



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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ADA PARATRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING QUARTERLY MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.

**SIMI VALLEY SENIOR CENTER
3900 AVENIDA SIMI, SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approval of Minutes: April 20, 2023
5. Report of ADA Advisory Committee Chair
6. Representative Reports
 - A. Mayor (Fred Thomas)
 - B. Deputy Public Works Director(Transit) (Ben Gonzales)
7. Public Statements

This time is allotted for anyone who wishes to make a public statement or comment on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee. Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker, to allow everyone the opportunity to be heard.
8. Reports:
 - A. Update on Passenger Statistics (Transit Supervisor) (Eric Molina)
9. New Business
 - A. New vehicle purchase update (Ben Gonzales)

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10. ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee Member Comments

This time is allotted for Committee members to make a statement or comment on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee, which may include announcements and/or requests for future agenda items.

11. ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee Coordinator's Report (Eric Molina)

12. Suggested Future Agenda Items

13. Adjournment

14. Next meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Location Transit Maintenance Facility.



Ronald K. Fuchiwaki
Public Works Director

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Simi Valley Transit's Dial-A-Ride services at (805) 583-6464. Upon advance notification of the need for accommodation, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Theresa Lewis (Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Karen Bobango	A
Ruth Lauro	P
Leanne Ford	A
Theresa Lewis	P
Isabel Huerta	P
Rosalie Burger (alternate)	A
Rebecca McCann (alternate)	A

P: Present A: Absent V: Vacant

Staff: Eric Molina, Transit Supervisor
Ben Gonzales, Deputy Public Works Director (Transit)
Alyssa Moody, Transit Dispatcher

3. Agenda Review

No Revisions were made to the Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2023.

5. Report of the ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee Chair (Theresa Lewis)

No Report was submitted.

6. Representative Reports

A. Mayor Fred Thomas: (absent)

No Report was submitted.

B. Deputy Public Works Director (Transit), Ben Gonzales:

Deputy Public Works Director (Transit) Ben Gonzales reported that the Transit Department is in the process of purchasing new vans to replace the current vans, including one electric van for a different type of service. A vehicle showing will be held on May 8, 2023 at the Transit Maintenance Facility. Ruth Lauro inquired whether drivers will be able to give input on new vehicles. Eric Molina explained how the vehicle display and staff viewing would work. Committee, drivers, management staff and maintenance staff will be invited to attend the vehicle viewing and to offer input.

Theresa Lewis inquired whether an electric vehicle purchase was in the works.

Ben Gonzales responded an electric vehicle will be purchased in the future, and said vehicle will be used for a different type of service.

7. Public Statements

There were no public statements made.

8. Reports:

A. Update on Passenger Statistics

Transit Supervisor Eric Molina discussed the statistical rider data for the last quarter and reported ridership continuing to increase compared to the previous quarter.

Ruth Lauro inquired whether Transit gets additional funding for the increase in ridership. Ben Gonzales responded and advised that there is no additional funding.

Ben Gonzales updated the Committee advising that there are currently three new drivers in training and stated that the Department is being proactive to fill vacancies. He also reported that the Department is now hiring drivers without a commercial license and will train them to be licensed commercial drivers. This has increased the amount of applicants.

Eric Molina emphasized that hiring non-commercial licensed drivers will take longer to train.

Rebecca McCann inquired about part-time drivers becoming full-time.

Ben Gonzales responded and updated the committee that the Department has promoted two part-time drivers to full-time status.

9. New Business

A. Eric Molina stated that E-Fare media went into effect as of March 31, 2023. He also explained how the fare payments and deductions work in the scheduling system when passengers book their trips.

Ruth Lauro commented that this type of fare payment is nice and easy to use.

Rebecca McCann inquired as to how the system would know the difference when a passenger books trips for the meal site program at the Senior Center.

Eric Molina responded and explained that the caller would have to advise the dispatchers of the purpose of the trip when booking, and the dispatchers would change the fare type to no charge.

Rebecca McCann inquired if the Council on Aging will still pay for a book of tickets once a month when providing a receipt of previous ticket purchases.

Ben Gonzales responded that the current system in place would not change. Ben also explained that the Department conducted a “test-run” to work out any issues. Ben Gonzales and Eric Molina will meet to discuss when a full launch will take place, and keep the Committee advised.

10. ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee Members Comments

Ruth Lauro mentioned that three months ago she had raised an issue that one of the Dispatchers was the only one to call her to advise her of the DAR running late. Additionally, on one of her trips during the current month she did not get a call back. Ruth then called in to dispatch and was told by the dispatcher that she was alone and was the only one answering the phone. Ruth mentioned that she had reported the “no-call back” the day prior and Eric Molina responded that the problem was being worked on.

Eric Molina responded and explain that on occasions there may be absences due to illness, vacation or dispatchers may be out to lunch depending on the particular day and time the event took place.

Ruth Lauro stated that she did not care why it happened.

Ben Gonzales addressed the issue and advised Ruth that he and Eric Molina had met the day prior and a policy was put place and to let them know if she did not get calls. Moving forward and the policy will help everybody including her.

Ruth Lauro inquired if the majority of passengers are ADA certified, how is Transit going to get people to their doctors’ appointments on time?

Ben Gonzales responded and stated that the three newly hired drivers will relieve a lot of the pressure from the current passenger load and help address that issue. Ben also commented on funding regarding the passenger load increasing. He further explained that the passenger load is not higher than pre-COVID numbers but funding did not decrease even when the passenger load was really low.

Ruth Lauro asked if the City was going to hire more full-time drivers.

Ben Gonzales stated that the Department is looking to increase the number of drivers, and would like to add more full-time positions.

11. ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee Coordinator's Report

Eric Molina reported that two ADA Committee members' term are expiring. There is one member and one alternate term expiring in April 2023. Interviews will take place in May with the Mayor and a Council member.

12. Adjournment: By consensus of the Committee present, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.