



Minutes
Unitrans Advisory Committee (UAC)
August 5, 2021
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Sheila Allen (Chair, Member at Large), Tenzin Youedon (Vice Chair, ASUCD), Andrew Furillo (Member at Large), John Johnston (NRC), Francois Kaepelin (BTSSC), Elizabeth Lasensky (Senior Citizen Commission), Juliana Martinez Hernandez (ASUCD), Frank Reyes (Member at Large), Lauren Smith (ASUCD)

Council Liaison: Dan Carson

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

Administration

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Sheila Allen (Chair, Member at Large), Tenzin Youedon (Vice Chair, ASUCD), Andrew Furillo (Member at Large), Francois Kaepelin (BTSSC), Elizabeth Lasensky (Senior Citizen Commission), Juliana Martinez Hernandez (ASUCD), Frank Reyes (Member at Large), Lauren Smith (ASUCD)
Absent: John Johnston (NRC)

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda as is.
Kaepelin made motion/Lasensky seconded motion – unanimously approved

3. Brief Announcements from Staff and Liaisons

- a. Council Liaison(s) Announcements – None. Not present.
- b. Other Staff Announcements – Jeff Flynn asked if the YCTD representative and YoloGo report could be moved to the first item on the regular agenda. Chair Allen stated that the agenda was just approved but that the agenda could be modified during the regular items.

4. Public Communications

Mr. Alan Hirsch provided comment including that meetings should be in Zoom gallery view and asked the UAC to consider the following items for their calendar:

- Climate Action Plan and promoting a car-free lifestyle
- I-80 managed lanes – need more buses to provide expanded intercity bus service
- DISC 2.0 – much less housing, more commute transportation; need bus transfer location
- Need for more shade and trees at the bus stops
- Need more frequent meetings to discuss emerging issues

5. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Minutes of April 22, 2021, Meeting
Chair Allen asked that future minutes include the written motion that is being approved. Chair Allen also asked that comments she made at the April 22 meeting at the end of the regular agenda be moved from #6 General Manager's Report to #7 Committee Communications.
Motion made to approve the minutes as amended.
Furillo made the motion/Reyes seconded – unanimously approved

6. **Regular Items**

6C. YoloGO Update - Kristen Mazur, Senior Planner, YCTD

Item moved to beginning of regular agenda. Kristen Mazur, Senior Planner for YCTD, presented. Kristen explained that the YCTD Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) started in 2019 to re-evaluate and update Yolobus routes. The initiative included an extensive public outreach process. COA resulted in a plan to update and improve service. Changes start rolling out in phases this September.

- Sept 12: Increase frequency on Routes 42A/B to 30-45 minutes during peak periods; 42A/B route streamlined in Sacramento & Davis; YCTD eliminating underperforming routes; adding service on Route 43 reverse commute; promoting Unitrans as a local option to get around in Davis and connect with Yolobus.
- Oct 18 – introducing changes to West Sacramento
- Jan 2022 – Introducing microtransit service in Woodland
- Later – reintroduce commuter bus routes as demand increases

Committee member Elizabeth Lasensky asked for YCTD staff to come to Rancho Yolo to share information and do travel training. Elizabeth also commented on stop locations in Davis and route change impacts to her and her community in downtown Sacramento.

Committee member Andy Furillo stated that the Mace at Second Street bus stops do not have good accessibility or amenities and asked to make this a better connecting place for services. Andy also mentioned the need for better fare integration with FAST to allow people to get between Davis and Vacaville without having to get a Clipper card.

Committee member Frank Reyes asked about using Transit app for Yolobus trip planning and said that it may not be working. Kristen said that it should, and she

would look into it.

Committee member Francois Kaepelin also said that the GTFS real-time feed might be disconnected and needed to be checked.

Committee member Lasensky also asked about the Route 220 service to Winters and Vacaville and asked if Yolobus stop signs would be added to the new bus stops in Davis. Kristen said that microtransit is set up in Winters, but that YCTD would need to evaluate better connections between Davis and Vacaville.

Chair Sheila Allen asked about fare reciprocity between Yolobus and Unitrans. Kristen said more fare reciprocity is being worked on now and should be in place in September to allow for more seamless transfers between Yolobus and Unitrans. Sheila also commented on the need for better service to the Social Security office in West Sacramento.

Francois Kaepelin commented on the need for better Route 42 connections with the Unitrans P and Q lines.

During public comment, Mr. Alan Hirsch thanked staff for the reviewing and responding to schedule comments made by the public on the YoloGo proposals and urged more frequency on the Route 42.

6A. General Manager's Report

Jeff Flynn, Unitrans General Manager, presented a Unitrans update including discussion of service changes and the driver shortage. Jeff stated that due to the driver shortage, Unitrans will be suspending service on the A, L, and Z lines in September 2021 for up to nine months and that the city is coordinating with Yolobus to provide service on these lines. Jeff said that an updated transfer agreement is being finalized between the University and YCTD to allow Unitrans customers to use Unitrans passes and pay the Unitrans fixed route fare on the Yolobus operated A, L, and Z line substitutes. Jeff said that the goal is to make the change as seamless as possible for customers. Jeff also announced that youth 18 and under now ride Unitrans free with a student ID or free youth pass and that a mobile fare payment app should be introduced in winter 2022. Jeff announced that Unitrans' first six electric buses are on the production line and that the Federal Transit Administration triennial review was successful with minimal findings that City and Unitrans staff are working together to address.

The committee members had no comments.

During public comment, Mr. Alan Hirsch thanked staff for the presentation and reiterated a need for trees at bus stops as an essential bus stop amenity.

6B. Public Hearing: Program of Projects FFY2021 (Action)

Teri Sheets, Unitrans Assistant General Manager of Administration, presented the proposed Program of Projects to allocate FFY2020-21 Federal Transit Administration City of Davis formula funds, the remaining CARES Act funding,

and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funding. Teri explained that the proposed program shifts funding to pay for YCTD to substitute Unitrans suspended service by allocating all City of Davis transit ARP funding to YCTD and \$70,000 of CARES Act funding. The plan would also offset City of Davis State transit funding contributions to Unitrans through FY2023-24 in order to provide the City with more flexibility to fund Davis Community Transit and bicycle priorities.

Committee member Andy Furillo asked about using ARP funding for Yolobus and why should the city use ARP for Yolobus service and if it's needed because Yolobus is more expensive to operate. Teri stated that there is not a significant cost difference between Unitrans and Yolobus service that is being substituted because YCTD is only charging the direct cost of service and no overhead. Teri said that using the ARP funding for the substituted service, the city is able to use remaining CARES Act funding to offset State transportation funding needs for Unitrans and provide the city with more funding flexibility. Andy also asked if the new infrastructure bill working its way through Congress would provide funding to the City and Unitrans. Teri said that through the new infrastructure bill and the regular annual federal budget, the City and Unitrans should expect to see no less funding than it does today but that we do not know the exact impact of the bills yet.

Chair Sheila Allen said she appreciated that City, Unitrans, YCTD, and other partners work together to best meet the needs and priorities of the community.

Chair Sheila Allen opened up a public hearing. No public members asked to speak. Chair Allen closed the hearing. Chair Allen asked if there was additional comment or questions from the committee members. There were none.

Chair Allen asked for a motion to recommend to the City Council that they approve the proposed Program of Projects.

Andy Furillo made the motion/Elizabeth Lasensky seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

6D. Anderson Road Corridor Concepts Oral Update (Informational)

Brian Abbanat provided an oral report on the Anderson Road Corridor project. Brian stated that a \$3.09 million grant was awarded for Phase 1 of the project. The city is working with the Davis Joint Unified School District on the project and phase 1 will include the segment with Cesar Chavez Elementary School. The project includes transit improvements like transit boarding islands. Brian said construction is tentatively planned for summer 2023.

Chair Sheila Allen asked about the construction date. Brian said that without federal funding, it takes about a year to get the planning completed and with the federal funding, he expects it to take a couple of years. Chair Allen said that she knew improving the area in front of the elementary school is a priority for the school district and is glad it's being addressed.

No public comment on this item.

6E. Russell Corridor Study Oral Update (Informational)

Brian Abbanat provided an oral update on the Reimagine Russell project. He stated that the city received 590 comments and responses on the project. The project spans Russell Boulevard from County Road 98 to B Street and this is a long-term transportation effort. He said that the consulting team is reviewing public feedback and preparing design concepts for internal review. The city is meeting with internal staff and stakeholders to review and get initial feedback and will be starting public workshops again in October.

Chair Sheila Allen asked when project implementation might happen. Brian said that a project may not happen for another 3-4 years. He stated that the goal of the Reimagine Russell project is to identify top priorities for the corridor and try to implement a phase 1 project that would address those priorities first.

No public comment on this item.

7. Committee and Staff Communications

a. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Chair Sheila Allen asked staff and the committee for long range calendar items. Brian said that the chair and vice chair are up for election in October. In addition, Chair Allen requested updates on the Climate Action Plan (CAAP), the I-80 widening project, and the DISC 2.0 when appropriate to include an update.

b. Committee Member Announcements

Frank Reyes announced that this is his last meeting as he is moving out of Davis. Sheila Allen thanked Frank for his service to the committee.

Andy Furillo said he appreciated Frank's contribution to the committee. Andy said that the YCTD Citizens Advisory Committee is meeting on September 30 at 6:00 PM. Andy is working with the bike community and one of the developments is introducing a pedicab program called On A Roll to Davis. On A Roll hopes to start in Davis in October.

Elizabeth Lasensky said that next Wednesday Rancho Yolo is getting an update on On A Roll and the Rancho Yolo residents are excited to hear more about the program although she said that she believes it will start in Rancho Yolo in November. Elizabeth said as chair of Senior Commission, she met with City Council and YCTD will be presenting at future Senior Commission meetings to discuss bus schedule changes.

Jeff Flynn provided an update on the project to provide connecting paths between the Rancho Yolo sound wall doorways to the bus stops on Fifth Street. He said that the agreement is completed between the University and Rancho Yolo and that the permit application was filed with the city. He said he hopes to have the project completed before September 22.

Chair Allen asked the committee to plan for two-hour meetings in the future.

8. Adjourn at 6:02 PM

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