

Access Advisory Committee
Wednesday, January 6th, 2020
TEAMS
5:30 p.m. – 7:03 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Paul Hunt, Access Advisory Committee

Chairman Prentice called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Introductions:

Committee members present were Paul Hunt, John McNabb, Chris Prentice, Audrea Diaz, Glenda Borne, Mike Gorse, Otmar Fohner, Estrella Barrera

Capital Metro staff and contractors present were: Martin Kareithi, Chris Westbrook, Jo Anne Ortiz, Ricardo Boulware, Chad Ballentine, Raul Vela, Gloria Barnes, Nadia Barrera-Ramirez, Shawn Brown, Suzie Edrington, Marcus Guerrero, Mark Herrera

Citizens' Communication

Members of the public

Audrea – She is confused on how CapMetro is running during stage 5. Why is CapMetro only limited to essential trips? Suzie – It is a suggestion, and the script that we wrote we are asking & suggesting that you take essential trips only, but it's not required. Audrea says the way it is being expressed, that it seems like a requirement not a suggestion. Chad - We aren't going to fight people on the what they consider an essential trip. We will be a little strong on what is being done due to us being in a pandemic, but we will not deny anyone service for a trip they want to take.

Paul Hunt – We had a discussion about extending the Dessau Pickup zone to I-35 highway. I think that's good because it includes the neighborhood.

Project Connect Update

Yannis Banks Community Engagement Coordinator

Zicla Project – Guadalupe & Dean Keeton

Nadia Barrera-Ramirez, Project Manager, Transit Speed and Reliability

Pilot will be in place for 6 months. There were 13 routes traveling in the area. We would average 1320 people getting off during the week. There was heavy traffic & boarding during peak times. Martin – Is the stop in question by the communication school? Nadia – We would relocate the stops one block north on 26th. The goal is to have safer pedestrian/auto/bus/bike interaction. We are basing this off what they did in Charlotte, NC. Glenda – Walking up to the strip will I be able to tell? Martin – Yes, they are similar to what we have at Guadalupe, MLK, downtown, and at our train stations. Nadia – The sidewalk here is very narrow so it isn't a permanent solution, but it will give us an idea if it works. We will have to work with UT on the sidewalk width. Martin – For ramp deployment it will be the exact same height of our bus so it will be able to deploy and no problem.

Onboard Digital Display Screen

Shawn Brown, Technical Project Manager III

We will install 104 displays on our vehicles. We will be able to provide data in real time. One thing is that it will provide a visual display of all stop & wheelchair request. They will be on 55 of our rapid vehicles & 12 of our electric vehicles. Chris – Will this minimize the audio announcements? Shawn – No, the audio announcements will still happen, the digital screens will not have audio though. This is a pilot that we are doing to see if we will expand it to the rest of the fleet. Glenda – What is the purpose of this? Why is this being done? Chris – This is a way to get information out to people about weather, stops, etc. The new screens will be able to display message alerts as well and if it needs to be turned into an audible, we will look into doing that. Glenda – There's a problem if the non-visual are not getting the same information as the visual. Martin – We will still be making the audible announcements for the stops. What we have looked at is that other places have like ESPN sports tickers running & it would be nonstop audible announcements. Glenda is concerned that if there is important trip information is being displayed that a nonaudible person will not be getting the same information. Shawn – I think it is a really good point. I think right now, whatever process we are doing now to let people know we will continue to do it. Chris – One way around to make it work, is that to have a system to have a text sent to them. Yannis reminded them about MeteorAlerts which they can sign up for that does that. Estrella – Who will decide if something needs to become audio? Shawn – Right now this system doesn't have an audio system, but all of the current announcements will continue to occur. Shawn clarified that he was referring to how operators now are required to make those announcements for people. That process would stay the same. Shawn described to the committee what the display would look like. Same information that is on the LED will be displayed on this. Mike – Could information that is critical that is sent to the display could it be placed in the audio system as well? Shawn – That was discussed a lot when we talked about, the scope of it. It wasn't able to fit in the budget for this pilot, but it is something we want to do if we look to expand this for the other routes. Chris – It could work if there was signal that smart phone would pick up that would relay to the phones. There is a concern that if you start advertising promo things, like free drinks from a store you have to figure out a way to make it audible. Shawn – Right now there is no plans to have advertisements, but it is an option for the system and something we would take into consideration.

Riverside ACC Stop

Make Herrera, Technical Program/Project Manager III

A joint project between ACC & CapMetro to remove the stop from the campus and onto the city street. Improvements stretch from North ACC riverside to Hogan. There are 4 bus shelters, containers, benches, bus stop signs, and monuments to say ACC Riverside campus. The bike lanes are protected and behind the bus so that it doesn't interact with the buses. It was all designed by COA Active Transportation Department. The stop will open this Sunday. There will be 2 E-Papers signs installed, but we are waiting on the delivery of them. Chris – Are the solar towers going to be brighter than the moon towers? Mark – No.

Downtown Station Update

Marcus Guerrero, Technical Program/Project Manager III

The project is located on 4th street between I-35 and Trinity. The station will now hold 4 trains. Pre-covid the station was standing room only. This will help to accommodate the crowds we would have. Working with the city, we have closed the auto lane between Red River & Trinity. The station has 3 tracks and accommodates 4 train positions. We were able to open the station in October on the North Platform for revenue service. We are still finalizing some work on the other platforms. Paul – Is there tactical marking to show where the beginning of the ramp is? That can be an issue if you don't know where the ramp is. Marcus – There are tactile warning strips out there between track one & track two. Once you are in the safe zone between the 2 tracks you would turn left to take the ramp. It isn't steep enough to require ADA treatments. Chris – Is the station in the middle of 4th Street? Marcus – Yes, it is. We worked with the city to close down the street. Otmar – That's very cool. Makes me excited about the big plans we have for transportation.

Approval of December 2020 Minutes

Access Committee

Minutes approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08