

CEDAR AREA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2019

A regular meeting of the Cedar Area Transportation Advisory Board was held on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 4:00 PM in the Cedar City Conference Room located at 10 North Main, Cedar City, Utah.

PRESENT:

Jerry Russell, Chairman  
Allison Bulloch, Member  
Brody Johnson, Member  
Kol Gibson, Member  
Ryan Marshall, Public Works Director  
Anna Hernandez, Co-Manager/Dispatcher  
Kathy Dahl, Executive Secretary

Russell welcomed everyone and called the meeting or order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Johnson moved, Bulloch seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the minutes from the January 28, 2019 meeting be approved.

CHAIR REPORT

Russell did not have anything to report.

STAFF REPORT

Marshall introduced Anna Hernandez, the new Co-Manager/Dispatcher. Joanne Rice has left employment with the City and we have hired Kristy Fulbright as the other Co-Manager/Dispatcher. Kristy has been driving for CATS and will now be moving into the office position. She will also drive when needed until another driver can be hired.

Marshall reported that the bus shelter by Wal-Mart was hit by a private snowplow operator. The shelter has been repaired and the City's legal department is taking care of turning this into the person's insurance company for reimbursement.

Marshall updated the board on the status of the Fleet/CATS Maintenance Building. At the last report the bids came back more than double the engineering estimate and we didn't have enough funds to go ahead with the project. Additional funding has been added in the next year's City budget which will go to the City Council at the end of May, 2019. The budget will be approved sometime in June, 2019 and then we will know if the City Council approves the additional funding. The FTA/UDOT has some additional funds available and we submitted a request for that funding. We are waiting to hear back from them, though we probably won't know until August, 2019 if we are awarded that funding. Hopefully everything will be approved which will allow the construction

to move forward. The construction of the building will allow us to get all maintenance into one building with a high enough roof for the mechanics to work under a bus without having to low crawl. Marshall will keep the board updated on the status of this project.

Ridership numbers for Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride are as follows:

<u>2019</u>	<u>Fixed Route</u>	<u>Dial-A-Ride</u>	<u>Combined</u>
January	1227	603	1830
February	1042	495	1537
March	1173	568	1741

  

<u>2018</u>	<u>Fixed Route</u>	<u>Dial-A-Ride</u>	<u>Combined</u>
January	1099	639	1738
February	1006	554	1560
March	1347	676	2023

In trying to account for the decrease in ridership for March, Marshall stated that it could be weather related. In answer to query from Gibson, Marshall stated that we don't track passengers by name or whether they use passes or pay cash on the fixed route. We track numbers of passengers getting on and off the bus. We do have names and addresses for the Dial-A-Ride patrons.

Members of the UDOT transit team met here in Cedar City with us last week and went through the process of reimbursement and documentation. They have been fine-tuning their process and they met to go through the process they now want us to follow for sending in requests for reimbursement. CATS receives FTA reimbursement through the UDOT from the 5311 Program at the rate of 50% of operational expenses and 80% administrative and capital expenses. We also went through the next 5-year planning cycle with them on what we think we will need in vehicles. This is now on their planning program schedule.

There was some discussion on the quarter percent sales tax that can be implemented by either a county or city that will benefit roads and transit if there is a transit agency in operation in the county or city. When it was first adopted by the Utah State Legislature it had to be placed on the ballot, but it has since been amended so it doesn't have to be voted on before it could be implemented. If Iron County or Cedar City implements this tax, it could allow us to add staff and additional vehicles and equipment to reduce headways and add additional routes to the system. Until something like this happens that will give us a local match for additional FTA funding we don't see anything changing in our system. There are cities and counties in Utah that have started to take

advantage of this tax. Marshall reported that we have hired 4 drivers in the last several months. CATS staff has changed the driver training and evaluation process for drivers, including doing ride-alongs as a part of driver training. 3 of the 4 new hires have worked out very well. We had to let one go. One of the new drivers has a CDL.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was some discussion on alternative fuel vehicles. Marshall stated that in discussing this with the state and other 5311 transit agencies, the state is not ready to put alternative fuel vehicles on the state contract for transit systems. They don't think that agencies like senior centers, etc. who purchase vehicles off the state contract have the capacity or ability to maintain an alternative fuel bus. Marshall stated that the agencies that receive 5311 funding meet annually and will keep asking the UDOT to add this option to the state contracts. He stated that the Fleet/CATS building is designed to accommodate alternative fuel vehicles, so if they become available and are placed in our fleet we will be ready.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Hernandez stated that the CATS staff is active on checking for road closures that may occur throughout the City to ensure that drivers are aware of detours that may be needed.

Johnson made a request for new stops on the fixed route system. One would be at the new housing complex being constructed by the golf course; the other would be behind IFA to serve the low-income housing units being constructed in that area. The problem with both of these locations is access in and out. Once they are completed, they may extend the roadways through which would provide ingress and egress without having to utilize parking areas, etc. to turn around. Marshall stated that we will review these areas when the construction is completed.

It was brought up that the Vocational Rehabilitation is no longer located in the area of Stop 8-A, but we do pick up quite a few people every day there.

Johnson stated that he attended a meeting related to expanded adult Medicaid and expressed concern that the new program may not cover transportation. Hernandez and Marshall stated they will check with the Medicaid billing, the state and other transit agencies to see what the new program entails and if any of the changes may affect our

patrons that use it for transportation payments. Johnson will forward any new information he receives relating to this change in the program.

There was some discussion on attending the July Jamboree this year. Hernandez had not heard anything about it but will check into it. She can check with the Cedar City Rotary Club, Neil Smith or possibly the City may have some information. In past years, CATS has had a booth to hand out information and also parked a bus for people to check out.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was nothing further, Johnson moved, Gibson seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 4:33 PM.