



The Wichita Transit Advisory Board Meeting in regular session. (*) represents remote.

Board Members: Ellen Abby*, Diana Edmiston*, Dorsha Kirksey*, and Derek Sorrells

Guest: City staff: Mike Tann, James Wagner, Paul Gunzelman, Tonja Howard*, Raven Alexander, Tia Raamot, Nate Hinkel, and Sarah Pineda – Public: Kim Neufeild*, Alicia Hunter*, Alan Kailer*, Shelley Rich, Brett Thomas, Robert Parnacott, and Marcia Schroeder

Absent: Jason Gregory, Mika Pyyhkala, and Troy Tabor

Opening

Lead Raven Alexander called the regular Wichita Transit Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve January minutes by, Derek Sorrells seconded by Dorsha Kirksey, unanimously approved.

1. Public Comments

None

2. Discussion Items

A. TransSystems Update – Paul Gunzelman

Paul Gunzelman gave a quick update on the Multimodal Facility. We discussed 60% design concept and reviewed plans with Transit staff.

B. 2023 Raise Grant Kellogg & Eisenhower Airport Parkway – Brett Thomas

Brett Thomas with Garver. Brett states they are working with Wichita Transit, including the Airport for the preparation of the RAISE grant application. The request will be submitted to the Department of Transportation on February 28, 2023.

The primary focus of this planning grant request is the interchange of Kellogg and Eisenhower area along with the North airport campus. This grant would allow the city to study this area and begin to develop plans to address some of the problems.

There are some safety issues in this area. Just the way that interchange is configured with surface streets. It is like a giant square. Four one-way frontage roads. Poor signals, high incidents of T-bone accidents, and people running red lights.

Part of this grant is looking at solutions that will be geared toward vehicular issues. One of the emphases of the RAISE program is multimodal issues. This includes connectivity, bikes, pedestrians, as well as transit issues.

Another area of emphasis is a multimodal connection, specifically, the lack of transit service to the airport. Currently, Route 11 comes down Maple and skirts around the North side of the study area along Taft and back up Eisenhower Parkway and Ridge Rd.

Within the study area from the floodway over to Tyler up North to Maple and down to K-42 there were some 23,000 jobs in this area, obviously a significant economic issue.

Paul would like a letter of support to be included in the grant application.

Russell Fox requested if there is a date and time to get back to them with the grant application.

Brent stated the congressional appropriation is due in May.

3. Information Items

A. Marketing Report – Nathaniel Hinkel

Nathaniel discussed the digital insights and positive trends

The current focus is working on the RFP for the system redesign study. We drafted up the service, and that's now at legal for review. Then it will also be revived by communication before it goes to the council.

Moving forward with Smart Card implementation. Our vendor was here last month. Installed hardware to start initial testing with cards on buses. Next week we will be doing some live testing on our buses that are out on rounds as we prepare for the launch of Smart Card ticketing this spring.

Continue working on Safety Management Systems as we move from planning to implementation. Looking for vendors to track our safety reports.

This spring will work on some 1st Mile Last Mile Bike Share promotions. Bike Share and cross-promoting that with our buses and routes to easy access to different parts of the city.

Ridership has been higher this last January, about 18% higher than the long-term January month-to-month trend. Students continue to be a huge impact on our ridership.

Q-line is at a lower winter trend right now as we have always seen lows in February and March. Picks back up in spring.

4. Director's Report

Mike Tann Transportation Director, gave an update about a new electric bus that will be brought in as a Demo. Ford Motor Company has 1,000 Transit electric vans ready for purchase. The manufacturer will bring one in the next two to three weeks. We will be running several tests to look at and see its use. If it's a heavy-duty vehicle, as explained to us a few months back.

Some advantages of these are that they can be charged with a regular house plug or a standard 220 plug. No infrastructure needs to be added to the building they will be stored at. This is a big difference from the others. These vans have about 120-mile range peak. Most of our buses are at 100-mile range. This is not taking into consideration air conditioning and temperatures.

On the paratransit side, you average two passengers per hour due to providing door-to-door service. There would be a niche use that we could put those buses into. We are going to run about a week of test time, and numbers. Investigation into whether we could install our technology, our cameras. How the charging works on the system for a while. See how all that goes. We will have a team report for you next time. We do have capital funding to purchase those right now.

On the operations side, we are going to be looking at creating a summer service for Wichita transit. Currently, run a summer service program where all WSU and USD 259 student ride for free.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

None

7. Announcements

None

Adjournment

Lead Raven Alexander adjourned the meeting at 10:29 am

Next meeting will be March 15, 2023 at 10:00 am