

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

Introductions:

Committee members present were Paul Hunt, Andrew Bernet, Otmar Fohener, John McNabb, Chris Prentice, Audrea Diaz, Glenda Born, and Mike Gorse.

Capital Metro staff and contractors present were: Martin Kareithi, Julie Lampkin, Suzie Edrington, Chris Westbrook, Chris Mojica, Ricardo Boulware, Dave Couch, Lawrence Deeter, and Yannis Banks, Melissa Ortiz, Kevin Conlan, Darryl Jamail, Gardner Tabon, Ken Cartwright, Mark Herrera

Citizens' Communication

Members of the public

Glenda – Used MetroAccess, they were very accommodating & got to appointments on time. Wants to commend CapMetro on how they have handled this during the pandemic

Systems Safety Update

Gardner Tabon, Vice President of Risk Management and Safety

Commends the MetroAccess team as well as maintenance & operators for their efforts during this time. Extra cleaning & temperature checks were done during this time. A lot have been going on during this time to help keep operators & customers safe during this pandemic. We did not ignore our day to day safety needs during this pandemic. We still did trainings that were needed to occur. Access – How much longer will the upgraded cleaning procedures be used? Gardner – What we are currently using are EPA approved disinfectants with guidance provided by the CDC. In following that guidance, we will monitor everything they issue to us as well as local data. If the risk is so low, we may decide to not continue at current level but that has yet to be discussed. Access – Are people still entering thru rear doors since fares are active again? Gardner – We are installing barriers or shields to assist with protection of operators, buses with those shields are doing front door entry. The other buses w/o are doing rear door entry. Martin – All buses are still following all procedures for persons with disabilities to enter the bus. Access – So we don't know how long you will continue with enhanced cleaning materials depending on how prevalent Covid-19 will be. Gardner – That is correct. We don't have any plans to decrease our level of cleaning currently. Access – Are drivers carrying masks & hand sanitizer? Gardner – They do have their mask & very shortly they will have the option to wear face shields to protect themselves. Chad – They will have masks to give to customers if needed. MetroAccess will not have the walls area that fixed route will have but we will have the other stuff in place. Access –

I've been in vehicles that did have sanitizers and others didn't. Chad – We started to in the beginning but there was no way to refill them & we ran out. We may look at long term putting them back in. We provide our operators with hand sanitizer. Access – For clarification MetroAccess is honoring the April & May passes correct? Chad – That is correct. If anyone wants to go into the transit store we will transfer them out for future months as well.

Budget Preview

Kevin Conlan, Director Budget Financial Planning

Will come back to the committee in August with numbers for budget proposal. In July we will give a lot more detail to the Board. In August we will come to Access with the budget proposal. Public outreach will be done in the last week in August. Covid19 has had a significant financial impact on the Agency. We really do not know how big of an impact yet. The comptroller distributes sales tax 2 months in the rear. We did receive March last month; it was only 4% down year over year. We should get April in about a week or two. For the last number of years, we have enjoyed great success in the region & MSA for sales tax. Our planning dept is updating ridership projects for remaining of this year & next. We are not proposing a fare increase for next year. We are going to keep our fare flat. The funding we got from the CARES Act is not an additional funding to the agency. It's designed to cover the loss of fare & sales tax revenue that the agency will in occur over the next several months as well as what has been incurred already. For Operating expenses, the goal is the keep the 2021 budget flat to this year budget. May be some adjustments if and when the economy recovers. We do have additional PPE budgeted into next year budget at the moment. Service level will be adjusted as needed. We will also continue Pickup service zones. Access – Is there any money set aside in case there is a resurgent of covid19? Kevin – That has been policy of the board and senior management for many years. We have 2 months of full operating expense set aside with an additional 1 month operating expenses set aside. We have an additional 40 million capital reserve set aside that at the discretion of the board can be used. With the CARES Act funding we've been awarded we have done an analysis & don't think we will have to touch the reserves this year. We have done an analysis and if a recession like 2008/2009 hits we will be able to make it thru with the reserves that have been put away. Access – With riots going on, in event we have destruction do we have funds set aside to take care of that? Kevin – We have our reserves set aside at the discretion of our CEO & Board so there is that. Access – When you come back in August you will have the dollar amount you are taking into consideration? Kevin – Correct. It will still be at a high level.

Security Update

Daryl Jamail, Director Security and Emergency Management

We have 8 admin employees that manage security operations, employ 35 – 40 security guards and employ 180 APD officers that do our security. For a system of our size that is a normal operation. We partner closely with Homeland Security, TSA, local, regional, state law enforcement as well as peer organizations. Access – Does the P.D. work in tandem with you or do they work as your security? Darryl – They are APD officers but part-time officers working for

CapMetro. When they are here they aren't on duty APD. They get CapMetro vehicles to ride around in. Access – We have the explosive sniffing dogs, so we don't have to worry about bombs? Darryl – I wouldn't say we don't have to worry about them, we do our best to prevent that. Access – Have there been an uptick in security issues in the pass week in the half? Darryl – No we have not. Only had a couple of minor where busses were spray painted & items thrown at the bus

ACC Riverside Update

Mark Herrera,

This plan has been in development since late fall at ACC's request. Access – To get an idea on where it's going to be in relation to the parking lot, where in relationship to the 2 driveways out on Grove will it be? Mark – We are going to the Northeast side of the entrance driveway. Access – Will this impact the bus stop at Fairway & Grove at all? Mark – It will not affect the bus stops at Ruiz Library at all. Access – Will any additional signals be put in? Mark – We picked this location because it's somewhat of a less pedestrian access area according to ATD. Access – Is this still on Grove or Hogan? Mark – It will be on Grove.

Access Update

Chad Ballentine, Vice President, Demand Response and Innovative Mobility

The food delivery service is still going on. We are now up to 320k meals delivered. We have also been delivering books for school aged children as well. Access – Could you give out the Good Apple info? Chad – capmetro.org/home-delivery. Suzie will send out the info to the committee after the meeting. Chad – We are also doing wi-fi zones using our large metro access vans going to apartment buildings or schools where there has been a need identified. It's not just for students, it's for anyone in the community. Suzie – We have 8 sites we have located & 18 vehicles with wi-fi capabilities. We are working with AISD to identify most need for students. Chad – They will stay on the vehicles so if needed in the future we will be able to roll out. Access – Is metro charged by use or is it unlimited. Chad – I can follow up & get back with you.

Project Connect Resolution

Access Committee

Paul - The 7th whereas what is the purpose of that? Dave – As part of overall program we would go with high capacity for higher ridership level. For the next level we would do with MetroRapid. Then we look at the last mile where you get into the community. We would look at place for neighborhood circulators, ie Pickup.

Paul move approval.

Approval is unanimous.

Approval of Minutes

Moved and approved.