

City of Lawrence
Public Transit Advisory Committee
Carnegie Building, Conference Room
June 10, 2019 minutes

PRESENT: Heather Thies, Nick Kuzmyak, Mike Wasikowski, Phyllis Farrar, Allen Ackland, Natalie Yoza, Lance Fahy
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Trumble
STAFF PRESENT: Robert Nugent, Wendy Koerner, Serena Pearson, 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.

2. Approval of Minutes (Action Item) – Phyllis Farrar made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction due to a misspelled name from the March 11, 2018 minutes. Allen Ackland seconded, all in favor, no opposed.

3. Paratransit Service (Discussion) – Bob Nugent stated that there are discussions with the new provider, First Transit, to look at creating more efficiencies in the paratransit service. Ideas include making improvements to the scheduling software and making the software more efficient. The question is, is it worth it to continue to upgrade the current software, or find another software that can do what we do for a lower cost?

Another item to improve efficiency would be to incorporate JayLift trips into T Lift trips. There are different certification standards between the two systems and there are different pickup windows that makes it difficult to coordinate. Would it be better to just keep the JayLift vehicles on campus and have T Lift do the longer trips to various places in Lawrence? Those discussions may come before PTAC soon.

Also, utilizing a third-party certification process may be a better way to certify passengers. The way it is currently done is First Transit (and previously by MV Transportation) certify T Lift passengers. They receive the applications and make the determination whether to approve or not. It may be best to change the way this is done and have an outside source do the certifications instead.

There are also discussions about using the TapRide app for Nightline service. This would be real-time scheduling instead of having riders call during the day to schedule an evening ride, and this process would help in filling open slots in case there are cancelations at night.

4. Quick Updates -

a. Bus Transfer Center – There have been preliminary discussions with KU on this topic and this will probably go in front of legal in the next couple of weeks. The actual location that the University and the city have been talking about is at Bob Billings and Iowa on the south side. There will be a feasibility study that will help determine where

to put another entrance between Crestline and Iowa. Will that force queuing issues, or a controlled signal? That is the key element in this.

b. Marketing/Communications – Serena Pearson explained that the City/KU Communications Team met with KCATA (Kansas City Area Transit Authority) on May 24th to discuss rebranding and to see what assistance they could give us for a common brand for the Lawrence's city and KU bus systems. They had gone through a major rebranding around 2014. There were several transit agencies that they were bringing together under one umbrella brand – namely KCATA, Johnson County Transit, Wyandotte County and Independence. They hired a branding firm named Willoughby and worked closely with them to come up with conceptual ideas and decided on the name RideKC. They replaced all of their bus stops with the new name, painted all of their buses and conducted an extensive marketing campaign. The rebranding was very successful and has improved their image and approval from the general public.

Bob Nugent stated that it has taken us a while to get where we are now – we have already changed our bus stops plus we have already changed our bus colors, plus we have been working as a coordinated system for a while.

Phyllis Farrar mentioned that with a new transit center and the service changes that go along with that, this would be a good time to rebrand the system. It would be nice if it could all happen at the same time.

c. 2019 Service Change – Bob Nugent mentioned that the Transit Guide is going to the printer soon and the only change is to Route 42 starting in August.

d. Amenities – Bob mentioned that we will be putting out new amenities soon. Concrete work is being done to prepare for that. There are 12 sites where concrete is being poured and there is an option for another 10 locations. Some of the amenities are benches, bike racks and larger waste receptacles. A few shelters are also being moved from locations where they are not being utilized to locations where they are needed.

Lance Fahy said that he is hearing from bus riders that bus stop signs are disappearing, most likely due to construction zones or car accidents. Bob Nugent replied that the staff in the sign department has been reduced so our bus stop signs are slow in being replaced or added. If you see that bus stops signs are missing or need to be replaced contact the city or transit to report it.

6. Public Comment – none

7. Next Meeting – July 8, 2019 – (tentative)

8. Adjournment – 5:15

-Submitted by Serena Pearson