

CEDAR AREA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the Cedar Area Transportation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 4:00 PM in the Cedar City Conference room located at 10 North Main, Cedar City, Utah.

PRESENT:

James Jetton, Member
Brody Johnson, Member
Ryan Marshall, Public Works Director
Jill Smuda, CATS Manager/Dispatcher
Anna Hernandez, PW Executive Assistant

EXCUSED/ABSENT

Carmen Alldredge, Chairperson
Kol Gibson, Member
Kathy Long, Member
Carter Wilkey, Council

Marshall welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order in Alldredge's absences.

1. STAFF REPORT

- a) Approval of Minutes – There were not enough members in attendance to form a quorum. Approval of July's 2024 meeting minutes will be moved to the next meeting in July 2025.
- b) Training – Marshall brought up the concern from the last meeting about the drivers doing a U-turn at Walmart. Management spoke to the drivers and had them re-route it so that they go through the parking lot and then come back out. However, it was observed that they were doing some U-turns occasionally since then. The reason is, is sometimes there is a semi-truck blocking the entrance into the parking lot so that they cannot get in. If there is a semi there, then they do the U-turn. Otherwise, they go through the parking lot of Walmart.
- c) Ridership – The ridership graph was distributed amongst the members. Marshall mentioned that the ridership seems to be going up slightly every year. This last year they were at seventeen thousand, one hundred and fifty-eight. It is up from sixteen thousand one hundred from the year before. It is not quite back up to the pre-pandemic levels yet but still going up a little bit at a time.

Jetton asked how much does that account for percentage wise? And does it look like they trend upward and downward together with the combined DAR vs Fixed?

Marshall answered: In 2024, basically maybe a 3rd of it and yes, they are close.

- d) New vehicles – Marshall mentioned that CATS will have a new bus and two van replacements on order. Delivery date hopefully will be within the next few months. That will allow them to get rid of some of the older vehicles. The oldest vehicle currently is a 2007 minivan another is a 2015. The oldest bus is a 2016 and has quite a few miles on them. They will be able to get rid of some of the oldest vehicles.

The good thing is there are grants for the vehicles, however the prices on the bus have gone up from the time they applied for the grants. They are more than the grants and the city will have to cover about anywhere from eight to sixteen thousand dollars for each one of them. Then the grants that were awarded will cover the rest of it.

It was budgeted for one hundred and six thousand and the latest quote on it is coming in at one hundred and thirteen thousand. In the grant it states that since the city is providing the local match. If there is anything over and above the grant, the city will have to cover. There have been a couple of buses budgeted for a few years; they have been approved by the council already.

- e) Budget – There is one open grant left with UDOT for the operational costs. There is two hundred and ten thousand dollars left in operating grant funds that can be drawn down. There is thirty-one thousand in administrative funds that can be drawn down. That will get them through by another year maybe a year and a half on the operational.

Marshall applied for another grant a few days ago for another two hundred and eighty-six thousand of operational funds and another thirty-four thousand of administrative funds. They are just going through the process with UDOT on that and if it gets approved then have a little breathing room after next year to continue to cover the costs.

Marshall provided an update on the transit study; CATS has partnered with UDOT where they have gone out and started a transit study. UDOT will be looking at options for Cedar City, options for the County, and for a commuter route out to Brian Head. They are looking at all of it. There have been some kick-off meetings. Alldredge and Long were invited and attended the last meeting that was held to represent CATS. There was also representation from SUU, the local businesses around town, Port 15, the Enoch manager, representatives from Parawon, Brian Head and about fifty people from the community were in attendance. They came in and did the initial scoping meeting.

There is a survey out there for anybody and everyone to provide feedback. They have been posted on all buses, bus shelters, websites, and social media.

They will be gathering the information then coming back to the city with possible route modifications to the existing route. Possible expansions to the route and how to fund those and how that will be done. Looking at all the different options within Cedar City, Cedar City to Enoch & up Brian Head. Also looking at each of the different entities that would help fund it and get that in place.

The initial draft will be out at the end of March or beginning of April. Marshall will inform the board as it gets closer to that.

Jetton mentioned that they have been pushing the survey out through the local homeless council as well as their contacts. In hopes that there is enough input from that side as well.

2. NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Jetton brought up the discussion from the previous meeting about bus stops with overgrown debris.

Marshall stated that Alldredge developed a group that went out to clear and maintained some of the bus stops as part of volunteer service work. There have been other groups that have contacted them as well as the city to go out and assist.

There is a contract out for a landscape company that will go out and spray for the city.

There have been some calls about sidewalks that are not on city property that are blocking. The city street crew went out to address those even though it is UDOTs property.

Jetton also brought the discussion about more covered bus shelters. Is that factored in.

Marshall answered that Public Works was contacted by the Lyons club about more covered shelters. They backed out once they figured out they had to pay for them. There is no budget for them.

During the study when they figure out what the proposed routes are, they will also propose stop locations and what needs covered shelters. Then they will write in their funding, how they would fund all that.

There were also discussions about extending routes out west, there was a representation from Port 15. As the city, they were informed that they also need to look at servicing the airport. If possible, to create a route out there. There have been some organizations like Chrysalis and GenPak who have employees that are placed. They were able to provide their input as to where they would like a route. What will benefit most citizens with the least amount of infrastructure for funding purposes.

That was one of the weaknesses that was identified of the industrial sections that we do not provide services for as well as the airport.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting to be scheduled for July 15, 2025.

5. ADJOURNMENT

As there was nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.