

City of Lawrence  
Public Transit Advisory Committee  
Carnegie Building, Conference Room  
March 11, 2019 minutes

PRESENT: Heather Thies, Nick Kuzmyak, Mike Wasikowski, Phyllis Farrar, Allen Ackland, Natalie Yoza  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Trumble, Lance Fahy  
STAFF PRESENT: Robert Nugent, Wendy Koerner, Serena Pearson, Ashley Myers, Ginger Doll (First Transit)  
PUBLIC PRESENT: None

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Heather Thies, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10. Quorum met. Introductions went around the room. Natalie Yoza is a new PTAC member.

**2. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)** – Allen Ackland made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2019 minutes. Mike Wasikowski seconded, all in favor, no opposed.

**3. Bus Transfer Center (Action Item)** – Bob Nugent discussed the letter he provided to the committee in January from KU. The letter was regarding the potential transit center site at the southeast corner of Bob Billings and Crestline. The committee would need to approve this general location so that further discussions between the city and KU can take place regarding possibly developing the site. Phyllis Farrar made a motion to approve this item, Mike Wasikowski seconded, all approved.

**4. Service Change and Public Meetings (Action Item)** – Bob explained that this year we are not proposing any changes to city routes, but making a change to the route 42 which is a KU route. There will be three meetings – one will be a public meeting at Kansas Union on Wednesday, March 20 from 3:30 – 4:40. Then there will be two walk-in open house meetings – one at KU Parking and Transit, and one at 933 New Hampshire from 9:00 – 3:00 on Thursday, March 21. These meetings will allow people to discuss any transit topics. There is a lot to be gained from the public meeting process, since it gives us a chance to hear from our bus riders. The comment period will go until April 21. We will put out a news release, posters on the bus, update our website and create Facebook posts regarding the public meetings. Allen Ackland made a motion to approve the public meetings, Nick Kuzmyak seconded, all approved.

**5. Quick Updates -**

**a. Service Provider Transition** – Bob stated that the transition to First Transit is going well. With the new company, we are using a new technology called Doublemap which gives us more of an ability to manage information. We are able to do passenger counts at any time, plus there are many other useful reporting features with Doublemap.

**b. Marketing/Communications** – Serena Pearson discussed meetings that are currently taking place with KU Parking and Transit staff to coordinate marketing efforts.

Also, we have been working on weather updates lately due to many snowstorms this year. We have created Facebook posts letting riders know about reroutes and weather related information, as well as updating our website with relevant information.

We are also discussing a common brand or logo with KU. Many people are confused about what bus they can ride, so a common brand would help. The logo would be more towards the front of the bus so it would be visible for those getting on the bus, while the back could have the Jayhawk logo (like the current KU buses,) and we could have iconic Lawrence images on the back of the city buses.

**c. Transit Day at the Capitol** – Serena and Bob attended Transit Day at the Capitol on February 27th in Topeka. Serena explained that this is an annual event. Many transit providers from around the state attend this event. The event is early in the morning, so coffee and doughnuts are provided. There are information tables, presentations and speeches, plus it gives everyone a chance to meet with legislators to show the importance of transit in this state. This is the fourth year that we have attended.

Natalie Yoza asked about state funding for transit. Bob explained that we get funding through T-works which is state tax dollars that go toward transportation. Each urban property gets a portion of that. We go to the capitol on Transit Day along with our state transit association who are our legislative liaisons. They are also funded through KDOT.

**6. Public Comment** – Natalie Yoza asked a question about amenities (bus benches and shelters) at bus stops in East Lawrence.

Bob explained that currently 33% of the bus stops in East Lawrence are equipped with amenities. He also explained that there is an amenities policy that states that there needs to be 25 boardings a day in order to justify putting in a bench or a shelter at a bus stop.

**7. Next Meeting – April 8, 2019 – (tentative)**

**8. Adjournment – 5:30**

-Submitted by Serena Pearson