



Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha

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**ometro.com**

## **Metro Transit Advisory Committee**

May 14, 2025

6:30 p.m.

*\*This meeting was open to the public online and in-person at Metro offices*

### **Digital:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88468288293>

Meeting ID: 884 6828 8293

*Staff Facilitators: Bridget Battafarano, Alicia Johnson, PhD*

*TAC Members: Cedric Ludlow (chair), Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell, Leah Keator, Clyde Anderson (Vice-chair), Joey Yamada, Gab Rima, Rose Krekelberg, Brian Neely, Alex Mendoza (online)*

*Members of the Public: Ray Williams, Monique Summers-Currington, Steven Thomas, Logan (online, no last name shared)*

### **Opening: Public comment period (Limit to ten minutes total, please)**

#### **Follow-up from Aril:**

1. Can a MOBY rider ride the lift if their mobility device cannot be strapped down? Yes. There are no securement straps for devices on MOBY lifts. Anyone can use lifts on MOBYs or ramps on buses upon request. Rider can be sitting in a device or standing.
2. TAC Bylaw changes: Metro is required to make further updates to TAC bylaws, so we are unable to bring them to TAC for approval this month. It will require a vote to amend the agenda when we come to that time in the meeting.
3. Where can I find microtransit zone maps and details? On the Metro website under the "news" tab or at: <https://www.ometro.com/metro-news/> A microtransit-specific page will be available soon.
4. What are HIPAA requirements for TAC? Staff reviewed FTA requirements for organizations covered under HIPAA; determined TAC subcommittee for MOBY appeals does not fall under covered entities. Public: According to personal experience as a healthcare administrator and in consultation with a colleague, Metro does appear to be covered and TAC members who review confidential medical information related to

someone's MOBY appeal should be HIPAA certified. Staff: We will bring this to our legal team for review.

5. What is Metro's involvement with school transition programs that teach life skills for students with disabilities? Can this be increased? Since the April meeting, Metro staff have met with the Occupational Therapy department at the Munroe-Meyer institute (MMI). MMI is rolling out a grant to address mobility needs for those with disabilities, including a track for individuals who would not be good candidates for a driver's license, but who could use the bus and/or MOBY. Metro will be able to provide instructional assistance for this community mobility track and the MMI program staff can provide insight on the MOBY application and approval process. Metro has also been approached via email and Train the Trainer sessions to work with transition programs in OPS, Westside, and Millard.
6. Will MyRide ever include Moby vehicle tracking? Not MyRide, but Metro is looking at other systems.

### **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

Minutes approved

### **New Business:**

1. Paratransit appeals: None
2. Metro updates and upcoming events
  - a. *Bus to Ballot: 4/13/25 provided free rides on election day*
  - b. *Current customer serviced contract is up; Once contract decision is made, Metro may ask for TAC help testing accuracy and effectiveness of service*
  - c. *Opportunity to comment on transportation as a factor of city Poverty Elimination Plan (comments become public record).*
  - d. *Board looking at a few things at May meeting:*
    - i. *The MCC transit center pavement replacement design*
    - ii. *The electrical switch gear design*
    - iii. *Boiler replacement design*
  - e. *Submissions for a new bus wash were due on the 5<sup>th</sup>*
  - f. *Omaha Refugee Task Force Transportation Conference*
  - g. *Attended Earth Day at Elmwood*
  - h. *Attended Afghan Community Center open house*
  - i. *Common Coalition meeting: cross-organizational effort to align organizations serving people with disabilities; Metro staff attended meeting, available for background information, questions, and feedback*
  - j. *Unveiled winning Wheel Appeal wrap to student artist, family, local media.*
  - k. *Metro had annual safety banquet to celebrate staff commitment to safety*
  - l. *OPS preschoolers came to explore a bus and listen to a bus story*
  - m. *Attended "large vehicle career day" at Crestridge Elementary*
  - n. *Lauren (CEO) received a UNO alumni award for service to the community*

- o. *Extra ORBT buses will be parked along Dodge near 62<sup>nd</sup> St. to gather attendees and lessen traffic at Memorial Park concert*
- p. *Attending Juneteenth Parade and Freedom Fest*
- q. *Will have a circulator called the Ballpark Bus for CWS – modification to Green Route.*
- r. *Questions:*
  - i. *Clyde: Is there a way to make fare payment easier for out-of-town visitors? Alicia: Fare payment is part of the conversation in this planning, yes. In the next couple of years, we will have a chance to update our fare payment systems, so this is an ongoing conversation more broadly, as well.*
  - ii. *Joey: Updates on the new buses? Alicia: 26 new buses will replace current buses that are past their useful life. Set to arrive by end of year and be out on the road soon after.*
- 3. Vote to move bylaw review and voting to a future meeting agenda
  - a. Roll Call: Unanimous approval
- 4. Committee report on public feedback
  - a. Clyde: Emailed article about legislative bill to address safety issues for rail operators in Maryland and surrounding region. Can we speak with a union operator here to hear their safety concerns? Bridget: Checking who may be available to speak. Clyde: Have made various reports to Metro staff regarding buses not showing on MyRide; continuous problem. IT and Planning know. Will continue to report and have conversations with Evan Schweitz from Planning.
  - b. Rose: Know someone who needs to contact Metro about getting a mobility device on board. Who should they contact? Alicia: [civilrights@ometro.com](mailto:civilrights@ometro.com).
  - c. Gab: Urban Abbey hosting first meeting of their Urban Planning Club on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-7pm; everyone welcome.
  - d. Brian: Long wait times on the 15. Problems with MyRide as well, including what looks like a wrong map on the 15 route. Alicia: When you encounter issues with MyRide, please let us know the details by calling customer service, reporting online, or contacting us directly. Brian: In the evening, the routes going towards downtown pull into Metro instead of going all the way downtown on their last trip. Is there a way to have them – particularly the 4 – go all the way downtown before they finish for the night? Alicia: They are planned like that to reduce “non-revenue” hours, which is time when buses are not accepting new passengers. Will pass feedback to Planning department to see if it’s possible. Brian: Will routes go back to what they were when streetcar construction is over? Staff: Planning is in conversations with city to figure it out.
- 5. Discuss communication with board
  - a. Clyde:
    - i. April 2025 versus April 2024 ridership increased
    - ii. 2024 financial audit done by outside agency. For board discussion, refer to board packet at [ometro.com/board-of-directors](https://ometro.com/board-of-directors)
    - iii. 80% on time performance, largely due to operator shortage

**Next meeting:**

- June 11, 6:30 p.m. at Metro administrative offices and on Zoom

*For questions, please contact Bridget Battafarano at 402-341-7560 ext. 2560*