

City of Lawrence
Public Transit Advisory Committee
City Hall Riverfront – Ad Astra Room
August 12, 2019 minutes

PRESENT: Heather Thies, Nick Kuzmyak, Mike Wasikowski, Phyllis Farrar, Allen Ackland, Lance Fahy
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Trumble, Natalie Yoza
STAFF PRESENT: Robert Nugent, Wendy Koerner, Serena Pearson, Ashley Myers
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) – Mike Wasikowski made a motion to approve the minutes. Allen Ackland seconded, all in favor, no opposed.

3. Transit Center (Discussion) – Bob Nugent opened the discussion about the transit center at the proposed location at Bob Billings and Crestline. Currently, the city and KU are working through the legal issues for the transit center. The biggest issue right now is looking at the site and trying to determine where exactly the transit center will be. This will not be determined until a traffic study is done to determine ingress and egress.

Photos of downtown transfer sites since 2000 were shown on the screen and an explanation of how we got to where we are now. We are currently operating at 7th and Vermont, and with 330 linear feet, it is not enough room for parking buses on the street. If a crosswalk is put in, this will eliminate even more space. Current riders have a long way to walk to get from one bus to another with the current linear arrangement.

Next, examples of other comparable city's transit centers were shown. Also discussed were the different locations that were looked at in Lawrence for a transit center and the reason why these locations didn't work out for a potential transit center.

Bob explained that he would like to see as much natural vegetation as possible with the new transit center, and have it built to a high environmental standard.

Lance Fahy said that he is concerned that the proposed transit center location would make it difficult for people to get downtown. He thought that it may be a good idea to have rough draft of how routes would change so people would know in advance.

Bob explained that routes will still go downtown for those desiring to go downtown. Currently, most of the people that come downtown on buses are transferring to another bus. We will be doing a lot of marketing and working with the public to let people know how to get downtown and other places before the main transfer location is changed. Potential route designs will be

taken to the public first. The public will have lots of input and we will hear their concerns before routes are finalized.

Nick Kuzmiak would like to see the transit center be a truly multimodal center. He suggested bike racks, rideshare spaces and possibly an e-scooter dock area. Also, electronic signs showing when the bus is coming. Another idea is to have street vendors (similar to Farmer's Market.) He also suggested raised platforms for wheelchair lifts on cutaway or paratransit buses.

Allen Ackland suggested storm shelters. They could be above ground or underground.

Heather Thies made a point that the transit center should be built with extra capacity in case the system grows larger over the years. She is also concerned about ice in shaded areas.

Phyllis Farrar suggested the idea of solar panels, similar to what is being used in the parking lot at The Merc. They could provide electricity for charging stations for electric cars and for e-scooters. Another idea is to have a place to power up phones or computers. Also, possibly a snack bar, vending machine and a customer service desk to purchase a bus pass, answer questions or pick up information.

4. Quick Updates -

a. Marketing/Communications – Serena Pearson explained that the Transit Guides have been delivered and the K-12 fall bus passes have been delivered to the stores and recreation centers. We worked at the Community Safety Fair happened on Saturday and the Haskell Resource Fair. KU's Hawk Week event will be coming up in the next couple of weeks. We are still working on rebranding and communication issues with KU.

b. 2019 Service Change – Bob Nugent mentioned that the service change went well. There were a couple of misprints a few of the transit guides - the pages were out of order or duplicated, but we believe that those guides were removed from the inventory.

c. Amenities – Covered in earlier discussion

6. Public Comment – none

7. Next Meeting – September 9, 2019 – (tentative)

8. Adjournment – 5:35

-Submitted by Serena Pearson