



Metro Transit Advisory Committee

March 2023 Meeting Notes

Location: Metro Administrative Offices

2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Attendance:

Karen Bluvas, Lindsay Button

Staff: Nicole Ebat, Alicia Johnson, Annie Pigaga

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

Call to order – 7:06 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

No quorum – no motion

Opening: Public comment period

- No members of the public were in attendance

New business:

Item #1: Introduction of new Civil Rights & Inclusion Director, Alicia Johnson

- Hired to fill new position
- Moved to Omaha from Wisconsin, originally from Minnesota
 - o Most recently in Oshkosh, WI
- Background in sports psychology with the lens of equity and gender equality
- Started role in January
- Functions of her position

- Compliance with Title VI and ADA
- Assisting with EEO with the HR department
- Internal engagement around equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Making Metro more inclusive
- Working with Communications on external inclusion
- Now on the Omaha Refugee Task Force
- Working with the Omaha Chamber on CODE (Commitment to Opportunity, Diversity, and Equity) at Metro
- Also working to establish a permanent lactation space for our building

Item #2: Equity Analysis heading to board on pending route frequency increases

- Route changes coming April 16th
 - There are no disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens to low-income or minority populations
 - There was no public engagement prior to these changes because it was part of MetroNEXT
 - Some restoration of service, some new services

Item #3: Update on 72nd & Dodge ORBT closure

- Construction timeline changed for station closure (was sped up)
- Temporary stop is on the east side of 72nd Street (near Raising Cane's)
- Currently there's no concrete pad, but we're working to make it accessible

Item #4: Ridership number updates

- 2.6 million rides for 2022
 - 26% increase from 2021
- 1 million rides on ORBT was reached in early March
- Record ridership counts on ORBT for January and February

Item #5: Partnership with The Rose- Last Stop on Market Street

- Having our bus and staff there for opening night
- Using some of our activity kit for the children's program
- Providing them with bus diecuts to give out

Item #6: Plans for celebrating ORBT one-millionth ride

- Celebrating on Saturday, March 25 with community partners
- Planning a music video
- Having a free fare day for our riders

Other:

- Reviewed items from Board of Directors meeting
- Nebraska Public Transit Week will be on April 9-15 to celebrate our staff, riders, and community

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

April 12, 2023, 7p.m.

Metro administrative offices- Lobby conference room