



**The Wichita Transit Advisory Board Meeting in regular session.**

**Absent:** Dorsha Kirksey, Troy Tabor, and Mika Pyyhkala

**Remote\*:** Ellen Abby, Diana Edmiston, and Jason Gregory

**Guest:** City staff: Paul Gunzelman\*, Tonja Howard, Jay Hinkel, Mike Tann, Raven Alexander, Tia Raamot, Nate Hinkel\*, and Sarah Pineda – Public: Matt Farmer\*, Dora L. Gallo\*, Alicia Hunter\*, Alan Kailer\*, Shelley Rich and Kim Neufeild

**Opening**

Lead Raven Alexander called the regular meeting of the Wichita Transit Advisory Board to order at 10:00 a.m. on October 19, 2022.

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve September minutes are tabled due to no quorum at this time.

**2. Public Comments**

None

**3. Discussion Items**

**A. TranSystems Update**

Paul Gunzelman gave quick update on the Multimodal Facility. Scheduled to go to City Council, November 1<sup>st</sup> to present and ask for approval of the design concept. Currently TranSystem is moving forward with the design.

**4. Information Items**

**A. Marketing Report**

Nathaniel Hinkel via remote discussed digital insights were lower in the past last month or so as you can imagine. Most of that reach was through shared partner. Still getting good engagement and best 16 followers. As for current focus working with vendor Genfare on Smart Card user interface. The user portal or interface website that users will

access their Smart Card and learn about the Smart Card if they are not familiar with them yet. Just able to purchase their passes from there. Getting all those details worked out. Weekly meeting with Genfare to keep that moving. Keeping that on track will have Smart Cards in use towards the end of the year. Still working on schedule updates print wise have some minor schedule changes early this Fall. Since the Amidon Bridge detour is a long-term detour. Putting that into system map and Route #15 as well. Digital schedules have all schedules and maps online that people can access with the QR codes that are on buses, shelter, and Transit Center. Have that for 2 years now. Has been getting good use and have been going up within time. Averaging 50-70 scanners of those schedules a week. Nice to see that people are seeing value in those.

Couple of Multimodal projects meeting on that, unfortunately missed that meeting last week. Will investigate what was missed. With Bike Share and Scooter initiative around town as well. Bus route interior applications trans been talking to various city departments that host public classes. Like City Arts, Library and Parks and Recreation that are looking to promote their classes with advertising in the buses on available space. Looking to trade with those department to advertise transit and the Q-Line for access to those classes or daily needs. New rap for Evergy as well. A few industry partners that have been talking with about opportunities from bench advertising to mobile alerts for detours and any kind of route information so talking with those partners.

Fixed-route ridership has been excellent moving into this Fall. This past September has been first month to exceed ridership of that same month in 2019 since pandemic. Nice to see a month that was better than beforehand. That is due to partnership with schools between WSU and Wichita Public Schools. 43% of ridership in September came from those students. Partnerships have been excellent. Look forward to seeing as those continue for the rest of the Fall. Between those two nearly 46,000 rides amongst those groups of students.

Q-Line has taken a dip in the fall as it seasonally has for many years as it starts to cool off so does the ridership people have been finding use of them. Ridership as of last week we have now passed our annual ridership of 2021. Anything from this point forward will be exceeding ridership from last year. Look forward to seeing that gain this year.

Raven went over some quick updates on a couple of things. Last week we kickoff meeting for the VMC Optimal on-demand vans. This project has been handed over to the Facility Superintendent and Procurement Manager to finalize pricing and to place the order. Evergy is in process of working on a needs assessment for infrastructure upgrades for the charging stations.

Several agency trainings with caseworkers have been conducted, to better assist clients.

Transit update have been provided to TPB for WAMPO and one will be provided to TAC next week. Updates were provided yesterday to Coordinate Transportation District #9 which services WAMPO region in addition to a few other surrounding counties. Conversations have begun with Goodwill to develop a partnership with them.

## **B. Director's Report**

Mike Tann discussed the ridership is higher than it was prior to the system changes 2016. Indicating the turning on COVID and generational riders back into the system. Hoping that these kids that are riding from elementary and university using this service. Revenue is up beside current relationship.

After the first of the year discussions at the board level concerning service suspensions.

Q-Line needs to be automated more to get back to where it was before. Discussions need to have about what second shift service should be putting back on the streets. March 2020 were running service with 64 drivers now have 48. You can see the pressures that is putting on the work force. There are 10 drivers in the queue. Some are in training and some working on passing the test.

More people leaving the industry because of CDL license requirements. If we get close to the 60 numbers with how we have worked the schedule. Those extra bodies will give the ability to expand services. No need for more buses or anymore building what is needed are people to operate those buses. Need discussion with City Council about funding to do that. The system needs to start changing. Need to start taking advantage of ridership and revenue that are up. Putting it into stage approaches to increase the demand and create a reliance on public transportation. To get to the second and third shift jobs.

Get the Q-Line back to where it was whether that be all day or more buses at night. Discussions need to start occurring at board level first. Need to price those out. Figure out how to budget. The budget appears to have the manpower for that. Question is what priority levels should be put into play.

Holidays are coming up. Running free service on election day. After first of the year there needs to be discussion about what to do with the service and how to expand it. Still taking into consideration that in 2023 will be doing the sister redesign.

Next Thursday will be doing a debrief with the FTA grant application that was submitted for buses and facilities. The facility request was for the new building and that was for solar power. That part of the grant was not awarded. Sure, will find a few reasons why it was not awarded. Will go through a formal debrief. FTA will discuss the marks we get and didn't get.

By the time of construction phase hope to have the money. Will also submit ex gratia application for the remaining 11 buses that are needed. Fill out the paratransit fleet. Now in production schedule good pricing on that. Low no and infrastructure money will be requesting for remainder 11 buses needed to complete the fleet. Then will also be requesting a revised gratia application for solar power for multimodal center. Improve what is put on the streets every day.

5. **Old Business**

None

6. **New Business**

None

7. **Announcements**

None

**Adjournment**

Lead Raven Alexander adjourned meeting at 10:18 a.m.

DRAFT

The next meeting of the board will be held on **November 16, 2022 @10:00 AM.**