



# Metro Transit Advisory Committee

January 2023 Meeting Notes

**Location:** Metro Administrative Offices

2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Date: January 11, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Call to order – 7:02pm

## **Opening: Public comment period**

- No members of the public were in attendance.

## **Reports:**

### **Report #1: New Advertising Contract**

- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released in 2022 to start a new advertising contract – this contract covers the exterior and interior advertising on the buses, as well as some of the shelters Metro owns
- This new contract will align with Metro’s updated advertising policy (updated in 2022)
- This contract will be mainly managed by the Finance Director, with Communications available for assistance

### **Report #2: Title VI Plan updated and submitted**

- Updated plan and policy definitions
  - Major Service Change
  - Disparate Impact
  - Disproportionate Burden

Percentages for these definitions were revised to continue to improve Metro’s services and hold ourselves to a higher standard

- A major service change is identified through our internal policies – if one is identified, it must be analyzed to determine if there is a disparate impact or disproportionate burden
  - Outreach with low-income and minority communities is also a part of making these changes
- Staff went through the major sections of the plan that were updated
- This update is required by the Federal Transit Administration every 3 years

### **Unfinished business:**

#### **Item #1: Introduction of full new team guiding TAC**

- Evan, Metro’s Senior Transit Planner, joined the TAC members
- Members talked about a previous discussion around going regional
  - Metro’s Board carried over Metro business/committees when voting to go regional
  - Discussion around how this will affect TAC, how do we incorporate new entities, how MAPA handles its boards and committees for guidance
  - Staff and TAC members will continue to plan for the future of the TAC and Metro

### **New business:**

#### **Item #1: Route updates- Evan Schweitz**

- Route 3 adjustment plans during next operator bid
  - Route 3 is currently on a long-term detour for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street bridge construction just south of I-80
    - Buses take F Street to 60<sup>th</sup> to the interstate when heading north (reverse trip for south)
  - Detour will be in effect for approximately 1 year
  - The newest bid will adjust timing – this is the best way for Metro to continue 20 minute frequency for our riders
    - Takes effect Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>
- Crossroads construction effects on ORBT
  - The Crossroads development will widen Dodge
    - This change is to add a second left turn lane for eastbound traffic at 74<sup>th</sup>
  - Will affect Metro starting in March
    - Widening starts in April, but MUD has to start their work in January
  - Work will affect westbound ORBT station at 72<sup>nd</sup> & Dodge
  - MUD and developers have been accommodating and Metro will continue to work with them to continue service for our riders
- Downtown Mutual of Omaha construction
  - City finished demolition at 14<sup>th</sup> & Douglas by end of 2022

- This work has closed off access to some bus stops in the downtown area, including the ORBT Station at 15<sup>th</sup> & Douglas
  - The construction team still hasn't received their NDOT permit, but will begin work at that time
    - Routes 13 and 95 will be affected
  - The timeline is unknown at this time – guessing until tower exterior completed
- Spring service changes
  - By becoming regional, we have new money to spend for service
  - In the fall of 2022, we returned some routes back to pre-COVID service levels
  - This spring, we'll be adding more service back in
    - This pattern will continue as we bring routes back to their previous levels, as well as increasing them past that – this can only be done as we have the resources for it, so it will be incremental
  - This change will most likely need a Major Service Change impact review (per our Title VI plan)

**Other business:**

- Evan asked TAC members how they want to transition this committee
  - More members who actively ride
  - People who may engage with city council
  - Mobility focused people
  - Someone with a focus on accessibility
  - Question about if the committee should go with applications or appointments
- TAC members were asked to continue to think about the transition and future planning for the committee

**Next Meeting:**

February 8, 2023, 7p.m.

Metro administrative offices- Lobby conference room