

Access Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 6th, 2020
Virtual
5:30 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Paul Hunt, Access Advisory Committee

Chairman Prentice called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Introductions:

Committee members present were Paul Hunt, Estrella Barrera, John McNabb, Chris Prentice, Audrea Diaz, and Mike Gorse.

Capital Metro staff and contractors present were: Martin Kareithi, Julie Lampkin, Suzie Edrington, Chris Westbrook, Chris Mojica, Ricardo Boulware, Dottie Watkins, Dave Couch, Lawrence Deeter, and Yannis Banks

Citizens' Communication

Members of the public

None

Project Connect

David Couch, Program Officer, Project Connect

Dave Couch gave the presentation that was given at the March joint meeting. Access – What are the accessibility features of the vehicles? Dave – There will be level boarding from the platforms in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All ramps will be ADA compliance as well as signage. When it comes to the tunnel, we would have escalators heading down & up. There would be 2 ADA compliant elevators. We would have near level boarding with the Metrorapid buses. We are looking at the different bus types to see how that would work. Access – There was not anything mentioned about audio announcements. Dave – There will be audio announcements in the tunnel. My apologies for not mentioning that. Access – You mentioned glass separation in the tunnel, is that like what is done at airports? Dave – Yes, very similar to that. Access – The route from Tech Ridge and Dessau, what would that route look like. Dave – We are looking and working with TxDot on their North I-35 redo. We are looking at how we can get across I-35 and what not. The Metrorapid line would go from Tech Ridge to ACC Highland. Access – Based on what is happening the past few months, will there be a stomach to pay more taxes? Is the timing bad? Dave – With coordinating the work, the first action can be to adopt the technical stuff but you do not have to go forward with the funding mechanism. With 40% projected with FTA money, with their rigor, they keep track of where you are kind of like a check and balance. Access – Which website can we go to for information about the meetings. – Dave – You can find it from CapMetro's website. The virtual open house will run until May 31st.

Operations Update

Dottie Watkins, Chief Customer Officer/Chief Operating Officer

Access – There are some concerns about the cost. How is it decided if the fare is going to be free & for how much longer? Dottie – We aren't 100% sure how much longer. We want to make sure we are keeping it safe for our operators. It will probably in the next couple months. Access – For people who have bought passes, will metro be doing a refund? Dottie – People can trade them in at the transit store, but we will honor them for future months use when we start collecting fares again. We will get info out to customers once we start collecting fares again. Access – Can you give an update on Covid-19 employees. Dottie – We currently have 12 members of CapMetro family with Covid-19. We unfortunately did lose a bus mechanic; the rest fortunately have not been that severe. Access – Is it still typical for both bus doors to open? Dottie – It is possible to just open the rear door. It is possibly just out of habit of turning the lever to open both doors. Access – In terms of the Post-Pandemic Resource Committee will someone who has lost their job be able to apply for a voucher for passes? Dottie – We are looking at all options of what that could be, but it will be something we are looking into.

June Service Change

Lawrence Deeter, Principal Planner, Shortrange

Access - In term of UT shuttles are you certain that they are not having classes for upcoming session? Lawrence – We are positive they are not for Summer but for Fall they said they will announce something in June. We work closely with them and they will let us know. Access – If they come into service will it be back to normal? Lawrence – It will probably be normal, but they will let us know what they would like to have

Access Update

Chad Ballentine, Vice President, Demand Response and Innovative Mobility

We worked with HEB & Central Texas Foodbank when this first started to help get people groceries who were MetroAccess customers. We started this project on the 23rd of March. HEB was amazing with this. We are still doing this. The program has been extended twice so far & HEB continues to donate groceries. We deliver over 4000 meals a day. Good Apple reached out to us because they wanted to deliver fresh produce. Access – With Good Apple program, is it an application process? Chad – Good Apple is a non-profit company that does delivery of produce. Before this they did if you would buy a basket of produce and they would donate to a family in need. They are now donating the food. To help maintain their volume they are asking people to apply for it. It is for folks 55+ or immune compromise & need food assistance. Access – Can you give an idea on the kind of fresh fruit & veggies you get. How big is the package? Chad – Kohlrabi, lettuces, oranges, avocado, dill, carrots, etc. Occasionally they will give recipes to go along with it. Estrella – Wants to recognize the work CapMetro is doing to keep employees from being furlough as well as what you are doing for the community. Glenda – I want to

second that as well. Chad – No Pickup update. We are about 33% of our normal ridership. We put on hold our expansion in Lago Vista due to the pandemic. We will start moving forward once things clear up.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Estrella with Corrections, second by Mike pass unanimously, Glenda abstain.