



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Public Transit Advisory Commission

Tuesday, December 16, 2025
5:30 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Present: 11 - Matt Wright, Tammy Teel, Gabi Jacobs, Sarah Johnson, Katharine Meagher, Adam Thorp, Randal Meyer, Joan Ferguson, Bryan Mink, William Brumbaugh and Ethan West

Unexcused: 2 - Christine Schneider and Hannah Carrico

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by Sarah, seconded by Joan, approved at 5:33 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motioned by Joan, seconded by Sarah, approved at 5:33 p.m.

Nov. 18 Minutes

Attachments: [Nov. 18 Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Bryan mentioned that the Bike/Ped proposal letter regarding the new ordinance is forthcoming and that the group is opposing the ordinance.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian Safety Ordinance Letter Draft

Attachments: [PTAC Letter Regarding Pedestrian Safety Ordinance \(B265-25\) DRAFT.pdf](#)

Matt opened the floor for recommendations. William mentioned a minor edit between the first and second paragraphs, and the group discussed those paragraphs. Sarah noted that the letter does not give a strong recommendation regarding the ordinance. Tammy reviewed a letter she had seen referenced during the ABC 17 news segment. Bryan mentioned the Bike/Ped recommendation letter on the December agenda if the group wanted to review it. Randal stated that he thought the letter was good and appreciated how short and concise it is. Adam reviewed potential edits to the letter, including bolding certain sections, and Bryan agreed. Joan asked whether the group should vote for or against the ordinance.

Adam made a motion to vote to send the letter to City Council pending the edits, seconded by Katherine. The motion was approved at 5:47 p.m.

2. Tiger Line Discussion

Shannon discussed the level of resources allocated to the Tiger Line, noting that 16,757 hours and seven buses are dedicated to the service. Shannon stated that the hospital route is included and that all buses are equipped with automatic counters. Matt asked about federal funding and noted that it is determined by ridership, adding that changes to the Tiger Line are approached cautiously because they could affect funding. Matt stated that he could not find clear information on the funding structure. Shannon explained that they have not been given a specific funding formula outlining exact amounts received. Matt mentioned STIC funding, and Shannon responded that there are several types of federal funding with multiple contributing factors and that they receive funding from four different sources.

Matt asked whether any of those funding sources are directly related to ridership. Shannon stated that there is no grant based solely on ridership, but that all grants require submitting ridership numbers and other data during the application process. Matt commented that changes to the Tiger Line could improve those numbers and would not affect the six funding factors he had reviewed, noting that federal funding is not solely based on ridership and may include factors such as time on the bus. Shannon stated that it would be difficult to generate comparable numbers on city routes. Matt emphasized that these were theoretical recommendations.

Adam stated that the key question for City Council is whether they want to continue supporting these routes and shuttles compared to other possible uses of resources. Randal asked whether fares affect federal funding, and Shannon said they do not. William asked whether federal funding decreased when ridership dropped during COVID. Shannon stated that it did not due to emergency funding. Bryan asked whether any bus route reductions had affected ridership-related funding, and Shannon mentioned they had not.

Joan stated that the Tiger Line is not working well for city residents or many students, and Bryan agreed. Joan noted that the 402 route performs well and expressed a desire for other routes to function similarly. Shannon stated that the university ultimately determines routes and route design. She added that rates have been increasing and that GoCOMO has the authority to decline certain demands. Shannon explained that the amount charged covers drivers, fuel, and routine maintenance, but does not cover bus replacements or non-routine maintenance.

Adam agreed that answers to these questions should be pursued, but stated that City Council should not spend time on the issue without a clear understanding of the benefits. Matt reiterated that his primary concern is federal funding. Adam asked whether the state funding formula is based on ridership or determined by the legislature. Shannon stated that MoDOT requests all operational data. Adam suggested gathering information from comparable transit departments for comparison. Sarah and Tammy stated that they could work on researching this.

Joan asked what fixed routes would look like without the Tiger Line and whether reallocating Tiger Line drivers could support full routes. Shannon stated that three drivers are dedicated only to the Tiger Line and likely would not remain employed, meaning staffing shortages would still exist. Adam suggested that a better route service could be developed. Tammy asked whether they work with MACC and its CDL program, and Shannon stated that they have had discussions with them.

Matt asked when the group would like to revisit the discussion. Sarah suggested March. Matt agreed and stated that the discussion will be placed on the March agenda.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report

Adam stated that he could run the graphs again and noted that adding a summary of the Olsson findings would be beneficial. Joan reviewed last year's annual report. Sarah stated that updating the current information would be helpful and suggested also including items related to increasing public safety, such as the bus stop matrix and improved bus stops.

Bryan mentioned that including fares in the report could be beneficial to show all related factors. Matt stated that fares would most likely be addressed in a separate letter that PTAC plans to send later, but noted that the report could mention that PTAC has been discussing fares. Randal expressed a similar idea regarding the Tiger Line.

Adam stated that they would like to include information related to the bus stop matrix, such as a map or related data, and that this information should be included in the report. Sarah suggested providing a brief snapshot of the bus stop matrix numbers. Joan noted that maps already exist from a school project and also suggested mentioning Google Maps integration. Katherine suggested including the GoCOMO app update.

Adam stated that he would like to recommend including a plan to follow up on the Olsson study and to advocate for progressing through its recommendations to help City Council explore funding resources. Adam reiterated that he would be willing to recreate the graphs.

VIII. RIDERSHIP

Ridership

Attachments: [Nov. Ridership.pdf](#)

The group agreed that the numbers are not alarming and appear to be appropriate.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Zoom Link

Attachments: [Zoom](#)

Shannon stated that staffing remains at 31 drivers, with five additional drivers in the hiring process.

Katherine asked how a member would reapply. Matt explained that the application process is the same as the initial application and that Sheela will send reapplication materials.

Sarah mentioned that a bus stop was removed on Conley and that there is nothing that can be done about it. Bryan asked whether the shelter could be re purposed and used elsewhere. Shannon stated that there are currently no plans in place, but that she is pursuing a grant to eventually update all bus shelters.

Sarah mentioned the bus liaison program. Shannon stated that there has been limited discussion since it was approved the previous day. Katherine asked for clarification on the program, and Shannon explained that the group will work with un housed individuals to help them navigate the transit system and that transit is the first city group to test the program. Sarah asked how the program originated, and Shannon stated that it arose from concerns raised by staff and customers.

Matt mentioned that City Council had proposed the idea of installing plexiglass around drivers. Shannon stated that the idea will be explored but is still in the early stages.

Matt asked whether there have been discussions about increased public transit related to the World Cup. Shannon stated that the topic has been raised and that conversations will increase, noting that resources specific to Columbia have not yet been discussed in detail.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE - 1/20/2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Matt Wright adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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