

SUN METRO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMCAC)
May 8, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order at 3:00PM. The following Committee Members were present:

District	Name	Present	Absent
D1	Vacant		
D2	Elisa Tamayo	X	
D3	William Graham	X	
D4	Sandy Azcona		X
D5	Aziz Afravi	X	
D6	Vacant		
D7	Sylvia Carreon	X	
D8	Scott White	X	
Mayor	Vacant		

2. Approve the Minutes of the Committee meeting of September 13, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Tamayo, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the minutes of the previous CAC meeting.

3. Discussion and action on election of officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) of the committee

Mr. White nominated himself for Chair, Mr. Graham seconded it, passed unanimously. Mr. White called for nominees for Vice Chair, Mr. Graham is nominated, Ms. Tamayo seconded it, passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and action regarding vacant seats on the committee and review of ordinance related to excessive absences.

Mr. Rimkus reviewed the three current committee member vacancies. Ms. Carreon stated she might know a person who would be interested on serving on the committee. Ms. Tamayo asked if meetings could go back to being conducted virtually. Ms. Garcia (Asst. City Atty.) recommended to place it on the next meeting agenda and gave examples of other meetings being held virtually. Mr. Rimkus reviewed the City ordinance that relates to excessive absences of committee members.

5. Discussion regarding update on County of El Paso paratransit implementation and Termination of Route 84

Mr. Rimkus reviewed County Transit services and the pending implementation of paratransit services by County Transit. Mr. Rimkus advised that Sun Metro Route 84, operated by Sun Metro on behalf of the County of El Paso, will be terminated at the end of 2024. Mr. Dekeyzer added to the discussion of the future operation of the route by County

Transit. Mr. Rimkus then discussed that the paratransit services for Route 84 would continue to be provided until the route is terminated, at which point the County would be responsible for providing service along whatever new route may be put in place. Mr. Dekeyzer reemphasized the paratransit plan the County plans to implement.

6. Discussion regarding a presentation on Sun Metro Rising

Mr. Mendez went over the presentation of Sun Metro Rising to include micro transit. Mr. Dekeyzer went into detail on the deactivation and activation of stops. Mr. White asked if there is going to be education on the new stops. Mr. Dekeyzer replied by stating that the Outreach team will be taking care of that. Ms. Garcia reemphasized the Outreach plan. Mr. Afravi asked if LIFT still offers education on how to use its services. Ms. Garcia replied by stating it is done upon request. Mr. Mendez gave the timeline to implement Sun Metro Rising.

7. Discussion regarding a presentation on El Paso Streetcar Optimization

Mr. Esparza went over the presentation and what the public is requesting from the streetcar service. Mr. Esparza went over the ridership numbers from previous years, approved service organization and the cost and savings. Mr. Dekeyzer reemphasized what was done to increase ridership.

8. Discussion of an update on Sun Metro operations and administration

Mr. Arnold presented information that included Sun Metro fleet maintenance, fixed route on time performance, ridership, ticket vending machine replacement, LIFT and electric vehicle update. Mr. Dekeyzer discussed how the complaints for paratransit service are now being addressed. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Dekeyzer reviewed the installation and implementation of validator and contactless technology on Sun Metro buses. Mr. Arnold went over went over the new plan on how to increase on time performance at LIFT.

Public Comment

No requests were made to make public comment.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Tamayo and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting of May 8, 2024.