



**Minutes**  
**Unitrans Advisory Committee (UAC)**  
**October 22, 2020**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Committee Members

Present: Francois Kaepelin Chair, ASUCD  
Frank Reyes, Vice Chair, Member at Large  
Sheila Allen, Member at Large  
Tenzin Youedon, ASUCD  
Janet Regnell, Senior Citizens Commission  
Helen Sutton, Member at Large  
Ayush Patel, Bicycling, Transportation, & Street Safety Commission  
John Johnston, Natural Resources Commission

Absent: Forrest Pasturel, ASUCD

Council Liaison: Gloria Partida

Staff: Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner  
Jeff Flynn, Unitrans General Manager  
Teri Sheets, Unitrans Assistant General Manager-Administration

Other Staff Attendees: Linda Alemania, Davis Community Transit  
James Haven, Davis Community Transit

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call**  
Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM. Eight members were in attendance constituting a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**  
Approved as prepared. Johnston/Regnell. Unanimous approval vote.
- 3. Committee and Staff Announcements**
  - a. Council Liaison(s) Announcements  
None
  - b. Other Staff Announcements  
Jeff Flynn announced that the Yolo County Unmet Transit Needs hearing will be on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Sheila Allen asked Jeff to send out details after the meeting.

#### **4. Public Communications**

Alan Hirsch stated that the committee and transit play a role in social justice. He stated that the Davis Innovation and Sustainability Center (DISC) expanded the bus plaza in its draft plans. Alan asked why was the UAC not involved in providing input to the Anderson Road corridor plan and that the committee should provide feedback. He said that more shade is needed at bus stops and encouraged public participation in Unmet Needs hearing for better bus stop locations at new developments.

Committee member Sheila Allen said that the Area 4 Agency on Aging and Yolo Healthly Aging Alliance had completed unmet needs assessments for the area focused on older adult needs and that transportation is a top major need from both organizations.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval Minutes of the July 23, 2020 Meeting
- b. Davis Amtrak Access & Connections Study (Informational)

Approved without comment. Patel/Youedon. Unanimous approval vote.

#### **6. Regular Agenda**

- a. Elect New Chair and Vice Chair  
Sheila Allen selected as Chair by John Johnston.  
Tenzin Youedon selected as Vice Chair by Sheila Allen.  
No other candidates offered.

During public comment, Jordan Alexandra Varney asked if members can chair multiple commissions and committees. Brian Abbanat responded that he did not believe so and that the committee's charge does not prohibit multiple chair positions. Sheila Allen also responded that she did not believe so.

Allen/Sutton moved to approve Sheila Allen as Chair and Tenzin Youedon as Vice Chair. Unanimous approval vote.

- b. General Manager's Report  
Jeff Flynn presented the General Manager's Report which summarized general performance statistics and operational updates from the fiscal year and last three months. Unitrans continues to focus on health and safety measures and has recently expanded service to 60% of normal. Both Unitrans and DCT reimplemented fare collection on September 20, 2020. Jeff provided an update on capital projects including bus electrification and Yolobus/Unitrans Coordination. On the topic of coordination, Jeff said that Unitrans had planned to show website improvements to the committee this month however the Unitrans IT Manager left and improvements are on hold until the position is filled. Jeff stated that Unitrans, Yolobus, and DCT all meet monthly now to information share and coordinate. On bus stop shelters and design, Jeff stated that the City generally reaches out to Unitrans to confirm what bus stop amenities and shelter will be used. On Fifth Street, five new developer installed shelters were installed and all are the standard throughout Davis and offer more protection than the F Street Northbound at Covell shelter. In regards to landscaping,

Jeff said that Unitrans generally asks that low canopy trees are not placed around the bus stop as they can prevent easily accessible boarding as the trees mature but that Unitrans has no landscaping standards. The F Street Northbound at Covell shelter is an anomaly. The City and Unitrans coordinate on bus shelters.

Brian Abbanat gave an update on the Amtrak Access and Connections Study stating that the study is part of the packet and that this was a long range study to review various site/access improvements. Brian also mentioned that the Russell Corridor Study will likely start in early December 2020 and that consultant selection is underway.

John Johnston asked what the distribution of ridership is between student and other riders and why service changes like trip elimination in the evening were put on hold. Jeff stated that more non-University affiliates are riding as a percentage of ridership and that a passenger survey is forthcoming. Jeff clarified that those evening trips were eliminated but that Unitrans is not operating “regular” schedule so the elimination is currently moot.

Frank Reyes asked about California Senate Bill 288’s CEQA exemptions for transit related projects. Brian Abbanat responded that long range studies are generally exempt from CEQA, so SB288 doesn’t help or hurt the City at this time.

Sheila Allen congratulated Unitrans on no major collisions last year and asked about funding impacts due to lower ridership. Jeff stated that fare revenues are down significantly but those make up 5% of the budget and we can adjust due to lower fare revenue. For federal and state sales tax dollars, those are already impacted and CARES funding will be used to prevent further cuts to transportation services as much as possible.

During public comment, Joe Bolte asked about on-time performance impacts due to the Anderson Road project proposal and if Flixbus has reached out to the University about stopping on campus. Jeff responded that improvements like signal coordination and boarding islands could potentially help Unitrans travel times and that Unitrans has not had communications with Flixbus. Brian Abbanat said that the City is taking a multimodal look at the Russell corridor to improve bus flow.

Alan Hirsch said that the July UAC meeting minutes should be changed to show that shading is important at bus stops. Sheila Allen asked to have these minutes reflect that Jeff responded to the shading needs and shelter configuration.

Committee returned to discussion and Francois Kaepelin asked if a West Village connection be included in Russell corridor study. Brian Abbanat said potential for connection west of Arthur under consideration and within the scope of the study.

Frank Reyes asked will the University have a road connection coming from West Village to Russell via Eisenhower. Brian Abbanat said picking a location is premature at this time, but will be included in the scope of work for the Russell Corridor Study.

c. **Public Hearing: FY2020-21 Program of Projects**

Teri Sheets presented the staff report on the proposal to allocate the remaining \$4.077 million in unallocated City of Davis FTA CARES Act funding to Unitrans for operating expenses for FY2021, 2022, and 2023. The funding may be used to offset declining federal and state (particularly State Transportation Development Act) funding and provide more flexibility to the City of Davis in funding local transportation priorities including Unitrans, Davis Community Transit, Yolobus, and Public Works.

John Johnston asked could this impact future state funding. Teri said that it should not but that this will increase flexibility in using funding in the coming years.

Sheila Allen opened the public hearing and closed the hearing. No public comments were received.

A motion was made to recommend that the City Council approve the proposed Program of Projects. Johnston/Patel. Unanimous approval vote.

**7. Committee and Staff Communications**

a. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Sheila Allen requested that the Russell Corridor Study be brought to the committee as well as the Anderson Corridor progress.

John Johnston asked for an update on the Climate Action Plan on coordination with Unitrans/bus service.

During public comment, Alan Hirsch asked that the UAC follow up that developers are following standards provided to them by Unitrans and the City. He said that the UAC should be providing input on how to make corridors as bus friendly as possible and be proactive. Alan said the committee should request a bus rapid transit education presentation and an update on the urban forest master plan. The UAC should provide input on locating shade trees near bus stops (Urban Forest Master Plan).

b. Committee Member Announcements

John Johnston announced that he is scheduled to term off NRC in December; thanked committee for all its good work.

**8. Adjourn**

5:36pm

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.