



Metro Transit Advisory Committee

June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Location: Metro Administrative Offices

2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Attendance:

Travis Halm, Loma Lindstrom, Karen Bluvus, Diana Carrara

Staff: Evan Schweitz, Sara Moulton

Date: June 14, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Call to order – Loma Lindstrom at 7:00pm

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Travis, second by Loma. Approved

Opening: Public comment period

- No members of the public were in attendance

New business:

Item #1: Introduction of new Transit Planner, Sara Moulton

Item #2: Upcoming Board business:

- 2024 Transit Improvement Projects (TIP)
 - Requesting approval to program new Urbanized Area Formula Apportionment Funds & new Bus and Bus Facility Apportionment Funds
 - Refresh ORBT tech
 - Install up to ten shelters
 - Repair MCC south Transit Center road- fix potholes
 - ADA service
 - Quarterly & Ongoing training for employees and staff
 - Travis: Vehicle acquisition for vans, how?
 - We got bumped up due to a drop out (evan)
 - Allows us to decommission old vans
- New sick leave policy for admin
 - Currently sick time renews on the anniversary of the date that employee took that sick time. The new policy allows for admin sick leave to refresh on their anniversary state date.
- **Item #3:** Update on 72nd/Dodge ORBT construction and Closure
 - Repair & Construction will start on 72nd ORBT EB station after CWS, it is expected to take about 4 days and will close a lane of Dodge.
 - Contractors with Lockwood worked on the median in front of the WB ORBT station last week. Station is still closed and expected to stay that way until at least November, but contractors are behind the original timeline right now.
- **Item #4:** CWS opening day is tomorrow (Thursday)
 - We are running the circulator starting about 8am
 - Karen mentioned: we were featured on news on 6/13
 - Evan: circulator the best fit with a ten minute frequency
 - ORBT will run late on game days- last trip leaves downtown an hour after the final game.
- **Item #5:** Plans for Memorial Park Concert- June 30th
 - Slightly different from last year: We plan to stage two buses WB at 62nd & Dodge just before the fireworks start. We will stage one ORBT EB at the same time.
 - Once the fireworks end, we will have a third ORBT leave the garage. It should arrive to line up WB as traffic is opening up and one of the ORBTs have pulled away.
 - Last year we wound up with a lot of people waiting for a ride after the two westbound units had departed
- **Item #6:** Other community events
 - Participating in Juneteenth parade & FreedomFest event on Saturday
 - Will be at World Refugee Day next Saturday

- Attending Music at Miller Park in early July (went last Saturday to the first, but it was rained out after two songs)
- Participating in Heartland Pride Parade in July
- Prepping for Open Omaha in August- an ORBT bus will be a venue, not sure where we're parking yet
- Also partnering with RiverFront for the grand opening of their two new parks in August.
- **Item #7: August service changes**
 - Evan: routing clean up on expresses
 - All onto 10th street and just cleaning up the routes
 - Timing updates on 24
 - To ease frustrations from drivers and passengers
 - Discussed why a study is necessary; pay box, make it quicker, make the best decisions to make it better
 - Route 4: Runs every 15 minutes all day
 - Interline 11 and 30
 - This adds more than 15% and requires a Title VI analysis and board approval.
 - Public meetings will be held. 7/6-7/11.
 - Diana Carrara will be absent in July.

Other business:

- Diana Carrara wondered about route expansions
 - Similar to the 17, look at 13 and w- Q (20 and Y.) Section 8 housing nor at the schools.
- New school – Boundaries changed that is causing more public ridership – Evan
- Loma: AARP (42nd and Center) - How can we help educate the population learn to ride the bus.
 - New Horizons?
 - Transit maps in Center Mall (just got opened again after 3 years)
 - We offered to present information – Evan
 - Moby?

Motion to adjourn by Karen. Second by Loma. 7:55p.m.

Next Meeting:

July 12, 2023, 7p.m.

Metro administrative offices- Lobby conference room