



Metro Transit Advisory Committee

October 9, 2024

6:30 p.m.

**This meeting is open to the public*

Location: Metro Administrative Offices - Board room

2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Please enter through the front lobby doors, facing Cuming Street at the top of the ramp

Digital:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81362662191>

Meeting ID: 813 6266 2191

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Staff Facilitators: Bridget Battafarano and Evan Schweitz

Committee Members: Clarice Dombeck (Chair), Alex Mendoza, Isabelle Dunning-Ward, Clyde Anderson, Joey Yamada, David Baker (virtual), Tamara Dwyer, Maria Brady (virtual)

Members of the public: Monique Summers-Currington, Cornelius Williams (District 1 RMTA Board candidate)

Opening: Public comment period (Limit to ten minutes total, please)

- Clyde – Shared an article about 70% fare evasion in Washington DC – do we track that?
 - o Discussion of other communities who operate with zero fare, and the various community benefits and savings to the agency that come with it
 - Benefits: increased accessibility, less schedule delays,
 - Tradeoffs: Increased demand will create increased need for staffing/vehicle capacity on both fixed and paratransit; need to find where lost funds would come from, particularly paratransit (Moby) which is much more expensive to run

Approval of previous meeting minutes

New Business:

1. Paratransit appeals – None
2. Metro updates and upcoming events
 - a. Fiestas Patrias went well, lots of appreciation for Metro presence
 - b. Project Connect event (resources and services for unhoused): distributed 200 tickets for access to the event, all were used. Nearly 300 more distributed at event
 - c. Upcoming: Fall Y'all (Riverfront Oct. 26th); Veteran's Day Parade (Nov. 9th); 2 million rides/4th birthday celebration (mid-November)
 - d. Question RE: student bus wrap art contest - still open, needing submissions
 - e. 17 applications to fill 6 TAC spots (as of now), currently under blind review; selection letters go out post-election.
 - f. Fall service changes in effect: Route 24 service reduced to 20 min frequency weekdays, extended evening and weekend
 - g. Maintenance began new 5 8-hour day schedule, the new (16, 18, 20 passenger) vans are being outfitted for the road.
3. Microtransit Pilot
 - a. An option to share rides with others in a designated zone, connect riders the first or last mile to or from fixed-route transit. Studied in MetroNEXT, didn't have funding, higher priorities. A charitable organization is providing funding now.
 - b. Request for Proposals (RFP) is out for companies to provide this service for 2+ year pilot. Selected proposal will be contracted to provide vehicles, planning, drivers, customer service, etc. All service standards to be equivalent to Metro's.
 - c. Goals:
 - i. Identify and fill gaps to broaden the reach of the fixed-route transit network
 - ii. Provide convenient and reliable transit options, especially for marginalized community members experiencing barriers to opportunity
 - iii. Listen, learn, and adapt to the changing transportation needs of our region through ongoing and inclusive community engagement
 - iv. Enhance perceptions and support for public transportation in our community
4. Committee report on public feedback
 - a. Joey – Speaking with colleague who mentioned some of the bike racks have a damaged rubber support, concern it may cause damage to bike tires. New advertising bench designs look good so far (66th, 44th and Dodge)
 - b. Still issues with bus bench at 30th & Fort. Needs to be addressed ASAP
 - c. Interest to see Metro do more for African American Heritage month next February
 - i. Potentially partner with UNO Black Studies Dept?
 - d. Clarice – Hearing general support for having more transit, interest in diversifying funding sources (City of Omaha?). Resident living near 65th & Hamilton area, no

sidewalks and therefore no transit options. Microtransit could potentially benefit this person.

- i. Clyde – Many other cities include a sales tax. Percent of state sales tax goes toward state highway fund, so there is precedent
5. Discuss communication with board
 - a. Last board meeting Clarice and Clyde spoke, felt positive about interaction, reception and would like to continue at future meetings
6. Set November Agenda
 - a. Update on Board Election results / TAC application status
 - b. Discussion of fare evasion & consideration of zero fare
 - i. Street outreach partnership idea
 - ii. Interested to hear exit interviews from operators to see if fare altercations are a contributor to drivers leaving
 - c. Updates on Microtransit RFP
 - d. Update on Bus Stop Audit – Sara’s Mpack presentation?

Adjourn 7:56pm (Clarice, Isabelle 2nd)

Next meeting:

- November 13, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at Metro administrative offices

For questions, please contact Bridget Battafarano at 402-341-7560 ext. 2560