



Transit Advisory Committee
1st Quarter 2023
 March 15th, 10:00am
 Albert Lea SMART; Zoom

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, accessible and courteous public transportation services in response to the needs of our communities.

Committee Members:

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|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| x | Kirk Kuchera – SMART Transit | | Lenore Fries – Albert Lea (passenger) |
| x | Joanne Brackey – SMART Transit | x | Joyce Poshusta – Austin City Council |
| x | Garry Hart – CVS/SMART Transit | | Jerry Reinartz – Mower County |
| x | Shelly Rockman – SMART Transit | | Kari Hall – Mayo Health Systems |
| x | Chris Thompson – SMART Transit | | Waseca County – Commissioner |
| | Ashley Yokiel – SMART Transit | | Kelly Sutlief – Waseca (passenger) |
| x | Greg Krueger – Steele County | | Matti Gurney – MNDOT-OTAT |
| | Troy Klecker – City of Owatonna | | |

Review of scope and mission for TAC

Purpose: The purpose of a TAC is to provide guidance and advise transit staff in issues related to transit services, funding, marketing, service strategies, developing policy, special projects, and capital investments/projects. This committee/council is not a governing board, so do not have a legal authority to oversee the transit program, however, provide as a valuable resource to the transit program in developing and providing for transit services.

Updates

- Stats

SMART Transit-Cedar Valley Services - 2022 Data													
Data for all counties combined													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
PASSENGERS													
Albert Lea	4,245	4,276	4,815	4,899	4,517	3,814	3,375	4,625	5,144	5,285	5,233	4,604	54,832
Austin	9,402	10,282	10,221	9,867	9,895	6,074	4,353	5,317	9,509	10,129	9,477	8,567	103,093
Owatonna	3,430	3,413	3,670	3,431	3,671	2,534	2,377	2,806	4,220	4,454	4,157	3,567	41,730
Blooming Prairie													0
Waseca	1,775	1,899	2,207	1,830	1,908	1,535	1,014	1,146	1,774	1,869	1,989	1,556	20,502
TOTAL	18,852	19,870	20,913	20,027	19,991	13,957	11,119	13,894	20,647	21,737	20,856	18,294	220,157
HOURS													
Albert Lea	1,189	1,111	1,291	1,130	1,159	1,109	1,021	1,168	1,209	1,233	1,167	1,136	13,920
Austin	2,012	1,922	2,075	1,937	1,995	1,707	1,561	1,769	1,958	1,989	1,981	1,896	22,802
Owatonna	1,045	994	1,054	1,007	1,048	988	958	1,036	1,219	1,219	1,186	1,131	12,883
Blooming Prairie													0
Waseca	774	732	837	732	767	802	740	785	683	691	652	672	8,867
TOTAL	5,019	4,759	5,256	4,806	4,968	4,606	4,279	4,758	5,068	5,131	4,986	4,834	58,470
MILES													
Albert Lea	14,065	14,424	16,258	15,219	15,554	13,391	12,758	15,224	15,734	15,984	15,270	14,529	178,410
Austin	21,864	21,440	21,976	19,404	21,445	18,311	17,617	19,141	22,326	23,405	21,655	20,737	249,321
Owatonna	12,233	12,208	13,537	12,560	13,099	11,975	11,535	12,688	14,581	15,337	14,393	13,601	157,747
Blooming Prairie													0
Waseca	5,745	5,282	6,277	5,165	5,302	5,516	4,495	5,298	5,402	4,970	5,228	5,031	63,711
TOTAL	53,907	53,354	58,048	52,348	55,400	49,193	46,405	52,351	58,043	59,696	56,546	53,898	649,189

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
54,832	47,103	35,764	66,630	72,627	63,793	52,900	49,612	41,645
103,093	94,758	82,167	122,684	123,489	104,812	98,681	90,045	80,385
41,730	43,599	38,293	55,238	58,205	57,617	50,340	44,445	38,979
0	0	0	0	0	1,890	2,935	2,596	
20,502	18,944	14,710	24,246	23,417	21,035	18,519		
220,157	204,404	170,934	268,798	277,738	249,147	223,375	186,698	161,009
13,920	14,059	12,050	14,645	14,824	13,206	10,701	8,166	7,501
22,802	24,256	22,032	23,826	22,595	20,771	19,654	18,749	19,061
12,883	14,563	13,184	15,882	14,387	12,895	10,655	9,908	10,050
0	0	0	0	0	718	514	507	
8,867	8,523	7,420	9,436	9,409	9,744	8,112		
58,470	61,400	54,685	63,788	61,215	57,334	49,636	37,330	36,612
178,410	177,958	140,273	181,264	183,952	168,274	133370.0	114,940	111,127
249,321	264,296	245,547	286,710	239,193	227,469	229089.7	223,447	217,466
157,747	175,158	151,328	210,922	193,709	178,377	151102.1	150,747	150,065
0	0	0	0	0	1,431	1444.0	1,037	
63,711	62,249	47,366	73,630	70,488	60,808	45875.0		
649,189	679,661	584,514	752,525	687,342	636,359	560,881	490,171	478,658

- Ridership – Wrapped up with over 220,000 trips
 - Nearly an 8% increase over 2021
 - Still down about 20% from our record year

January-February 2023 Stats

SMART Transit-Cedar Valley Services - 2023 Data			
Data for all counties combined			
	January	February	YTD
PASSENGERS			
Albert Lea	5,292	4,733	10,025
Austin	9,359	9,098	18,457
Owatonna	4,212	4,163	8,375
Blooming Prairie			0
Waseca	1,975	1,878	3,853
TOTAL	20,838	19,872	40,710
HOURS			
Albert Lea	1,178	969	2,147
Austin	1,938	1,778	3,715
Owatonna	1,143	1,044	2,187
Blooming Prairie			0
Waseca	683	624	1,307
TOTAL	4,942	4,414	9,356
MILES			
Albert Lea	15,364	13,880	29,244
Austin	22,466	20,869	43,335
Owatonna	15,223	13,977	29,200
Blooming Prairie			0
Waseca	5,431	4,966	10,397
TOTAL	58,484	53,692	112,176

- Compared to previous January/February, these numbers are about 5% higher than 2022
- Biggest challenge continues to be staffing – reduced hours of service (hours down 4% from 2022)
- Update
 - Will be reaching our 2,000,000th ride as an agency later this month
 - Will be promoting the event via press release and social media, and handing out magnets with our logo and number on it (along with 2,000,000 rides on it)
- SMART Functional Updates
 - Training

- Been very active with CPR and other trainings
 - Going to start working on a couple new hires in Austin – PT driver (potential new dispatcher)
 - Spring Workshop is coming up that will have valuable training
 - CTAA coming up in May – Will travel to attend training and National Rodeo
 - Julio – Lead Driver in Owatonna will be competing in National Rodeo (due to 1st place finish at the MPTA State Bus Rodeo in Austin)
 - Owatonna/Waseca
 - Waseca –
 - Continue to be short staff
 - Been a struggle to get good applicants
 - Owatonna –
 - Continue to be short staff
 - Been a struggle to get good applicants
 - New facility in coming along very nicely
 - Austin/Albert Lea/Dispatch
 - Austin –
 - Had a FT applicant back out of position
 - PT driver starts next week (existing license holder)
 - Albert Lea –
 - Full staff at the moment – Will have a FT driver retiring later this summer
 - Dispatch –
 - Long time dispatcher retiring later this month – Have offer out to an applicant
- MNDOT Update
 - Capital
 - Vehicles
 - Vehicle Replacement
 - 2020-21 Bus Grants/Contracts
 - Ordered six replacement buses (from 2020 capital grant; two in Austin, two in Albert Lea, one in Owatonna, and one in Waseca)
 - Received first bus from 2020 order in May, 2022
 - Ordered five replacement buses (from 2021 capital grant; one in Austin, one in Owatonna, and three in Waseca)
 - 2020-21 Bus Contracts received amendments due to pricing increases
 - Expecting select buses to be delivered as soon as late spring/early summer
 - 2022 Bus Grant/Contract
 - Approved for two buses from 2022 Vehicle Replacement grant; one in Austin, one in Albert Lea
 - Two buses have been ordered through North Central
 - 2023 Vehicle Replacement
 - Requested eight buses for replacement, was approved for four (award letter)
 - Two buses in Austin, two buses in Owatonna
 - Significant price increase:
 - Nearly 40% over 2022 ordering price
 - Increase of 101% from 2021 ordering price
 - No timeline on ordering process
 - Low-No Emission Grant – BETTER
 - Worked with MNDOT and three other agencies to apply for an exciting opportunity to bring an electric bus to SMART
 - “Buses Electrified To Travel Efficiently in Rural” MN Communities application was completed the last week of May
 - Notice was received mid-August, 2022, that MNDOT’s grant was approved

- Tentative time for bus arrival is 2025
 - Facilities
 - Owatonna facility
 - Open House scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th, 12:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Open house schedule – no scheduled program, etc.
 - Austin and Waseca facility approved through MNDOT grant – Future projects
 - Austin scheduled for 2025; Waseca scheduled for 2026
 - Other
 - Vehicle Maintenance / Pre-Trip Inspection Software
 - Kicked off our Fleetio software this month – staff meetings/trainings have taken place in Austin, Waseca, and Albert Lea (Owatonna next week)
 - Going well so far – staff are utilizing it for their inspections
- Big Picture – Down the Road
 - Shared Mobility Opportunity
 - Project officially kicked-off on March 1st
 - Currently working through staffing training for mobile payment options (Token Transit app)
 - MaaS app is designed as a ‘Trip Planning’ app for agencies who use RouteMatch/TripSpark routing software
 - Will publicly promote as an agency once all staff are trained
 - Region 10 Local Human Services – Transit Coordination Plan 2022
 - Final will be emailed to TAC with today’s meeting notes
 - Cedar Valley Services Update
 - Own and operate SMART
 - Provide work training for adults with disabilities in three counties (Mower, Freeborn, Steele)
 - Still dealing with staffing challenges – working to bring in more staff
 - Bringing in more consumers (disabled adults) into the program
 - Working with legislators on sub-minimum wage bill that would impact CVS and other organizations like it

2023 Program Goals (carried over from 2022)

- Continue to keep staff and passengers safe
- Continue to streamline and simplify processes and policies
- Work to grow ridership out of COVID Pandemic
 - Gain rider trust
- Any new goals/ideas?

TAC Members/Community Feedback from Last Meeting to Re-visit:

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NEW items from TAC Members/Community Feedback?

- Question regarding round-about by the CVS location in Owatonna
 - No issues for CVS staff/consumers, but some issues with large vehicles getting in and around the area (semi-trailers)
- From Austin Twin Towers – Residents are not fully aware of service hours on evenings and weekends
 - Work on memo to be posted at location reminding residents of Twin Towers that buses operate in the evenings and on weekends
- Promote public transportation as a viable and reliable service to the public – focus on the positives

2023 Meeting Dates (tentative):

Quarterly on 4th Wednesday ... 10:00 am rotating city (Zoom option available for all meetings)

Q1 = March 15th, 2023 ... 905 E 16th St, Albert Lea, MN (In Person/Zoom)(*original date changed*)

Q2 = June 21st, 2023 ... 2803 W Oakland Ave, Austin, MN (In Person/Zoom)

Q3 = September 20th, 2023 ... 140 32nd Ave. NW, Owatonna, MN (In Person/Zoom)

*Q4 = December 20th, 2023 ... 303 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 (In Person/Zoom)

* Changed to 3rd Wednesday due to Christmas holiday, held at Emergency Services Building

** *In person opportunities for all meetings subject to change based on current guidelines, etc.; all dates subject to change*

**Thank you all so much for your continued support and advocacy on
behalf of public transportation in our region!**