

City of **SANTA CLARITA**  **TRANSIT**

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 5, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, John Panico called to order the meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS & GENERAL PUBLIC PRESENT

John Panico, Chairman

Arcy Torres, MV Transportation

Keith Curry, Vice Chair

Keith Carr, MV Transportation

Grace Ferguson, City of Santa Clarita

Michelle Rush, MV Transportation

Adrian Aguilar, City of Santa Clarita

Lillian Shaw, Member

Itzelle Iniguez, City of Santa Clarita

Jim Hogan, Member

Jimmy Flores, Access Services

Lynn Paquin, Member

Garrett Rodriguez, Access Services

Karen Manke, Member

Ruben Mendoza, MV Transportation

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Jim Hogan, Keith Curry, & Keren Manke made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Keith Curry, Member

No comments at this time.

Jim Hogan, Member

Jim Hogan announces he will be stepping down from his involvement with the Advisory Accessibility Committee (AAC). He states that he still intends to be involved to a certain degree. Jim comments that he believes there has been great change during his 21-year involvement with the AAC. He mentions that he has learned a lot from being involved. His goal is to always be able to improve transportation for individuals with a disability. He is very proud at the City of Santa Clarita for listening and resolving the needs of the patrons. Jim gave a big thanks to everyone.

Keith Curry adds the history of when him and Jim meet and their story of involvement with the AAC. He mentions that they met while in an Access van. At the start of their conversation they found they had in common that they were veterans. Jim then introduced to Keith information about the AAC. Jim invited Keith to join and shortly after started his involvement with the AAC.

Karen Manke, Member

Karen adds a comment about her last name being spelled incorrectly in the meeting minutes for the month of March. She wanted to point out that it is spelled Manke.

Karen's second comment was in regards to a concern on April 23rd. She mentioned she got picked up around 8:30 am and was dropped off at her destination around 10:00 am. She had her second trip scheduled at 10:45 am. She was concerned why she was dropped off one hour and a half after her pick up time. This resulted in her being dropped off fairly close to her second pick up time leaving her with a shorter period of time to run her errands.

Adrian informed Karen that the concern will be looked into and the trip details will be reviewed.

Lynn Paquin, Member

No comments.

Lillian Shaw, Member

Lillian Shaw had a question about the screens for drivers. She stated that she has seen the screens say "Santa Clarita" but would like to know if they can be modified to show the community names for which they are servicing.

Adrian mentions that software updates to the maps have recently been made and might be the reason why it shows Santa Clarita as opposed to the communities. He also explains that community names in general make up the entire City of Santa Clarita. He states he will check in with operators to get feedback on this matter.

Michelle Rush adds for some reason the system responds better and with more detailed directions when Santa Clarita is used as opposed to the community. A more detailed turn by turn direction is what is given.

Lillian also asks if a business name can be added in place of an address.

Ruben mentions that is being worked on currently.

Lillian mentions a concern regarding her being deemed “no show” for one of her scheduled trips. She mentioned she waited for half an hour after her scheduled pick up time when she decided to call in to ask about her trip. She was told she was marked as a “no show” although she was waiting at the location she always gets picked up at. She was informed the operator went to the back of the building for pick up. Lillian mentioned she always waits at the front.

Adrian informed Lillian the matter would be looked into.

AGENCY UPDATES

Adrian Aguilar, City of Santa Clarita Transit

Adrian provides an update on the transition to zero-emission and the plans of going into hydrogen fuel cell. Services from a consultant have been retained to develop the spec and Request for Proposal (RFP) document for construction. The RFP will be presented at City Council the following Tuesday for approval. The plan is for a consultant to come in finish the design of the station and of the construction. City staff will serve as project managers during the scope of the project. There are plans of completing the project by 2023 and to be in service by the Spring of 2024.

Adrian mentions a second update on the plan to have 2 hydrogen fuel cell buses by the following year. There are plans to place the orders in October and the production will take about 12 months. All while during the process of the bus orders, the station will be completed. The plan is to receive the bus is before or as the station is being completed. There will be staff training required along with testing of the buses will be required.

Adrian also mentions that a few grant applications for transit are currently being worked on. One being for phase two of the hydrogen fuel cell infrastructure. The system is currently being built to support ten to fifteen buses. The full bus fleet is currently at one hundred and eighteen vehicles which included the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) and Access fleet. As some point there are plans of expanding the capacity. Another grant is one geared towards the addition of energy storage to the Transit Maintenance Facility (TMF). The plan is to be able to store energy being produced by the TMF’s solar panels and later use it for the production of hydrogen to reduce the carbon footprint. Additional funding is also being requested for additional buses. The plan is to replace one twelfth of the fleet each year. If the grants are approved the plan to become zero-emission will be speedup. If the grants are not approved the plan of the fleet being full converted by 2040.

Jim Hogan asks how battery for the buses work and is solar panels can be added to them?

Adrian mentions solar options are currently being tested and there are solar panels on some of the buses to keep the batteries charged. He explains that the way fuel cell electric buses work is that they essentially have a battery but rather than having to plug it in to charge it, it has a small generator that is powered by hydrogen. The range is greater and about three hundred to three hundred and fifty miles. A hydrogen bus can also be filled within ten to twelve minutes.

Jim asks if there will be solar panel upgrades.

Adrian explains that buses are replaced on a twelve-year scheduled. This then eliminates the need to upgrade as often. Adrian mentions there is a plan to replace the infrastructures solar panel inverters.

Jim then asks Adrian if there is something that can be planned with Metro to provide service to Los Angeles Airport (LAX) because he believes there is high demand for that service.

Adrian explains that at one point there was service that took you to Van Nuys which then connected to the Flyaway service. The ridership began to decrease. There is currently service that takes you to North Hollywood which connects to the Red Line at Union Station. Prior to the pandemic, Los Angeles World Airport Authority was contacted to discuss having the McBean Regional Transit Center at one of the pickup locations. Due to there not being sufficient demand, this plan was not perused.

Keith Curry adds that it is all about supply and demand.

Adrian adds that the Metrolink does take you directly to the Burbank Airport.

Adrian then mentions the ridership for the GO! service has increased in the last months. There are fifty-five average trips per day. There are hopes to run this service all the way into the end of summer. Since funding is ending soon, there is a need to seek alternative funding. Data is being collected and will be looked at to determine is the service will be continued.

Keith Curry asks if there are flyers for the Beach Bus and if those can be sent to him.

Adrian informs Keith he will send that to him.

Keith Curry then asks where the location of the hydrogen station will be.

Adrian states that the hydrogen station will be located at the TMF. The plan is to build it in the existing fuel island.

John Panico asks how ridership is generally doing?

Adrian mentions that ridership has somewhat increased. There are increases seen in the local, DAR, and Access services.

Grace Ferguson, City of Santa Clarita Transit

Grace updates the group that there are plans to attend City Council for the Bus Finder Project. Soon after there are plans to run the contract.

Adrian adds that this is intended for upgrades on the Bus Finder units. The current battery-operated units are about twelve years old and will be replaced with a solar powered unit. The screens of the replacements are similar to that of a Kindle in which you are able to read them at night.

Grace mentions that the health of the unit will be able to be monitored via computer rather than having to go out to check them in person.

Adrian mentions that Itzelle is currently working on a project where the stops are physically being inspected.

Itzelle explains that she is currently working on the Bus Stop Inspection Project. She explains that the goal is to check on the condition of the stop and report on anything that might need to be serviced.

Keith asks Adrian who planned to have the Dodger Night Service.

Adrian explains that Dodger Night is something that has been going for years. The plan is to run two buses, picking up at the MRTC and the other at Villa Princesa. The fare is \$3.00 round trip.

Lillian makes a comment about the buses air conditioning.

Adrian states that he will have James in maintenance take a look into that.

Keith then asks Adrian about service into Fair Oaks.

Adrian explains that this area is being serviced by GO! He explains how many things have changed due to the pandemic and there are now hopes to update the service plan.

Garrett Rodriguez, Access Services

Garrett states that operations for Access are at a great standing for the month of April. There was some struggle seen in the call center as a result to being short staffed. They are currently working on resolving the staffing issue. Transfer trips have resumed at Olive View Medical Center.

Mentions that they have received a 5 million dollar grant for bus repairs.

Keith asked when the last time Access received grants and if they have solicited grant money.

Garrett mentions that he does not have the answer and would have to look into it.

Adrian adds that he is involved with the Access board and knows that they have applied for various grants. He also explains that is not they are not applying for grants, but it has been difficult to order bus parts because they are not available. Upgrading buses has been difficult in general.

Keith explained that he believes the grant money is there and available but in order for them to receive grants they must ensure to be submitting grant applications.

Jim hogan asks when Access will be having their Area Committee Meeting.

Adrian explained that it recently took place a couple of months ago.

Arcy Torres, MV Transportation

Arcy mentions that things in the call center are not that great. There have been a few call takers & other MV Transportations employees that have been promoted. She also talks about how on Sundays there are a high volume of scheduled trips

Jim Hogan mentions a time he was on an Access vehicle and the driver fainted. Jim was very impressed in how calm and how greatly the operator handled the situation.

Ruben Mendoza, MV Transportation

Ruben gives and update in regards to drivers

Keith asks if there are new incentives in place for her new hires.

Adrian explains that he knows MV Transportation did currently increase their pay scale.

Ruben adds that operators are getting paid \$19.00 an hour.

Keith ask if they receive health care.

Ruben says they are provided with health care.

NEW BUSINESS

John Panico, Chairman

John makes a comment about quorum and asks about John Taylor?

Keith Curry, Vice chair

Keith mentions that he would like for everyone to solicit member.

Jim Hogan, Member

Jim mentions the upcoming nominations.

Karen mentions her interest being elected and asks what is required.

Adrian explains to Karen the responsibilities of a becoming chair or vice chair.

Keith makes a motion to keep the current members.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No general public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting for the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. City Hall Century Room.

