

# City of Columbia, Missouri

## **Meeting Minutes**

## **Public Transit Advisory Commission**

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 5:30 PM City Hall Conference Room 1A/1B 701 E. Broadway Columbia, MO.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Matt Wright called the meeting to order at 5:34 P.M.

## **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

City Staff: John Ogan, Gus Harmon, Shannon Hemenway

Three members of the public

Olsson: Corinne Donahue and Brian Praeuner

Present: 7 - Matt Wright, Tammy Teel, Sarah Johnson, Adam Thorp, Joan Ferguson, William

Brumbaugh and Hannah Carrico

Absent: 5 - Gabi Jacobs, Joy Rushing, Katharine Meagher, Randal Meyer and Bryan Mink

Unexcused: 1 - Christine Schneider

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by Sarah, seconded by Tammy, approved at 5:36 P.M.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motioned by Tammy, seconded by Sarah, approved at 5:36 P.M.

August 19 Minutes

Attachments: August 19 minutes

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

None.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

#### Olsson Presentation

## Attachments: Go COMO Comprehensive Transit Study

Corinne reviewed the Olsson presentation. (See attached.)

William asked why ridership had been steadily declining starting in 2018, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shannon responded that the decline was due to funding losses and condensed routes, which resulted in fewer serviced areas.

Tammy inquired about the start date of the 10-year plan. Corinne responded that the plan began in September 2023.

John O. asked for clarification on the term "VRH." Corinne explained that it stands for Vehicle Revenue Hours.

Adam Thorp asked whether operational costs include administrative expenses. Corinne clarified that administrative costs are not included.

Corinne asked if they were close to completing the implementation matrix. Shannon responded that they are close and or in a position to begin pursuing it, though driver shortages remain a problem.

Adam Thorp asked what activities are required to move from one tier to another. Corinne explained that hiring drivers and acquiring vehicles are essential first steps, followed by securing funding. She noted that the process involves multiple steps, and failure at any one step could impact the others.

Matt asked whether they are on track with the current timeline. Corinne confirmed that, according to Shannon, they are very much on schedule.

Adam asked about the distinction between direct general funding and local funding. Corinne responded that they would follow up with that information for PTAC.

William asked whether microtransit is used in rural counties or suburban areas to connect riders to urban centers. Corinne responded that some microtransit systems are in place in other areas.

Tammy asked about the SEATS program. Brian explained that it is a program providing rural transportation.

Matt mentioned that the proposed Route B would serve its own TMA (Transportation Management Association). Corinne added that while the city may fund the route, businesses may also want to contribute financially.

Tammy asked if applications are available at the Wabash Station. Shannon responded that all applications are either online or must be picked up through Human Resources.

William asked how the local driver shortage compares to other college towns. Corinne stated that GoComo is experiencing a driver shortage similar to many other areas.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## VIII. RIDERSHIP

Ridership

Attachments: August Ridership

**Daily Stop Totals August 2025** 

Tammy mentioned that the University has made significant changes to parking for Mizzou students.

Adam inquired about the reasons behind the sharp decline in ridership on the Tiger Line.

## IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Shannon noted that they recently lost a couple of drivers but currently have three new drivers in the pipeline. She also mentioned that progress is being made on the NEPA process for the construction of the Grissum Building.

William brought up that individuals will be present on buses to monitor activity. Shannon clarified that the City is working on securing a grant to place personnel on certain routes to help intervene when issues arise. This initiative is approximately three months away from implementation.

Adam asked whether these individuals would be City employees. Shannon explained that the roles will be put out for bid and filled by professionals contracted to serve on the buses. John O. noted that the title for these individuals is "navigation liaisons."

Adam also confirmed that the system will remain fare-free for the next fiscal year. While there have been discussions about reinstating fares, service will continue to be free for the upcoming year.

Zoom Link

Attachments: Zoom Link

## X. NEXT MEETING DATE - 10/21/25

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

## Matt Wright adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

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