as we move forward the right way. All aspects of the city. Help and do research with transit board. Bob: Do not know anyone who has something similar. Ellen: Can you email me the presentation. Mike: Touches more points with WSU interest and ideas come to this board. Federal funding for this board to move strategically. How many touch points. Ellen: My idea was not to be on this board. Mike: Federal and state requirements. Chase: Concern about this merging weaker version of MTA. Degree of oversight. Purposed merger. Topics on Advisory Board talking about scooter, parking, not bus transportation. Potential diluting the city transit system. Residence have input on the bus system. Bob: Board will have active roll before it is presented to council. Chase: This board has not had a quorum at most meetings. Several months have been week due to lack of members. Bob: Make sure to be shaped into powerful group. Chase: It would be good if we had transit riders' union. New board reach out to transit riders. Bob: Will need a couple of members to serve on committee with Bike Ped members. Further talk is needed about issue of members and to talk about responsibilities of the board. Mike: Two board members are not on this call/chat. Jay speaks about what access advisory board is.

Jay: Requirements to be on Advisory board are individuals that are represented and dependent on transit. What happens and what is offered. In 2006 city was sued for ADA violations. Rather than fight, city took on an expansive approach. Assessable to individual with disabilities. City undertook City wide audit. Plan structural changes to have city be in compliance. One example is the Miracle Ballfield. It provides unique safety features. Wichita has changed to one of the most accessible cities. It is now part of city culture. The access Advisory Board its majority memberships are stakeholders. Highly interested in paratransit. Mike: Power of the board. Meeting with Town East to make it accessible for customers being picked up and dropped off at facility.

B. Tans Systems Update

Paul Gunzelman was not present to provide an update regarding the Delano Multimodal Center project. Mike Tann gave a brief update. Sixty percent plan submitted. Will bring that plan once pricing comes back.

4. Information Items

A. Marketing Report

Nate Hinkel provided a review:

Rides of relief was up, and good publicity. FTA award for 10 vans. August 29-31 is Annual Conference and Expo here in Wichita. Will cover everything transit. School will be starting soon so higher ridership. Smart Card pre-programmed, will get set up to use. Pop up Farmers Market for fresh food. Q-line touch a truck coming up. July fix routes. Students ride for free till the end of August. Vets Ride Free Program had 4,000 rides last month.

B. Director's Report

Mike Tann announced the FTA grant award. Recalled discussion about a year and half ago board endorsed plan to replace our small demand response para transit vehicles. These vehicles are from a design phase of about 30 years old. They are gasoline powered with V10 engines. Very poor step system and lift system for wheelchairs. We presented with our partnership with Pro Terra 3.95 million grant money.

They developed different type of buses. I brought the company Optimol and applied for grant. We were not successful in that grant to replace all buses that were outside of useful life. After debriefing of grant we honed it down and submitted a new grant for 3.95 million. This is to replace 10 of 24 buses. Those buses will be outfitted with full fix route componentry on them. They will have farebox and passenger counter just like big buses. As we start to migrate to a smaller bus model. This bus much like the Q-line will be smaller, more applicable to where that direction that we want to go. We are now on a path for grant writing to finish with the remaining 17 buses that we have.

5. **Old Business**

None.

6. **New Business**

None.

7. **Announcements**

Adjournment

Lead Mike Tann proposed to adjourn meeting. Motion to adjourn by Troy Tabor, seconded by Ellen Abby. All agree. The meeting adjourned at 10:51am

The next meeting of the board will be held on **September 21, 2022 @10:00 AM.**

DRAFT