



Metro Transit Advisory Committee

September 11, 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

Attendance

Staff Facilitators: Bridget Battafarano and Evan Schweitz

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

Members of the public: Khenda Mustafa, Monique Summers-Currington, Cheryl Weston (virtual)

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

- Immigrant Legal Center conducts onboard training for refugees. Route 13 timing has been very unreliable for training sessions and group is too large to be served by a Moby. Asked for it to be addressed. Suggestion: could group times be communicated to Metro in advance to ensure the group doesn't have a Moby van?
 - Discussed the multi-faceted nature of the service interruptions and the various strategies in place to address them. It's possible Metro could work with the group to communicate our status on a given day.
- Progress on reliability of MyRide updates to service interruptions?
 - Dispatch tries their best to communicate these with limited time and we are continuing to work on the issue.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Clarice motion, Clyde second

New Business:

- Paratransit appeals – None
- Metro updates and upcoming events
 - Committee related: Two members resigned as of this meeting due to work conflicts. This means up to 6 seats are open to new or returning applicants. Applications available on our website, due October 1st. Please share with your networks
 - i. Committee suggestion: If involving youth in the committee meetings, connect with Central High School student group
 - Events/Communications:
 - i. Trained OPS moms from refugee and migrant family program how to ride
 - ii. Durango Days – educated students, collected feedback
 - iii. Fiestas Patrias – Walk in parade, TAC welcome
 - iv. Board meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 24th
 - 1. Budget approval meeting at 9am, regular meeting to follow
 - 2. Previous budgets available: <https://auditors.nebraska.gov>
 - v. Rodeo competition for Moby Drivers upcoming
 - vi. TAC application process:
 - 1. Submit by October 1st
 - 2. Blind reviews by 2 Metro staff and Clarice first half of October
 - vii. Compliment regarding the MyRide news updates getting out better
 - viii. Suggestion: Monthly Metro newsletter
 - Planning:
 - i. Fall service changes to route 24 begin October 6th
 - 1. Reducing frequency to every 20 minutes on weekdays; one more bus available to another route
 - 2. Adding early morning and later evening trips
 - ii. When routes change, operators pick preferred routes based on seniority
 - iii. Snow removal contract on budget agenda -
 - 1. 3-year contract, potential for 2-year extension
 - 2. Bids open 9/12
 - 3. Metro has city permits for 50 shelter locations and all ORBT stations; our contractor has to keep those areas cleared. Other shelters are property owners' (i.e. UNMC)
- Metro presents – Notes from John Beverage, Maintenance Director:
 - FTA officially gave permission to decommission 1 permanently damaged bus, 4 buses to be repaired with those parts
 - New maintenance schedule changes from four 10-hour to five 8-hour days, effective October 4th; productivity climbing with more supervisor coverage (2 hired)
 - Over 100 parts (both specific and general stock) on backorder, no ETA from manufacturers
 - 7 buses out for engine repairs, 1 for transmission
 - 7 buses out for major body damage, 2 for accident-related legal holds

- Open positions: 2 entry level mechanic helpers, 3 bus techs, 1 auto tech (for Moby vans), 1 maintenance coordinator, 1 shop supervisor
- Purchased 3 accessible cutaway vans: a 20-passenger, an 18-passenger, and a 16-passenger. Delivery scheduled for September 19th

Committee report on public feedback

- Meeting structure: would like more time for discussion of board communication, less on events
- Agenda item for communication to board and staff, i.e.:
 - i. Sharing minutes
 - ii. Having board members attend TAC
 - iii. Having TAC members give updates at Board meetings during public comment period
 - iv. Resolutions and official recommendations to the Board
 - v. 10 people spoke at City of Omaha budget hearing to ask for more transit investment. \$265,000 unspent in the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) budget. Council Member Festerson suggested further study on where that money should go
 1. Transit is mentioned in the City’s Climate Action Plan (currently in draft form)
 2. TAC should consider involvement in the City’s comprehensive planning process, parks master plan, poverty elimination plan, and CARP
- Set October Agenda
 - Discuss communication with Board
 - Metro staff presentation: Randall Sherping, Safety and Security Director

Next meeting:

- October 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at Metro administrative offices