



Metro Transit Advisory Committee

November 2023 Meeting Minutes

Location: Metro Administrative Offices

2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Attendance:

Loma Lindstrom, Diana Carrera, Travis Halm

Staff: Nicole Ebat, Annie Pigaga, Ivan Maldonado

Date: November 8, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Halm, second by Lindstrom. Approved

Opening: Public comment period

- No members of the public were in attendance

New Business:

Item #1: Final committee review of draft by-laws and application

- These will be for TAC in 2024
- Biggest change is moving membership from appointments to applicants
- Committee is set to be 11 members with a Chair and Vice Chair
 - Those positions will run the meeting itself and Metro staff will help facilitate meeting and answer questions
 - Wanting the committee to be a conduit between members of the public and Metro's Board
- Original organizations that appointed members will be notified about the change

- Mayor's office, City Council, County Board, Health Department
- Have received 13 applications so far, with applications open through December 1st
- Application is set up to have a diverse representation of our community, including modes of transportation, kinds of work in the community, hoping to represent many different voices

Motion to approve new bylaws and application

- Motion by Lindstrom, second by Halm. Approved

Item #2: November Board date & Resolutions

- November Board of Directors meeting is moved to November 30th to work around the Thanksgiving holiday
- Two resolutions will be going before the Board
 - One to amend the operating policy for hospitalization/medical insurance benefits
 - One to amend the operating policy for retirement plans
- Looking to have Board approve purchase of 26 buses
 - These buses will be to replace aging fleet
 - Most likely to arrive in Spring 2025

Item #3: Union contract update

- Ivan Maldonado, Metro's Deputy Executive Officer explained specific parts of the new Union contracts
 - Metro has members of the Teamsters Union and the Transport Workers Union, with each having their own contracts
 - Changes include incremental pay raises, a new paid floating holiday, an incentive for staff to encourage better attendance, moving away from point system to a different tiered approach
 - Added more language in the contract about safety concerning accidents to ensure safety for operators and riders
 - Modified shift differential pay to incentivize employees to work non-traditional hours

Item #4: Bus Shelter survey kickoff

- Metro has been approved for a grant for up to 20 bus shelters
 - We want to ensure we're providing shelters our riders want
- Planning and Communications are creating an outreach plan to get rider input
 - Outreach will be happening before end of 2023
- Timeline is to hopefully have the first shelters installed in Summer 2024
- More information will be sent to TAC once it's finalized

Item #5: November & December events

- November 11th, Metro will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade in Bellevue
 - A bus and staff will be in the parade
- November 18th, Metro will be celebrating ORBT's 3rd birthday at the Gene Leahy Mall
 - Staff and an ORBT bus will be out at 11th Street with programming and family activities
 - We'll be there from 10-2
- December
 - Looking to do outreach at Holiday Markets in different communities in Omaha for bus shelter surveys
 - Organizing a tour of the Holiday Lights
 - City is modifying its lighting ceremonies this year
 - First night will be on Saturday after Thanksgiving
 - Downtown will be lit up, as well as North and South Omaha along 24th Street
 - Wanting to set up a bus tour for the holiday lights with prospective 24th Street Corridor stakeholders

Motion to adjourn by Carrera, second by Halm. 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:

December 13, 2023, 7 p.m.

Metro administrative offices- Lobby conference room