



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

Committee Members

Present: Sheila Allen, Chair, Member at Large
Tenzin Youedon, Vice Chair, ASUCD
Frank Reyes, Vice Chair, Member at Large
Janet Regnell, Senior Citizens Commission
Ayush Patel, Bicycling, Transportation, & Street Safety Commission

Absent: Forrest Pasturel, ASUCD
John Johnston, Natural Resources Commission
Francois Kaepelin, ASUCD

Council Liaison: Will Arnold (not present)

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. Five members were in attendance constituting a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
Approved as prepared. Patel/Youedon. Unanimous approval vote.
- 3. Committee and Staff Announcements**
 - a. Council Liaison(s) Announcements
Brian Abbanat stated that the agenda is updated to place the Climate Action Plan update first followed by the Yolobus update.
 - b. Other Staff Announcements
No other announcements.
- 4. Public Communications**

Public comment provided from Mr. Alan Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch thanked the committee for putting transit priority treatments on agenda. He commented that that the Zoom link may not be correct and also requested that staff update the October 2020 UAC Minutes to reflect that he did not “announce” but made comment. Mr. Hirsch encouraged the UAC to meet monthly instead of quarterly.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Approval Minutes of the October 23, 2020 Meeting

Chair Sheila Allen asked that staff remove reference to her “role” in Area 4 and add that the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance was included in surveying residents. She also asked that the minutes reflect the update that Mr. Hirsch requested in Item 4 Public Communications.

Youedon & Reyes moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

6. Regular Agenda

a. Climate Action Plan Update (Informational)

Item moved from 6d to first item. City staff Kerry Loux presented. Ms. Loux provided an overview and history of the Climate Action Plan to date. She stated that the City accelerated the carbon net neutrality goal from 2050 to 2040. She stated that the plan update will take a year to develop which is kicking off this month and will have extensive community input. An online community survey will kick off in March and the first community workshop is planned around Earth Day (April).

Chair Allen asked if the Unitrans representative is staff or a member of the UAC. Ms. Loux responded with “staff”. Ms. Allen requested occasional updates on the plan. Ms. Loux said that staff liaisons will provide updates to plan and will come back to committees as needed if requested and appropriate. Ms. Loux asked committee members to go to the project website for updates and information on the plan status as well as participate in the process. Ms. Allen asked Brian Abbanat to forward information as needed to UAC members.

During public comment, Joe Bolte (BTSSC) stated he was pleased to see the plan but said that the City cannot address climate impacts fully until land use reform is undertaken. More housing is needed in the right places to reduce transportation emissions so people can walk, bike, and take transit to work, grocery store, etc.

Ms. Allen said that the City of Davis Housing Element is under review.

b. Yolo County Transportation District (Yolobus) YoloGO Project Update (Informational)

Jose Perez, Yolo County Transportation District Deputy Director of Operations, Planning, and Special Projects, introduced the YoloGO project via a short five minute video. For Davis, proposals include the 42 service operating every 30 minutes during peak periods, restoring the Route 220C between Winters and Davis, and discontinuing some Davis/Sacramento express service. February 26 is the due date for comments and suggestions.

Member Tenzin Youedon asked for a clarification of what “YoloGO” is. Mr. Perez said it is intended to be a blueprint to guide Yolobus into the future. There will be additional opportunities in the future to provide more feedback when implemented. YoloGO is not intended to provide specifics like exact schedules but establish general route principles and standards. The goal is to have recommendations approved to start implementation in summer 2021.

Member Frank Reyes asked if there would be any updates prior to the April UAC meeting. Mr. Perez said its likely that this will go to the YCTD Board in April and then implemented starting in July 2021. Schedules will be presented to public for comment in June 2021.

Chair Sheila Allen thanked YCTD for the Knights Landing microtransit service. Mr. Perez said that microtransit will be continued and may be supplemented with larger bus service to accommodate some higher ridership trips. Chair Allen said that access is needed to Social Security Office in West Sacramento. Mr. Perez said that there is service every hour currently. The YoloGO plan recommends service directly to the offices with 2x in morning and 2x in afternoon. A significant part of YoloGO is to develop standards for when to revisit and adjust service.

Public Comment: Mr. Hirsch stated he was unable to sign on to Zoom. He said that Yolo Mobility has looked at the YoloGO plan and is supportive. He stated that this plan is great step and an increase to 30 minute service on the 42 route is helpful. He stated it would be a good step for the UAC to coordinate and information share with their counterpart at YCTD and asked the committee to please agendize.

Mr. Bolte said that he is in favor of the YoloGO plan and has been involved in plan. With Unitrans specifically, he said that good coordination can occur between intercity Yolobus service and intracity Unitrans service. On the location of the social security office in West Sacramento, Mr. Bolte said this issue emphasizes land use planning and that it is hard to serve some developments effectively due to land use.

c. General Manager’s Report (Informational)

Jeff Flynn provided a review of the included presentation for the general manager’s report. Updates included ridership, safety, and capital updates. Mr. Flynn noted that Unitrans is planning on buying six battery electric buses in 2021, four in 2022, and four in 2023 and that facility improvements are largely completed to support the buses. He reported that service levels are stable and that Unitrans is operating an “expanded summer” schedule.

Member Ayush Patel asked about preparations for fall 2021 based on the University’s announcement that fall 2021 will be in-person. Mr. Flynn stated that Unitrans needs 175 drivers for full service and projects a shortfall of 100 drivers. He said that Unitrans is working with the University to recruit drivers.

Member Frank Reyes said that the weekend expansion of O service is great. He suggested that we consider increasing weekend frequency for all lines.

Chair Sheila Allen asked if staff is working with the University's Internship and Career Center on recruitment and Jeff responded that Unitrans is. Chair Allen asked staff to send hiring information to committee to help promote.

Public comment: None

d. Transit Priority Treatments (Informational)

Mr. Flynn presented on transit priority treatments which included bus stop treatments and traffic lane and intersection treatments as well as operational and vehicle improvements that can be used to prioritize transit and make transit more reliable.

Member Janet Regnell asked about traffic enforcement and about laws that require motorists to let buses back into traffic. Mr. Flynn said that those are relatively common and require traffic enforcement to make sure that they are followed.

Member Patel asked if Unitrans has considered articulated 60' buses. Mr. Flynn responded that Unitrans will ask a consultant to review 60' buses in a future transit plan. Articulated buses have advantages over double deckers including faster boarding/alighting times and that they can operate on any route in Davis where double deckers are restricted to only a few routes due to tree clearances.

During public comment, Mr. Hirsch said that the BTSSC should be presented the information. He asked that the UAC serve as advocates for transit priority.

Mr. Bolte said that transit priority is necessary for sustainability. He mentioned the possibility of transit priority and a transit corridor on First Street connecting the University, West Village, Downtown, and Amtrak. He also mentioned that the bus stop on Richards/Olive is an example of having a transit lane but a low quality bus stop and that transit riders should have priority over single occupancy vehicles.

Chair Sheila Allen asked if improvements to Richards/Olive are planned. Brian Abbanat said that the bus stop will be moved across the intersection as part of the I-80/Richards improvement project.

e. Russell Corridor Study Oral Update (Informational)

Brian Abbanat provided a brief update on the status of the project. He stated that a consultant team was selected, that the scope of work and contract are finalized, and an agreement was executed. Staff completed a kick off meeting with internal stakeholders and the City will work hand in hand with the University on the project. The project will have a community steering committee from different aspects of community as well as the standard community outreach with workshops, etc. Staff is now organizing committees and the first community workshop is tentatively planned for March.

Chair Sheila Allen asked that an update on this project be an Action Item. Brian Abbanat said that he'd pencil it into the schedule in April or it might need to be a special meeting to get UAC feedback on record.

During public comment, Mr. Alan Hirsch stated that this project pairs well with information on transit priority and that the study needs to consider transit priority. Mr. Hirsch encouraged Unitrans staff to share the transit priority presentation with the public. He also asked that any additional UAC meeting be called a regular meeting and not a special meeting as special meetings are not open to public feedback.

7. Committee and Staff Communications

a. Long Range Calendar (subject to change)

Chair Sheila Allen requested that the Russell Corridor Study be brought back when ready as an Action Item either as part of the April meeting or as an additional meeting. Chair Allen asked what the Project of Programs is. Mr. Flynn responded that the Program of Projects details how Unitrans plans to spend federal allocated funding.

During public comment, Alan Hirsch asked that the UAC receive an Anderson Corridor Study update and asked the UAC members to be eyes and ears on the street for bus stop issues. Chair Sheila Allen stated that the long range calendar shows that the Anderson Corridor Study will be presented to the UAC in April.

b. Committee Member Announcements

Chair Sheila Allen provided information that she has been in many meetings through the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccinations and she asked if Unitrans staff is being tested.

8. Adjourn

Patel/Regnell
5:50pm

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Agenda Item:

- #5A: October 23, 2020 minutes
- #6A: Climate Action & Adaptation Plan Update
- #6B: YCTD Comprehensive Operational Assessment
- #6C: General Manager's Report
- #6D: Transit Priority Presentation
- #7A: Long Range Calendar