



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

**Remote\*:** Ellen Abby, Diana Edmiston, Jason Gregory, Dorsha Kirksey, Troy Tabor, and Mika Pyyhkala

**Guest:** City staff: Paul Gunzelman\*, Tonja Howard\*, Jay Hinkel, Mike Tann, Raven Alexander, Tia Raamot, Nate Hinkel, and Sarah Pineda – Public: Stephen B. \*, Chad Parasa\*, John Snap\*, 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.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve September minutes by Dorsha Kirksey, seconded by Jason Gregory. Unanimously approved. Motion to approve October minutes by Jason Gregory, seconded by Dorsha Kirksey. All approved unanimously.

**1. Public Comments**

None

**2. Discussion Items**

**A. TransSystems Update**

Paul Gunzelman gave quick update on the Multimodal Facility. Discussed reporting of 30% concept plan presented to City Council on November 1, 2022. They had a few questions regarding restrooms. Request to make sure construction facility can accommodate future expansion if needed. City Manager Johnson or Hauser asked about solar panels for electric charging. Included in base estimate as part of esthetics improvements for City projects. Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars set aside for esthetics and enhancements to the facility. Had revised the budget to include that amount. Artist consultant can continue with that development. Reached out to Brett to

plan to meet the week after Thanksgiving to go over plans as they are developing to the 60% plans. Will meet with FTA December 6, 2022, to provide update. The 60% plans to be submitted in January of 2023. Then final plans to submit Spring of 2023.

### **3. Information Items**

#### **A. Marketing Report**

Nathaniel Hinkel discussed digital insights on Google search which have been changing the way they report. Facebook had good reach and additional followers and shares. Cruz the poles this month was a success. Kansas Mobility League had 100 additional shares. TV and newspaper gained a lot of additional exposure for services provided. Kansas Mobility week was last week. Contest for posted selfies with gift cards as prizes. Working with evergy on double projects with bus wraps and customer service center on Douglas between Washington and Hydraulic.

Working with city to work on recruiting video for operations. Testimonial video of A Day and Life of a Bus Operator. Multi Mobile projects looking at updated bike Share and Transit signage on one integrated map. This to access 1<sup>st</sup> mile and last mile.

Smart Card testing our vendors going to web site user & interface. Will be sending some of our cards to be tested and programed.

Ridership excellent with three highest months we have had in years. Students have been a big factor. Veterans have also been excellent in last few months been climbing. Forty-five hundred per month. As expected per seasonal usage. Qline has been tapering off. Started to remain steady. Qline also has also gained use with WS basketball service on game day

Cruz the polls free ride day had 5,343 rides average ridership for the weekday in that time frame is about 18% higher.

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

Mike Tann stated 2 main things. One union contract was rectified 2 weeks ago. Approved by City Council so in the process of gathering signatures that union contract with 24% increase over three-year period to improve retention and recruitment of operators. Struggle been since COVID. Hoping that will have a positive aspect. Looking to fill open positions and retirements. Prepare for expansion in 2024 routes to start services in the South. As we go online and more services as result of more funding and better reserves. Redesign beginning in 2024. We have several applicants that are applying that have experience so saves time on training process. Federal regulations are three weeks of training. Good from safety standpoint. Number of incentives in Washington right now. AFTA and HAD trucking reduce or make sense of increase requirements and impact. It is going to have on recruitment and retention. Also adding more complexity. Adding more cost to licensing and training. How is it all going to occur and still put the amount of service in the streets that is required. Anticipate increasing service in 2024-2026 and on

the future. All is dependent on how many operators we can maintain employed. It's not about buses and facilities we can get. If you don't have people to operate the equipment.

Regarding combining the two boards we have been sitting in limbo about six months for the board number of people that had to leave or turned off to the board. Discussion about creating Transportation Board to replace the Transit Advisory Board and the Wichita Bike Ped and Pedestrian Board. City Manager decided it will not occur. So, TAB as it does now with maybe some additional topics added by City Manager still stands. Number of appointments that need to be made to full strength. Members now will be reappointed. City Manager is going to speak to Mayor about that. Will also add Workforce Alliance as a member of board. Mayor will appoint someone to be on board. Also USD 259 and Veterans Affairs will be appointed by Mayor. Also, each city Council member will have their appointee from large or small employers that are in their area. Envision will have a member on our board also.

All current board members will be reappointed. Will start with fresh new terms. We need to get back to doing what we need to do. In 2023-2025 will be very busy. Hopefully in positive side. So will be several things that need to be discussed at the board level. Need to take advantage of revenues and requirements keeping close pulse on system.

Pre-design plan contractor is assigned to making sure they are providing and reporting to you as well as the financial implications of each and everyone of those plans moving forward. Multimobil facility comes into play more groundbreaking. Going to be requirements for board members to be involved in change order and making sure we are on same page with regards to how that facility is supposed to function. As with things always popping up making sure board members are involved in that.

City Manager will move very quickly to get those positions filled. This will allow you to assign a chair and a vice chair to start to put together all our points that we must touch on. Start developing as we move forward to get everybody back on the radar on Transit side. Troy asked about bylaws, is there a certain amount of board members needed? Raven answered yes, there is a set number. Jay was asked if bylaws are going to be updated? Mike mentioned the number of board members to be 15 to 21.

Jay discussed that to make a change that is consistent to City Manager vision for number of appointments and the state hold representative be included or declared a change in the ordinance. He will be presenting to City Manager changing the ordinance to cover both those. Raven mentioned current bylaws state 13 members. Troy suggested lowering to 10. There needs to be each council member to have one appointee and special interest appointee likely go to the mayor. Who will not require a District residency. Simply a resident of the City or Sedgwick County will do. If that's the case, it would be plausible to give a representative a stack holder position appointment to a council member. For example, WSU appointment or a VA appointment to any other council member right now.

4. **Old Business**

None

5. **New Business**

None

6. **Announcements**

None

**Adjournment**

Lead Raven Alexander adjourned meeting at 10:24 a.m.

DRAFT

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