

**SUN METRO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMCAC)
July 10, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

Call meeting to order.

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

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

1. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Committee meeting of May 8, 2024.

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

2. Discussion regarding welcome of new committee members

Mr. Rimkus introduced the three new committee members, Jesus Salgado, Sandy Azcona and Angela Ochoa. Mr. Dekeyzer suggested that everyone present should introduce themselves, which was then done by the members and staff attending the meeting.

3. Discussion and action regarding consideration of options for hybrid committee meetings

Mr. Rimkus reviewed a history of hybrid (in-person and virtual attendance at a meeting by various members) committee meetings. Committee members gave their opinions on hybrid meetings. Mr. Dekeyzer and Mr. De Muro advised that meetings can be held through Teams. No action taken at this time; however, staff was asked to return at the following meeting with options for hybrid committee meetings.

4. Discussion regarding the procedures for LIFT paratransit trip planning

Mr. Caraveo presented Rider Management, Trip Scheduling and Ride Plan Optimizer for paratransit operations management. Committee members shared their personal experiences with LIFT, and asked questions regarding aspects of the presentation.

5. **Discussion regarding an update on Sun Metro Rising**

Mr. Robert Mendez, Sun Metro Planning, gave an update on Sun Metro Rising which included Proposed Network, Bus Stop analysis and micro transit in District 5.

6. **Discussion regarding an update on the Texas Veterans Commission grant for free bus rides for veterans**

Mr. Jerry DeMuro, Deputy Transit Officer, gave an update on the Texas Veterans Ride for Free grant, which included the number of customers who have been issued bus passes and how much funding is remaining in the grant budget.

7. **Discussion regarding phone number access for LIFT paratransit issues**

Mr. Caraveo presented and introduced the new phone number for LIFT, 212-LIFT, which may be called by customers for any reason; a call menu will be available to direct customers to the appropriate section to address the caller's need.

8. **Discussion regarding update on Sun Metro outreach efforts to increase ridership**

Ms. Rivera, Sun Metro Outreach, presented on what the Outreach Team does and what it is currently working on.

9. **Discussion regarding free parking at Sun Metro facilities for disabled veterans and bus passes for committee members**

Mr. Rimkus reviewed both topics for the committee, no questions were asked.

10. **Discussion regarding information on Mandy the Mule trolley display and status of unrestored PCC streetcars**

Mr. De Muro presented on both of the topics, no additional questions were asked.

Public Comment

Brittany Hernandez addressed the needs of UTEP students, specifically regarding transit, and requested to partner with Sun Metro for the purpose of enhancing transit service for students.

Adjourn

Motion made by Ms. Azcona, seconded by Mr. Salgado and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting of July 10, 2024.