

CEDAR AREA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Cedar Area Transportation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 4:00 PM in the Cedar City Conference room located at 10 North Main, Cedar City, Utah.

PRESENT:

Carmen Alldredge, Chairperson

Nathan Sleffer, Visitor

Kol Gibson, Member

Kathy Long, Member

Kathy Heer, Member

Carter Wilkey, Council

Jill Smuda, CATS Manager/Dispatcher

Randall McUne, City Attorney

Ryan Marshall, PW Director

Anna Hernandez, PW Executive Assistant

EXCUSED/ABSENT

James Jetton, Member

Alldredge welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. STAFF REPORT

- a. Introduction of new Board Member – Kathy Heer representative from Southwest Behavioral introduced herself to the members and gave a bit of her background. There was an introduction round table of all members and attendees.
- b. City Council Representative discussion – Randall McUne – The city has a Disclosure/Compliance Conflict of Interest forms. If any of the board members represent the city, this form will need to be filled out. The city has notary representatives that can assist with the notarization if they have an I.D.

These forms are for the public to know if there is any conflict of interest. They can be turned into the City Recorder Renon Savage. Any questions, McUne can assist with that.

Does the Board want to keep a voting city council member on their board?

Some of the feedback from other boards of pros and cons; in some ways they like it because it encourages a council member who makes decisions for the city to be present physically and mentally. It encourages them more likely to be involved and may encourage them to take what was said back to the council meetings and carry more weight.

There is a concern that certain council members can be a bit overbearing and can participate or over participate and take over a committee.

McUne asked what the board members thoughts are as to whether or not to keep a council member as a voting member of the board?

Gibson stated that it would be nice to have them be present at these meetings.

Long also stated that having their opinions heard by the council would be beneficial.

Marshall said, if they are a voting member it will give this board an opportunity to give an opinion as to why one thinks some funding needs to be provided. It also will show where the council member is at and what the concerns are or why they are not willing to support it. They are only one vote; the board has other members voting to out vote on any issue. At least everyone will get to hear what the council members' concerns are about some of the issues before it goes to a council meeting.

There was a question about is this a city-wide policy or just each individual board?

McUne answered, it could go either way. So far, all the boards have heavily leaned in the direction of keeping them as voting members. The city needs the boards input on any council member who is pushing in the direction the members do not agree or vote upon.

The details that get into the minutes would make the difference when it gets to council or staff meeting. When the final decision is made, they are looking at the reasoning behind it. If the board members can present their point of view the way that comes across logically and helpful, that information can make a difference.

It was agreed by all to have a council member as a voting member.

- c. Approval of meeting minutes – Gibson moved motion to approve, Long seconded, and all I's were in favor that the meeting minutes from July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting be approved.
- d. Ridership review – The numbers continue trending up slowly. One of the things that need to occur as an administrative part of CATS is that they need to report their ridership and spending into NTD (National Transit Database).

The agency goes into the database and looks throughout the country at how they are doing, how they are trending, what their numbers are. When the report is submitted and they see something that does not make sense. They will contact the agency and ask questions.

Most agencies are still not back to pre-covid numbers. They think most people are now working from home or found alternate transportation during that period and they just have not come back to the public transportation.

- e. Budget – There is not a lot of difference in the capital budget and operating budget over the years.

In the Operational costs, budget was running about \$400,000.00 that was spent including vehicles. Without vehicles it is about \$180,000 to 200,000 in operational costs.

The CATS operation is subsidized by FTA grants, so any of the operational cost that they have. CATS can apply for 50% reimbursement through a grant program to cover the expenses. Any of the Capital projects is an 80/20, CATS can apply for 80% reimbursements on grants.

The FTA really helps subsidize the use of transit and help to support so that the smaller communities can put a transit system in place.

CATS must apply through UDOT transit team, who receive the Federal funding and decide how the funds are split throughout the transit agencies in Utah. Marshall just went through the process and was awarded \$380,000 in Operational funds over the next couple of years and \$171,000 in Administrative.

It will cover the CATS reimbursement for two to three years.

- f. Board Term limits – Since there have been some changes with Board members. There has been discussion on how long members wanted to serve on the Board. A timeframe was defined in the By-Laws on how often they are replaced by that. It is at the mayor's discretion to reappoint when expiration of term has ended.

Marshall went through the expiration terms for each member currently on the Board. The terms are as follows:

C. Alldredge through June of 2027

K. Long through June of 2028

K. Gibson through June of 2026

J. Jettson and K. Heer through June of 2029.

## 2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Red curbs – At the last meeting it was requested to refresh all the red curbs around the city in front of the bus stops, it was starting to fade. It was put on the list for the Streets department. They were able to get most of them done and re-painted. Marshall suggested if any of the members see any of the stops that need to be redone let Public Work know.
- b. New Bus shelters – The Disability Awareness group (SIDA), had applied and were approved for some funds to order more bus shelters. They were ordered and are now in. There are three bus shelters that need to be assembled. They are not installed

yet because Public Works does not know where the Transit Study is going to take them. They did not want to install them in case the whole route was changed and had to be taken down. Currently the installation is on hold for the completion of the study.

At the last meeting there were discussions and the board was asked to provide some input as to what bus stop would be the best to install the shelters for the current routing system. CATS looked at a few of them and have some ideas where to install them. If the current system is not changed by the transit study, then they will go ahead and install. CATS is just waiting until the study is complete to find how to adjust the routes.

Marshall also brought up, what everyone is going to see in the next couple of months is. All the buses and vans are getting wrapped through the Iron County Tourism Bureau and Economic Development division here in the city. They have teamed up together and have come up with some grant funding, so the buses and vans will be wrapped with local landmarks like Zion, Brian Head and a few other attractions trying to promote tourism.

The CATS vehicles will still have their logos and identifier on them. The wraps will be included with a QR code on them, where people can go and get more information on tourism. It is all paid for by this grant they received.

- c. New CATS vehicles – About a year ago CATS received a new bus and two new DAR vans. All the vans have been updated for another three to four years until they have purchase any more vehicles for replacement.

If they decide to expand the routes, CATS will have to have more vehicles for that. Mostly the budgeting is going to be towards the Operational side of it.

- d. Additional Update – Marshall received a phone message from an Engineering firm who is redoing the round-a-bout/intersection on the south end of town. They mentioned it will affect the bus stop at Walmart. Marshall will follow up on the exact location and get more information on what they are proposing. Find out how and why it will affect that location and provide more information for the board at the next meeting.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Transit study update – It was implemented two years ago, and CATS was trying to come up with funds to pay for it. The UDOT transit team stepped in and said they would fund it. They will manage the study and everything, so the project was shifted to them.

It went out to bid and was awarded to a company. They have come out and monitored the traffic throughout the city. Also looking at zoning, the businesses that are coming

in, and employment centers. The study has been running for a year to a year and a half. There were a couple of open meetings, inviting the public to attend and provide input.

They have taken all the input and information and put together a transit proposal for the city, county and for Brian Head. Looking at what CATS can possibly do to improve the transit system. It was broken out to short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions. They tried to put costing with each of those proposals they had. They tried to come up with solutions on where they can find additional funding to help support and pay for the increases.

The study is now complete; they have sent the official draft of the proposal. It will be presented to the council on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. The council will then make a recommendation regarding what they think of the transit study and the proposals. The council will then decide if they want to accept any of those, implement any of it or keep it as is, then the funding of it. Then start doing the budgeting process from then on depending on the direction of the council.

Wilkey was concerned that this board never makes a recommendation to the council and what they think they should do.

Marshall stated that this is just an informational meeting, it is only being presented. The board will not make any decisions yet. He also mentioned that this board can call a special meeting to be held if needed. Marshall asked if this board would like to meet before it goes to council for a vote. Then a meeting can be called to go through the transit study and get a recommendation.

Wilkey suggested that between him and Marshall, to make sure to let the council know on the 28<sup>th</sup>. That they want it to come back to this board to be able to make a recommendation before the vote.

Marshall said there is a final draft that has not been officially published yet. It will be published after this meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the board members can also attend the meeting if they are interested and see what is presented and what the council has to say.

The transit system in their short-term, they are looking at shortening the current route. That would cut out bus stops at the north end and re-route the south end to Walmart, cutting out all of SUU.

Then the mid-term is to add a dedicated route to SUU that links out to that. Ryan is going to propose to do those together, because of taking away from the existing route and SUU out. They need to add one in.

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4. NEXT MEETING DATE

Aldredge requests a special meeting to be scheduled for Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM and schedule the regular meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM.

5. ADJOURNMENT

As there was nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.