



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Public Transit Advisory Commission

Tuesday, January 16, 2024
5:30 PM

Conference Room
1C
City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Matt Wright at 5:39 pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

Present: 7 - Matt Wright, Candy Cornman, Adam Thorp, Gabi Jacobs, Sarah Johnson, Joy Rushing and Heath Immel

Absent: 4 - Dawn Zeterberg, Shaunda Hamilton, Tammy Teel and Donald Jackson

Unexcused: 1 - Robert Boone

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sarah made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Matt. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous at 5:41 pm.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Candy. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous at 5:42 pm.

Sept. 19 Minutes

Attachments: [Sept. 19 Minutes](#)

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

No new updates.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Olsson Study Update

Mike reported that he plans to meet with Shawn Strate, the project manager, next week for updates on the project's progress. Sarah inquired about any new information from the recent public meeting. Mike responded that they plan to provide updates to PTAC in February or March.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Vice Chair Election

Adam Thorp nominated Gabi Jacobs to be Vice Chair seconded by Matt Wright. Gabi accepted the nomination and was elected Vice Chair unanimously at 5:46 pm.

2. Establishing Legislation Review

Attachments: [PTAC Establishing Legislation Review](#)

Matt provided an overview of the legislation review. See attached. Matt suggested this topic be revisited in the next meeting for further discussion and recommendations for changes to the city council.

During the discussion, Matt inquired about bullet number 4, seeking clarification. Gabi responded that it was CATSO. Mike added that discussions regarding transit at CATSO are rare.

Matt asked about bullet number 6, expressing interest in whether a master plan exists. Mike informed the committee that this is what the ongoing Olsson study aims to address.

Matt urged everyone to review the membership section. Adam raised concerns about the designated seats on PTAC, suggesting that they should be reconsidered and filled by individuals genuinely interested in contributing. Matt asked about the history and rationale behind this setup. Candy shared her knowledge of the evolution of this commission, explaining her predecessor's motivations and emphasizing the importance of collective input.

Joy shared her observations on the crosswalk lights in Columbia.

Matt and Sarah agreed they should abolish the one-year term, echoed by Adam. The commission talked about what the ideal quorum should be, with Adam proposing a target of 5 members.

Candy proposed recruiting a member from Columbia College the director of security. Matt asked Candy if she could talk to him about joining.

Adam asked the group if it would be beneficial to have an annual report to send to the city council each year.

3. Future Agenda Items

Matt opened the floor to everyone if they had input on future agenda items. Gabi suggested adding Earth Day to the agenda. Additionally, Matt proposed including Driver Appreciation Month as a topic for discussion. Mike shared insights about GOCOMO's multiple BBQ events throughout the year.

Gabi raised the idea of discussing a potential bus route from Columbia to Jefferson City. Mike provided details about this plan and his discussions with Olsson. Candy asked if that would include a stop at the airport, to which Mike explained that this had been brought up with Olsson.

Matt advocated for adding a bus stop evaluation matrix to the agenda. Mike mentioned that a significant portion of a recently awarded grant went towards bus stop improvement, though there isn't a formal evaluation process in place. He clarified that while documents exist outlining existing bus stop locations, a structured evaluation process is currently absent.

VIII. RIDERSHIP

December Ridership

Attachments: [Ridership Dec. FY 2024](#)

Mike mentioned that the biggest loss in ridership is commuters, and they are finding other ways to get to work. Adam asked if there was a path to restoring our service. Sarah asked about the highlighted part on the ridership document. Mike clarified that the highlighted portion pertained solely to paratransit services. He elaborated on ongoing efforts to establish qualification criteria for paratransit clients, particularly regarding proximity to fixed routes. Additionally, he mentioned discussions surrounding fare adjustments due to misuse of paratransit services.

Adam shared concerns about the level of service and frequency of routes and then charging fares on top of that would be unfair. Mike clarified that fares would only be considered once service levels go back to the way they were. Gabi asked about Kansas City and their approach to addressing these similar challenges, to which Mike explained they have a designated tax for transportation.

IX. REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER

No new requests.

X. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Shannon reported that two drivers are currently undergoing CDL training, with three CDL drivers in the works and seven E-class drivers potentially ready to start.

Gabi raised concerns about access to senior living facilities on the outskirts of Columbia and proposed discussing the matter with the city council.

Matt inquired about the current shortage of drivers, to which Mike indicated that the numbers have remained relatively the same.

Sarah mentioned that Earth Day sign-up starts today and wanted to know whether or not the proposed budget was accepted. Matt expressed uncertainty but believes they do not have a budget. Candy recommended initiating discussions with Sheela Amin for budget-related matters.

Sarah asked if the Greyhound bus was still stopping at the Wabash. Mike said yes.

Zoom Link

Attachments: [Hyperlink](#)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE - 2/20/2024**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Sarah motioned to adjourn with a second from Adam at 6:58 pm.

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