

## Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

### Access Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

5:30 PM

#### Attendees:

**CapMetro Employees:** Martin Kareithi, Julie Lampkin, Jordan McGee, Sam Sargent, Andrew Skabowski, Tevin Lionel, Christopher Westbrook, Raul Vela, Edna Parra

**Committee Members:** Audrea Diaz, Glenda Born, Mike Gorse, Paul Hunt, Estrella Barrera

#### Welcome / Introductions / Call to Order

*Chair Hunt*

#### Public Communications

**Audrea Diaz:** Would I still have a 12:30 cut-off for MetroAccess anywhere I'm moving within Austin?

**Julie Lampkin:** It'll depend on where you're moving to, so please get me an address and I can clear that for you.

**Glenda Born:** Brought up that the committee forum was about issues that affect not only us personally, but the community. The committee can deal with communal issues pertaining to the advocacy of transit users with a disability.

**Paul Hunt:** Described an issue yesterday where he couldn't get to his appointment because the driver said they showed up and then they never did. As far as we could tell, the dispatcher could not get ahold of the driver.

**Julie Lampkin:** I have received this report, the rundown seems to be the operator was in the wrong location or they didn't provide door to door service as outlined in your profile. They are looking at the on-board video to see what happened and why.

**Paul Hunt:** It seems to me we are getting more buses over vans. I'm just curious, are the vans being phased out?

**Julie Lampkin:** Yes, that's the plan, we are slowly phasing out the vans in favor of buses to accommodate more people.

#### Operations Technology Update High Overview

*Martin Kareithi; VP, Director Systemwide Accessibility*

**Martin Kareithi:** We are moving on from the planning phase and onto the design phase. We have also begun testing with focus groups to gauge likes, dislikes, preferred training methods and other new offerings to our customer base.

**Glenda Born:** When the software is in place, will there be training for customers to get accustomed to the new software?

**Martin Kareithi:** Yes, there will be training opportunities for customers.

**Paul Hunt:** I'm interested in employment opportunities for visually impaired people, that way there can be two sides to the perspective on how the system works. It works well enough for disabled persons to both facilitate and use the software.

**Martin Kareithi:** I've advocated for the same, it's important that the same people administrating the software can relate to and help the customers.

### **Resolution for CapMetro's Bus and Bus Facility Program Grant for FTA**

*Sam Sargent, Director; Government Affairs*

- CapMetro will be constructing a new, permanent MetroAccess Operations and Maintenance Facility at Springdale and Cameron Roads.
- The new facility will allow MetroAccess to grow its fleet to 450+ plus vehicles, have a second maintenance facility, and avoid the uncertainty that comes with leased operations facilities.
- CapMetro is pursuing a federal Bus and Bus Facilities grant to cover a portion of the \$60 million project. Sam Sargent, Director of Government Affairs, requested a resolution of support for that federal grant application, which the Access Advisory Committee approved unanimously.

**Glenda Born:** This Program is to combine existing facilities as well as expand the agency? Could you explain a little more of the Program?

**Sam Sargent:** The new demand response facility is meant to replace the leased location so that we are no longer renting our facilities. The other thing too is that the North base did not have in-house repair or maintenance. It had break area, administrative offices and parking. And so, our facilities master plan had identified a 25-acre site.

**Paul Hunt:** If North Base does not have Maintenance facilities, how are vehicles serviced now?

**Andrew Skabowski:** We utilize a third-party facility to maintain and repair vehicles.

### **Equitable Transit Oriented Development**

*Jordan McGee, Transit Oriented Planner*

#### **ETOD Corridor Study Area**

- \$1.65 million in FTA TOD grant
- 21 stations on Blue and Orange Line LRT
- Four focus stations (NLTC, Crestview, Hyde Park, SCTC) and one E. Riverside Corridor Plan update

#### **What Are Components of ETOD?**

- Walking, rolling and bike facilities that feel safe
- High frequency transit options
- Walking and biking connections to transit

- Affordable housing options for a diversity of families and individuals
- Small business representative of the communities they serve
- Active public spaces that are useful to everyone in the community
- Workforce development
- Support for prospective & current homeowners
- Access to essential needs
- Support of legacy businesses

### **ETOD Survey**

- Survey online available to general public: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ETODgoals>
- Centered around ETOD Goals
- 102 Responses to-date

### **ETOD Policy Summary Deliverable**

- ETOD Goals
  - To enable all residents to thrive in their neighborhoods and communities
- Strategies
  - Covering urban design & land use, real estate, mobility, housing affordability, and small business & workforce
- Policy Tools
  - Detailing policy recommendations with potential partners, precedents, and feasibility considerations
- Action Plan
  - With immediate, intermediate, and ongoing next steps to implement policy recommendations

### **Next Steps for the Policy Summary**

- Mid-to-Late May: Focus groups and individual interviews with additional stakeholders (e.g., developers, small business owners) to explore policy tool feasibility and user responsiveness
- May-June: Small group discussions with implementation leads (CapMetro, ATP, and City of Austin staff) to confirm details of proposed policy tools
- July-August: Community engagement to explore prioritization of policy tools through conversations highlighting tradeoffs in resource allocation
- Late August: Consultant team finalizes toolkit and action plan

### **Deliverables – Policy Toolkit & TOD Priority Tool Update**

- August 26, 2022: Task 5 and Task 6 completed (CapMetro + Consultants)
- September 21, 2022: Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee review of code amendment ordinance (CAO)\* (or whole ETOD Policy Plan package)
- September 2022: City team prepares ETOD Policy Plan (PP) and CAO, start the 60-day notification period for public hearing.

- 9/13/22: launch set Request for Council Action (RCA) for set date of 10/13/22 Council meeting
- 10/13/22: Council sets public hearing for 11/17/22
- October 11/25, 2022: Planning Commission review and recommendation of PP
- November 8, 2022: Election Day
- November 17, 2022: goal for public hearing and 1st reading (out of 3 total readings required) for PP and CAO
- December 1, 2022: goal for 2nd reading for PP and CAO
- January 2023: goal for 3rd readings and approval of PP and CAO

### **Deliverables – Station Area Plans**

- Early February 2023: Task 7 draft completed (CapMetro + Consultants), City place the plans on the Council and Planning Commission agendas
- March 2023: goal for Planning Commission hearing
- April 2023: goal for Council public hearing and 1st reading
- End of April 2023: FTA New Starts Rating internal deadline, pencils down
- May 2023 onwards: schedule depending on comments and council member feedback of the station plans. Typically, there is a month or two between each reading. A total of 3 readings are needed for approval.

### **Community-Led Input Process**

- Community Connectors
  - 12 individuals recruited
  - Fully onboarded and deployed
  - Individual engagement roadmaps with activities in April, May, and June
    - Rundberg Youth Equity Summit
    - ACC Clean-Up & Film Screening (ASL)
  - Each connector to reach 30-50 people
- Project Connect Community Advisory Comm.
  - Two upcoming workshop sessions on May 10th with the CAC and Community Connectors
  - Goal brainstorming and review of ETOD policies:
    - Housing
    - Mobility
    - Small business strategies

### **Focus Groups**

- Grassroots
  - Public participants recruited from Connectors, survey, and Round 1 outreach (i.e., Community Connectors, people the Community Connectors invite, and members of the public)

- Grasstops
  - Heads of local NGOs and informal advocacy organizations (i.e., GAVA City Alliance of Minority Chambers, Lifeworks Mobility advocacy groups)
- Small Business
  - Small businesses near transit corridors system-wide. Particular interest/effort in recruiting immigrant owners, BIPOC owners, and family owned
- Real Estate and Housing Practitioners
  - Market Rate + Affordable Housing Developers, Affordable housing academics

**Edna Parra:** You mentioned 4 stations in specific. Are they the ones receiving the vision plan, or will this be dispensed to all stations?

**Jordan McGee:** Only the four mentioned stations are receiving the vision plans. If proven to be an incentive to draw in customers, and as funding allows, we can expand the study area.

**Mike Gorse:** Is this something that the City Council will need to approve?

**Jordan McGee:** Yes, eventually the City Council will have to approve the project.

**Mike Gorse:** I've forwarded the link to join the focus groups to a team that I'm on, and someone said when they tried to register it took them to a broken link? Are you aware of this development?

**Jordan McGee:** As far as I'm aware the link should be working, but if you are having issues with it, I'll investigate what's causing this dilemma.

**Glenda Born:** Let the presenter know that it was a bit hard to follow and then ask questions regarding your slides, when you ran through them a bit quick and some of us are visually impaired, so that makes it harder for us to follow a mostly visual medium. Just as an awareness point.

**Jordan McGee:** Yeah, I can keep that in mind moving forward and is taking accessibility training for presentations.

#### **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) – Access Member**

Will send out the details to the group to try and get an Access member to represent on the CAC

#### **Approval of the minutes**