

TOWN OF PAYSON
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
HELD: Wednesday, **August 23rd, 2023**, 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, Payson Town Hall

The Transit Advisory Committee reserves the right to consider any matter out of sequence.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call: Dee Bowling - present, Joanne Conlin - present, Zeena Gagnon - present, James Menlove - present, Margaret Mackenzie - present, Chuck Proudfoot present, Marine Simmons – present.
 1. Town Staff Present: Lisa Lipinski – Tourism & Public Works Coordinator
Juanita Coghil – Transit Coordinator
Christine Smith – Deputy Town ManagerParticipants via Zoom: Travis Ashbaugh, Transportation Planning Director with Central Arizona Governments (CAG)
- D. Approval of the Minutes for July 26, 2023, TAC Meeting
 1. James Menlove motioned to approved minutes. Joanne Conlin seconded motion to approve July 26th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Lisa Lipinski, Town staff shared ridership of Beeline Bus Transit system totals:
 1. July 2023 Final Report: Blue Route 253 Red Route 243 Total of 496
First part of August 1- 18, 2023: Total of 430
The totals for the whole month of August will be presented at the next meeting.
- F. Lisa Lipinski, Town Staff shared changes for the November meeting update. Remaining TAC meetings for the year are:
 1. **September 20th, 2023, at 10:00 AM**
 2. **November 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM**

General Discussion with TAC members:

Town staff shared that Beeline Bus offers rides to all ages and free Fridays has been successful at increasing ridership and public awareness of the Beeline Bus transit system. There has been a significant increase in ridership on the two Free Ride Fridays held on May

19th and July 14th, 2023. Town staff shared ADOT provided an update on the new bus, currently in assembly, it is anticipated to arrive the end September or mid-October of 2023. Once the new bus is received, a vinyl wrap with the Beeline Bus logo and phone number will be installed before the bus starts route services. Town staff shared that Star Valley has increased in ridership.

Rim Country Health will be getting a bus stop on the property after it was removed previously. No public hearing is needed as it was an existing bus stop prior to the transfer of operations from Payson Senior Center to the Town of Payson.

Town staff addressed adjustments of start locations on routes to Verizon and explained this will create less down time from the Town of Payson parking lot where the Beeline Buses are housed, to the Payson Senior Center. Town staff is also assessing adjustments to the Beeline Bus schedules and potential updates with routes and times.

As a public transportation service, it is essential to always have 4 buses when transit services has more than one daily route to service. Having 2 operating buses for back up when buses need repairs or general maintenance is imperative. Currently the Town of Payson is spending a great deal of money on repair cost for these aging buses. Adding newer buses to the fleet and removing the older buses from the Beeline Bus fleet will help to bring repair costs down, as well.

Town staff reports the bus stop at Safeway has been super busy with tourism season in full swing and staff mentioned assessments of installing a second bus stop in the future over by the AutoZone parking lot location or closer to Highway 87 by the Banner Urgent Care parking lot. The addition of this bus stop will require a public hearing.

Deputy Town Manager, Christine Smith addressed TAC members' questions regarding the Granite Dells and Highway 260 intersection. Current engineering plans indicate there will not be a left turn exit, from Safeway in the future, as it is one of the highest collision prone intersections that has been identified in Payson Town limits.

Town staff provided update on current ADOT grant programs and will continue research for additional funding. Town of Payson has received \$73,000.00 from Gila County for additional financial support to the operations of the Beeline Bus transit system.

Another grant cycle is coming up in October 2024 with ADOT.

James Menlove County Mager for Gila County provided an update regarding the status of IPTA. Gila County is currently in contract negotiations with AECOM for securing services to establish the formation IPTA.

Subsequently Travis Ashbaugh with CAG provided additional details regarding the update on the IPTA formation. CAG is currently working on documents and referenced a next meeting September 6th, 2023, to review of documents from other intergovernmental transit services in Northern Arizona or Yuma. He also spoke with Jill Dusenberry ADOT's Transit Group Manager on this topic and will know more after the September 6th meeting. Travis Ashbaugh provided a recommendation that the Town of Payson apply for the grant cycle in


February 2024 as the formation of IPTA is still in process.

Lisa Lipinski spoke on town staff plans to visit Miami and Globe, AZ to meet the staff and learn more about the operations service provided by Copper Mountain Transit.

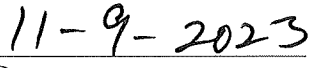
Joanne Conlin asked about the future connecting buses to travel to the valley for medical appointments and riders needing shuttle services to the airports in the valley. Joanne suggested a service that perhaps runs 2 to 3 days per week. Chuck Proudfoot motioned the round table discussion is complete and to adjourn at 10:53 a.m. and Joanne Conlin approved motion to adjourn.

G. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Chair, Chuck Proudfoot.

Minutes approved by: 
Chuck Proudfoot - Chair


Date

Minutes approved by: 
Lisa Lipinski – Town Staff
Tourism & Public Works Coordinator


Date