



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Public Transit Advisory Commission

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
5:30 PM

Conference Room
1A/1B
City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Matt Wright at 5:30 PM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

City Staff: Mike Sokoff, John Ogan, Gus Harmon, and Shannon Hemenway
Present: Shawn Leight

Present: 10 - Matt Wright, Tammy Teel, Donald Jackson, Gabi Jacobs, Sarah Johnson, Joy Rushing, Katharine Meagher, Jack Russell, Christine Schneider and Joan Ferguson

Absent: 3 - Dawn Zeterberg, Adam Thorp and Randal Meyer

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Matt made a motion to approve the agenda, after the group agreed to start with new business before old business, with Gabi seconding the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous at 5:31 PM.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tammy made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Sarah. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous at 5:32 PM.

August 20 Minutes

Attachments: [Aug. 20 Minutes](#)

V. City Council & Other Commission Updates: Vision Zero, Disability, Bike/Ped, CATSO

Matt mentioned that PTAC appointed two new members.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Bus Stop Evaluation Matrix Draft

Attachments: [Bus Stop Evaluation Draft](#)

Matt reviewed the bus stop evaluation matrix draft. Sarah noted that when they receive the stop data, it will highlight many of the system's needs. She also suggested that the matrix could include more specific information regarding sidewalk proximity. Mike pointed out that they would need to coordinate with Public Works and Traffic on certain aspects. Gabi proposed improving the color-coding of roads and routes in the draft. Joan suggested that using an "X" instead of a "yes/no" format could make the document visually clearer. Gabi added the idea of implementing a numbered system. Matt then confirmed that they will adopt a numbered system, with "1" for yes and "0" for no.

Mike informed the group that all buses have been updated with new hardware to track ridership. He also mentioned that in about a year, more data will be available and processed faster.

Matt asked how the group wanted to proceed with completing the evaluation matrix. Joy volunteered to take the gold route, Don will take the black route, Sarah will oversee the green route, while Tammy will take the orange route. Kathy and Matt will take responsibility for the red route.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. CATSO Study feat. Shawn Leight

Attachments: [2024-09-17 Public Transit Advisory Commission Meeting](#)

See presentation. Katherine expressed that she would greatly benefit from a route connecting Columbia to Jefferson City. Tammy asked how such a route would integrate with the city bus system. Shawn explained how a similar system operates between St. Louis and St. Charles but admitted that they are uncertain how it would work locally. He mentioned that conducting a study is something they are considering.

Matt added that MODOT has explored this idea, though he is unsure how far the effort has progressed, but emphasized that the interest is there. Gabi noted that it would be wise to consider regional transit planning now, so the system could be ready in 10-20 years. She gave an example of the demand for regional transit, such as people taking Amtrak from Jefferson City. Katherine agreed, stating that Jefferson City should also have input in these discussions.

Shawn inquired if anyone knew who was leading the MODOT study. Gabi clarified that MODOT's study is focused on an express bus service and is currently in phase 2, with Christy Evers serving as the main point of contact for the study. Matt expressed that he would like to see more integration between the various transportation plans.

2. Transit across city processes

Matt inquired about ways to keep transit more prominent in the city's considerations. Gabi responded, stating that as a commission, their role is to make recommendations and keep transit on the city's agenda. Tammy asked how they could achieve this as a commission. Sarah explained that they can't make recommendations until they fully understand the issues surrounding them.

Tammy asked if there is a website or email where the public can ask transit-related questions. Matt mentioned that the public can email transit@como.gov. Mike added that he has raised the issue of being more involved in these processes so that he can ask the necessary transit questions, which would help with strategic planning and keeping pace with the city's growth.

Matt asked Mike if he knew of specific ways the commission could assist. Mike emphasized that sending letters to the city council is important, and that variety in communication is key to avoid repetitive messaging. Matt also noted that the city recently changed its ordinance, now requiring annual reports from the commission.

VIII. RIDERSHIP

August Ridership

Attachments: [Go COMO Ridership Data](#)

Mike mentioned that they hope to have the ridership counter system and navigation operational by November 1.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mike reported that they currently have 33 drivers, with 3 out on long-term leave, and conduct interviews regularly. Matt inquired if they had hired any drivers from Jefferson City, to which Mike responded that he was unsure. Jack asked how many drivers they would need, and Mike explained that they aim for 40 drivers.

Tammy asked how drivers with CDL and E-class licenses are counted, and Mike confirmed that all drivers are included in the total. He also mentioned attending the Disabilities Commission meeting, where he shared that the new navigation system is nearing completion, with staff training underway, and they expect it to be operational by November 1. The system will run in parallel with TransLoc and ETA.

Matt asked if there would be an educational push for the public regarding the new system. Mike explained that this has not begun yet but will happen when the system is ready to launch.

Zoom Link

Attachments: [Hyperlink](#)

X. NEXT MEETING DATE - 10/15/2024

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Matt motions to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

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