



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Public Transit Advisory Commission

Tuesday, August 20, 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

Public: 3 Members of the public

Media: 3 Members of the media

Present: 9 - Matt Wright, Donald Jackson, Gabi Jacobs, Sarah Johnson, Joy Rushing, Katharine Meagher, Jack Russell, Adam Thorp and Christine Schneider

Absent: 2 - Dawn Zeterberg and Tammy Teel

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sarah made a motion to approve the agenda, with a second from Gabi. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous at 5:31 pm.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Gabi. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous at 5:31 pm.

July 16 Minutes

Attachments: [July 16 Minutes](#)

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

Matt mentioned that they are in the process of finalizing the budget and there will be another public hearing at the next council meeting. He also noted that the mayor is amending the budget to add four full-time employees (FTEs) for new transit drivers. Additionally, he mentioned that the letter was discussed during the city council meeting and that they are prepared to go into more detail about the current situation. He stated that the sleep apnea test is covered by insurance, but you must meet your deductible first. Mike added that the city council is in favor, but it will depend on the financial situation as determined by HR and the insurance company.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Transit Study Update

Attachments: [24-08-20 PTAC Meeting](#)

Shawn gave a quick overview of the slides (see attached) and mentioned that they aim to have a final plan by October. Katherine asked for clarification on what he meant by "trimming the route." Shawn explained that if they want to reduce routes from 40 minutes to 30 minutes, they would need to physically shorten the route to ensure buses return to the station on time. Joy asked for clarification on what the cuts meant. Shawn explained that the cuts are not a proposal but an illustration of what could be, and they are not yet a recommendation.

Shawn went over the preliminary recommendations (see presentation). Matt asked what time they would recommend switching to 90-minute routes for late-night rides. Shawn suggested around 6:00 p.m. Katherine asked when they anticipate this change going into effect. Shawn stated they are not at that stage yet, as the plan still needs to develop along with funding discussions. Matt mentioned that there is a planned budget amendment for FY25. He also asked how many additional FTEs would be needed. Shawn responded that they don't have the exact number yet.

Gabi asked about the cost of running 45-minute routes all day, including evenings. Joy asked if returning to 45-minute routes would help reduce stress. Mike confirmed that since the routes are based on time, it would help. Shawn continued with the presentation on Tier 2. Matt and Gabi discussed possible service hours for weekday and weekend routes. Matt also mentioned adding service to the Route B corridor. Adam commented on some of the potential future routes, and he and Matt discussed the benefits of a Paris/Route B route.

Katherine asked which exact routes in Tier 3 would run every 15 minutes. Shawn replied that it could change, but currently, they are showing the orange, black, red, and green routes as 15-minute routes. Matt mentioned that some of these routes have been done before, and data could be reviewed for those. Adam added that the dollar-per-rider metric would be interesting to analyze. Katherine asked when the next public meeting would be, and Shawn mentioned that is scheduled for August 27th at the Wabash from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Joy asked if Shawn had any recommendations or thoughts on where to find additional funding. Shawn explained that these would be annual operating costs, likely covered by taxes and federal grants, but local funding would also be required. Joy asked if Shawn knew how other cities cover these costs, and he mentioned that many cities receive more state funding. Adam noted that implementing 15-minute routes on the black line would help resolve the private bus line issue. Matt asked if the late draft plan would go to PTAC before heading to the council. Mike stated that it would need to be reviewed internally first.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VIII. RIDERSHIP

Matt asked if he could get stop data for each stop on the routes. Mike mentioned that he could get that information but it won't be accurate.

July Ridership

Attachments: [Go COMO Ridership Data - COMO Routes \(4\)](#)

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mike mentioned that we have 32 drivers and that they have interviewed four additional drivers. Mike mentioned that we need to get back to the baseline consistently.

Zoom Link

Attachments: [Hyperlink](#)

X. NEXT MEETING DATE - 9/17/2024**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Matt motions to adjourn at 6:45 pm.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload. (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)