



Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Mayor and Council Transit Task Force and to the general public that the Mayor and Council Transit Task Force will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public.

Mayor and Council Transit Task Force MINUTES

Monday, June 23, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Location 201 N. Stone, 6th Floor, Public Works Building
Tucson, AZ 85701

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. with eight (8) of the eleven (11) members present which established a quorum.

2. Introductions / Roll Call

Members Present: Eugene Caywood, Chair (Ward 5)
Suzanne Schafer, Vice Chair (Ward 3)
Margot Garcia, (Ward 6)
Linda Dobbyn (CTAC)
Peggy Hutchison (Ward 1)
Sami Hamed (CTAC)
Brian Flagg (Ward 2)
Michael Wall (Mayor)
David Heineking, U of A Advisory Member

Members Absent: Vacant (Ward 4)
Vacant (CTAC)
Vacant (CTAC)

Staff Present: Jeremy Papuga, Transit Administrator
Kate Riley, General Manager of Sun Tran/Sun Van
Kandi Young, Marketing & Communications Director for Sun Tran/Sun Van
Jared Forte, Assistant General Manager of Sun Tran/Sun Van
Bob McGee, Scheduling Manager

3. Approval of May 4, 2015 Minutes

Motion: *A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted.*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *Unanimously*

4. Call to the Audience

Maria Cadaxa – Ms. Cadaxa passed out copies of two articles from the Arizona Daily Star concerning transit. The first one says “SunTran, like our schools or police, not meant to be for-profit.” There are hidden costs and benefits to a transit system that are not shown on an Excel spreadsheet. The second article talks about Jarret Walker and his recommendations for Tucson’s transit system. The article states that “having transit service at 15-minute intervals has been an effective way to maximize ridership. Conversely, decreasing the frequency of service has caused precipitous drops in ridership.”

Cesar Aguirre – Mr. Aguirre said he noticed that from the City Staff’s memo there is no recommendation; information only. He commented that he thought the Task Force and staff have an influence on the budget and the City Manager. Mr. Aguirre also said that the City is always reactive but they need to start thinking long-term. When we cut service, there are a lot of long term consequences. We are going to be back here again in a year or two cutting service, cutting routes and cutting frequencies and it will hurt our overall system. He said that of the more than 30 comments, only three were in agreement. Mr. Aguirre quoted Jarret Walker as saying “Frequent lines thrive on the diversity of their users and the diversity of the kind of trips they’re making.” The people who are forced to use the system are the ones who suffer.

Barbie Urias – Ms. Urias wanted to remind everyone that the Tucson Bus Riders Union is here to stay and to be on top of things. She said the Tucson bus system is one of the best bus systems in the country and she would like to see it be like it was before the Streetcar. She said we should make it available and affordable to everyone.

Pancho Medina – Mr. Medina reminded everyone that the Tucson Charter states that the transit system is a core service, not for profit. We shouldn’t be making a profit at all. We should not be using the term subsidizing. We should be putting money into operating just like the Fire Department.

Allen Benz – Mr. Benz referred to an article in the Arizona Republic regarding transit in Phoenix. There will be a proposition going on the ballot in August to vote on this issue that will help determine the course of growth or non-growth in Phoenix for the next 35 year. What we do here and now will help determine the growth of Tucson for a number of years.

Susan Willis – Ms. Willis commented on transit system as a utility. She said we need to focus on educating the public. Public perception is that we are putting too much money into the buses and the buses are empty. We need to educate the public that this is a public utility.

John Myles – Mr. Myles wanted to commend this task force for the job that they’re doing. He also stated that he hopes whatever they decide will be heard by the City Council and that they take it seriously.

5. Discussion of FY16 Minor Service Changes

Jeremy Papuga reminded the Task Force that there are three goals for implementing the minor service changes. Those goals are:

- *Meet the City Manager's recommended budget amounts.*
- *Identify reoccurring cost savings*
- *Maintain system health, minimize negative impact and improve service where possible.*

•
Each proposed change was explained by Mr. Papuga and discussion followed. The following motions were made:

Motion: *A motion was made to approve recommended changes to Routes 1, 5, 8 and 34 as proposed by staff*

Seconded

Motion: *A motion was made to amend the prior motion to leave out the frequency cut on Route 8.*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *Unanimously*

Previous Motion with Amendment

Seconded

Motion Passed: *6 to 1*

Motion: *A motion was made to postpone action on Routes 2 and 25*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *Unanimously*

Motion: *A motion was made to oppose the proposed change to Route 3*

Seconded

Motion passed: *Unanimously*

Motion: *A motion was made to amend the prior motion to vote separately on the frequency and the route split.*

There was no second

Motion: *A motion was made to oppose the frequency change to Route 8*

Seconded

Motion Failed: *4 to 3*

Motion: *A motion was made to accept the staff recommendations for Route 8 to change the frequency from 10 to 15 minutes in the morning.*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *4 to 3*

Motion: *A motion was made to oppose the recommended route changes (only) to Route 10.*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *6 to 1*

Motion: *A motion was made to support the TTF proposed frequency changes for Routes 10, 27, and 29 in the evening; 30 minutes in the early evening and 60 minutes in the later evening and not support staff's recommendation.*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *Unanimously*

Motion: *A motion was made to oppose combining Routes 11 and 50.*

Seconded

Motion Passed: *Unanimously*

Motion: *A motion was made to leave the frequency the same for Routes 11 and 50.*
Seconded

Motion Passed: *Unanimously*

6. Call to the Audience

Michael Oatman – Mr. Oatman expressed his concerns regarding the direction of the loop on the Route 5 and the 8. He used an illustration to show the routes and said he was concerned about the fact that there is nothing out there; there is a wash and a Costco and 6 lanes on Grant with no cross walks. If the Route 5 made a left turn, people would have to cross 6 lanes. Making this a clockwise loop instead of a counter-clockwise loop would be life-saving.

Liz Burden – Ms. Burden commented on Jarret Walker's report and reminded staff that the 15 minute headway in terms of frequencies is a minimum standard for a high-frequency network and said that she was hoping that staff will keep that in mind and start looking for a system that is a 21st Century system. Ms. Burden said that with the proposed cuts, the Mayor and Council are taking us backwards instead of forward. She also said there is a perception that the bus riders want everything and are not willing to make reasonable adjustments in service; that is not the case. She also encouraged staff to engage the bus riders beyond this when looking at some things such as modeling. She stated that working on a computer and service modeling live in an un-hurried atmosphere fosters creative solutions and allows the building of a world class system. Ms. Burden finished by saying that we should hold the line against cuts and really try to work with riders toward a World Class 21st Century system and the Mayor and Council should find their cuts someplace else.

7. Next meeting date and time/Meeting schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.