



**Minutes
Unitrans Advisory Committee (UAC)
April 22, 2021
4:00 p.m.**

Committee Members: Sheila Allen (Chair, Member at Large), Tenzin Youedon (Vice Chair, ASUCD), Juliana Martinez (ASUCD), Frank Reyes (Member at Large), Lauren Smith (ASUCD), Janet Regnell (Senior Citizen Commission), Ayush Patel (BTSSC), John Johnston (NRC), Andrew Furillo (Member at Large)

Council Liaison: Will Arnold (not present)

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

Administration

INSERT ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

1. Call to Order & Roll Call - 4:01 PM

Oath of Office

Andrew Furillo, Juliana Martinez, Lauren Smith

2. Approval of Agenda

John Johnston/Ayush Patel – Unanimous approval

3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

a. Council Liaison(s) Announcements

b. Other Staff Announcements

- i. Brian Abbanat announced that the City was awarded SACOG grant funding for several projects (H Street Tunnel, 5th Street-L St to Pole Line Road, Anderson Corridor).

4. Public Communications

At this time any member of the public may address the committee on matters which are not listed on this agenda, or are listed on the consent calendar.

Alan Hirsch of Yolo Mobility; tracking transit issues and advocacy efforts

Need to increase advocacy to reduce single occupancy vehicle use
Need to watch the I-80 corridor project for potential impacts and to encourage increased transit use
Unitrans should be involved in all City road capital projects to ensure public transit visibility and input

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes of February 4, 2021 Meeting
Janet Regnell/Tenzin Youedon – 7 ayes/2 absentions

6. Regular Items

- a. Public Hearing: Unitrans 2021-2022 Service Change Proposals (Action)

Mr. Flynn presented two proposals for service changes for the 2021/2022 academic year starting August 2021.

- Redirect E line from downtown Davis (F/3rd/B Sts) to 5th Street, consistent with proposals in the Downtown Specific Plan
- Revise Z line schedule to align it closer to the A line to help alleviate overcrowding on the A line
- Implement all-door boarding approved for 2020 but delayed due to pandemic; move Unitrans toward an honor system for fare payment
- Minor adjustments to the V line schedule
- Shfit early evening service to better meet demand

Unitrans received one email comment from a customer requesting no change to E line routing and one public meeting comment indicating an understanding of the proposed E line change.

Mr. Reyes asked if the bus shelter located on 3rd Street could be relocated to the 5th/D bus stop that the revised E line would serve. Mr. Flynn reported that Unitrans plans to work with the City to make appropriate improvements to the bus stops on 5th Street to better serve customers.

Mr. Furillo referred to the Yolobus “YoloGO” comprehensive operations plan and asked if Unitrans will be able to adjust routes and schedules to coordinate with realigned Yolobus routes and coordinate fares and transfers. Mr. Flynn indicated that planned realignment of Yolobus Route 42 could provide benefits to Unitrans and the Davis community. He also referred to the need for fare coordination with Yolobus to streamline transfers between Unitrans and Yolobus.

Chair Sheila Allen opened up the public hearing. During the public hearing, Alan Hirsch said he is concerned about 5th St bus stops and need for customer amenities, including shelters, shading and benches. Also indicated that agenda packet materials should be created in a more accessible format. Chair Sheila Allen closed the public hearing after Mr. Hirsch’s comments since no other members of the public asked to speak.

Mr. Johnston indicated that he is hesitant to support the proposed E Street service change given that it is used by some. Mr. Flynn responded that service to downtown Davis would be provided through routes on 1st Street, 2nd Street, 5th Street, and B Street and the proposal would only move service on one line from 3rd Street to 5th Street. The bulk of customers accessing downtown travel via the A/Z lines on 2nd Street which would remain unchanged and that the proposed change would allow Unitrans to reallocate resources to alleviate crowding on other routes.

Andy Furillo/Ayush Patel – Unanimous approval

b. Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Funding (Action)

Mr. Flynn reported on the purpose of LCTOP and the funding made available on an annual basis. Unitrans is proposing two projects:

- Free Fare on Unitrans for Youth 18 and Under
- Mobile Fare Payment App

Mr. Furillo indicated his support for the proposed projects and asked how the mobile fare payment app would work. Mr. Flynn reported that users would prove fare payment by showing their app to the bus driver instead of scanning a code on the bus.

Mr. Patel asked how the youth fare-free program would work. Mr. Flynn reported that an implementation plan will be developed in the new few months leading up to August 2021 implementation but would be similar to Yolobus and Sacramento RT implementation for simplicity.

Mr. Johnston asked how the proposed projects decrease the carbon footprint given that students generally don't drive in significant numbers. Mr. Flynn responded that both SacRT and Yolobus experienced significant increases in youth ridership with their fare-free youth programs, and that a fare-free youth program for Unitrans may divert auto trips taken by parents driving their children to various destinations.

Ms. Allen asked that a future agenda item be placed on the long range calendar so that the Committee can discuss and recommend fare and schedule coordination efforts between Unitrans and Yolobus.

During public comment, Mr. Alan Hirsch thanked Unitrans staff for the proposed projects. Also recommended that the City add a secondary school student representative to the UAC.

John Johnston/Frank Reyes – Unanimous approval

c. Anderson Road Corridor Concepts Oral Update (Informational)

Brian Abbanat provided an oral update on the Anderson Road corridor concepts. He updated the committee that extensive community engagement was completed on the concepts and that SACOG awarded funding for the project.

The next step is to get access to the funding, finalize engineering and design, and conduct additional public outreach. The goal is to start construction in summer 2022. For more information, go to cityofdavis.org and type in Anderson Road into the search bar.

Mr. Reyes asked if more funding was available if additional phases could be added. Brian said probably not since the goal is to implement improvements on the current segment and assess performance and feedback before moving forward with expansion.

During public comment, Mr. Hirsch expressed support for the project and mentioned the need to prioritize buses. He asked how much faster buses will travel under the proposed concepts. In response, Brian stated that the project is not designed and no final decision have been made on transit priority features however features like boarding islands are being considered and transit signal priority is assumed. Brian said morning peak delays may increase but mitigations will be reviewed.

d. Russell Corridor Study Oral Update (Informational)

Brian Abbanat provided an oral update on the Russell Corridor Study now rebranded as Reimagine Russell Boulevard and available online at reimagine russell.com. Brian said that the first community outreach event is scheduled for next week and over 200 community members are registered to attend. The scope of the project may be expanded from the City limits to B Street to include County Road 98. The County may participate and provide support to extend the project to the new planned roundabout at County Road 98. Brian said that there is a community steering committee made up of 16 members including an ASUCD representative.

During discussion, Mr. Reyes asked staff to consider transit priority signals and queue jumps. Brian said that transit is a priority for the corridor and there may be creative ways to help improve transit. The focus is to move people not vehicles.

Mr. Furillo reiterated transit priority needs. Brian said that Unitrans will be an active participant in options and design.

During public comment, Mr. Hirsch said that transit should be a top priority and to think creatively to allow for more transit priority on this important transit corridor.

e. General Manager's Report (Informational)

Mr. Flynn presented his status report for Winter 2021.

- Increased midday frequency on the weekend O line to accommodate increased demand
- Relunched the T line with the opening of Davis schools in mid-April; generally see good student ridership on several routes
- Strong increasing ridership week over week
- Zero safety incidents, and decrease in conflicts since rescinding fare-free boarding in Fall 2020.

- On time performance is 99 percent
- Unitrans Maintenance is fully staffed again
- Anticipating balanced budget for fiscal year end
- Capital project implementation ongoing
- Electric bus phase 1 implementation now fully funded (infrastructure and 14 electric buses)
- Refreshed exterior bus design in final design
- Bus shelter replacement project ongoing

Mr. Reyes asked if electric buses will have additional amenities such as wi-fi and USB chargers. Mr. Flynn indicated that automated bus stop announcements and video customer information will be included with the new buses.

Mr. Furillo asked about capacity limitations with COVID-19 restrictions in place and if Unitrans has plans in place for a return to regular service in Fall 2021. Mr. Flynn responded that Unitrans will continue to monitor COVID-19 guidelines and respond as needed to address future campus operations.

7. Committee and Staff Communications

a. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Chair Sheila Allen announced that Yolo Healthy Aging is holding several public meetings on the needs of the elderly throughout the county, and that the Davis meeting will be held on May 7.

Chair Sheila Allen asked for a future item on fare coordination to be added to the agenda.

b. Committee Member Announcements

Mr. Furillo announced the passing of Nathan Streeter, a long-time rider and advocate for Unitrans and for public transit in Yolo County. He also announced that Terry Bassett, the former Executive Director of the Yolo County Transportation District, retired on April 2, 2021. He also briefly updated the Committee on YCTD's YoloGO planning efforts to restructure and improve countywide transit routes.

8. Adjourn 5:49pm

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.