



## MINUTES

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Mayor and Council Tucson Transit Advisory Committee and to the general public that the Committee will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public on:

**Monday, April 6th, 2026 at 2:30 PM**  
**Park Tucson Conference Room, 110 E. Pennington St., Ste. 150**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 5 minutes

*Those present were:*

**Members**

-Ray Jordan, Ward 2  
-Suzanne Schafer, Ward 3  
-Malia Flores, Ward 5  
-Margot Garcia, Ward 6  
-Gene Caywood, CM

*Those absent were:*

**Members**

-Mike Sanchez, Ward 4  
-Mike Milczarek, CM

**Others**

Elaine Yee, Public  
Allen Benz, Public  
James Archuleta, Public  
Kimberly Sargent-Mason, Public  
Chaz Gross, Public  
Robin Steinberg, Public  
Trish Muir, Public  
Andrew Vargas, Sun Tran  
Shamara Smith, Sun Tran  
Ruben Montenegro, Sun Tran

William Heath, Sun Tran  
James Tewksbury, Sun Tran  
John Zukas, Sun Tran  
Davita Mueller, Sun Tran  
Isaac Marcor, COT  
Susan Spiess, COT  
Ian Sansom, COT  
Elaina Richards, COT  
Monica Landgrave, COT

2. Approval of Minutes – (Vote) – 5 minutes

*Chair Suzanne Schafer*

The approval of minutes was moved, duly seconded, and, hearing no objections, Chair Suzanne Schafer approved the motion.

3. Call to the Audience on Agenda Items (First) – 5 minutes

*Chair Suzanne Schafer*

Allen Benz mentioned an event hosted by Vice-Mayor Lane Santa Cruz that took place on public transit, first in the Sun Link Streetcar from the Mercado to 6<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, and then they took the Sun Tran 16 Bus Route down to the Laos Transit Center. The people that were there included Ward 1 Staff and representatives of various groups, mostly veteran-related. There were no incidents to report, it was a safe and enjoyable experience.

Elaine Yee mentioned she has been taking the bus for a long time. She mentioned that since she was a teenager the bus was her mode of transportation, especially to get to the library. She says she used to pay 50 cents to get on the bus, and that when she was younger some of her friends were not allowed to work and they did not have money to pay for the bus. She says the bus has been a lifeline for her and many other people.

4. Updates/Announcements from TTAC Members and Staff (Informational Only) – 10 minutes

*TTAC members, Sun Tran, City of Tucson, and/or PAG/RTA Staff*

Ray asked if Route 11 should be two routes on the Transit App because it splits, with one half going to the Airport and another half going to Mission and Ajo.

Will mentioned that there is a new Sun Link General Manager, Ruben Montenegro. Ruben introduced himself and said he has worked in many railroad systems, including those in Chicago and Florida.

Davita said Sun Tran will be celebrating Earth Day from 2 to 4 pm on Wednesday, April 22, at the Ronstadt Transit Center. She mentioned there will be community input sessions where they will discuss the proposed service changes to regular bus routes, express routes, and a potential Sun On Demand zone on the east side:

## Sun Tran Community Input Sessions

Be part of the conversation! Share your feedback on proposed service changes.

<p><b>Monday, April 13</b></p> <p>12 PM - 1 PM University of Arizona Student Union San Pedro Room</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 14</b></p> <p>6 PM - 7 PM Virtual: link available at Suntran.com</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, April 15</b></p> <p>5 PM - 6 PM El Rio Neighborhood Center 1390 W. Speedway Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 16</b></p> <p>2 PM - 3 PM Woods Memorial Library 3455 N. 1st Ave.</p>	<p><b>Friday, April 17</b></p> <p>12 PM - 1 PM Udall Center 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd.</p>
<p><b>Monday, April 20</b></p> <p>5 PM - 6 PM Nanini Library 7300 N. Shannon Rd.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 21</b></p> <p>12 PM - 1 PM Clements Center 8155 E. Poinciana Dr.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 23</b></p> <p>5 PM - 6 PM Quincie Douglas Center 1575 E. 36th St.</p>	<p><b>Friday, April 24</b></p> <p>12 PM - 1 PM Joel D. Valdez Main Library 101 N. Stone Ave.</p>	<p><b>Monday, April 27</b></p> <p>12 PM - 1 PM Virtual: link available at Suntran.com</p>

### Help Shape the Future of Transit

Join Sun Tran for a Community Input Session, to learn about proposed changes to Routes 4, 8, 9, 102X, 104X, 108X, and the NEW 124X, the possible expansion of Sun On Demand service, and to share your input on a new bus stop design. Stop by to explore the information and provide your feedback.

Accommodations are available upon request with at least one week's notice.

Request accommodations, including ASL interpretation, through Sun Tran Customer Service:  
(520) 792-9222 | TDD: (520) 628-1565  
SunTranInfo@tucsonaz.gov | SunTran.com

Scan for more project information  
[suntran.com/spring-input-26](https://suntran.com/spring-input-26)

Andy Bemis said there will be a series of public engagement meetings to discuss the Safe City Plan:

Date / Time	Location
Monday, April 6, 5–8 pm	El Pueblo Activity Center, 101 W Irvington Rd, Bldg 9
Wednesday, April 8, 5–8 pm	Donna Liggins Center, 2160 N 6th Ave
Friday, April 10, 9 am–12 pm	Morris K. Udall Center, 7200 E Tanque Verde Road
Monday, April 13, 9 am–12 pm	Zoom link provided after online registration: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bu0FdRf1T1GSpjShj-mhEw#/registration">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bu0FdRf1T1GSpjShj-mhEw#/registration</a>

Likewise, the City is working on filling the vacant position of Transit Administrator. Andy mentioned John Zukas has rejoined Sun Tran and will be helping execute the Transit Safety and Security Action

Plan. Andy also explained some of the transit-related elements that will be discussed during the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 21<sup>st</sup>, such as the potential implementation of bus fares.

5. Sun Link Streetcar Repair Update – 5 minutes

Ruben said the city has hired an engineering firm that will conduct the damage assessment. There are currently 5 streetcars on the road with one spare streetcar.

6. Electric Trolley Bus, Part 4 Presentation – 15 minutes  
*Gene Caywood*

This item was postponed to next month.

7. Transit Safety and Security Action Plan Update – 20 minutes

John Zukas reported that TPD's first deployment of officers roving transit hotspots began on March 9 and, after about one month, resulted in 8 deflections, 9 referrals, 171 warnings, 48 citations, and 70 arrests. With key hotspots now identified, the team is better positioned to make progress on transit safety. Dedicated pilot funding is in place, with additional support expected through RTA Next. The next step is to define clear success metrics, since focused enforcement naturally increases reported activity and raw incident numbers alone may be misleading. Measures such as reduced customer calls may better reflect progress, and duplicate reports from TPD, security, operators, and the public will need to be consolidated for accurate tracking.

The methodology for this process is the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which is a multidisciplinary approach that strives to reduce criminal behavior by designing, managing, and structuring the physical environment. Elaina Richards brought up cleanliness at the bus stops in relation to the environment. Andy mentioned 100 bus stops are cleaned every day, and every single bus stop in the system is cleaned at least once a week.

8. RTA Next: Discussion on Transit Elements– 10 minutes

Andy talked about how RTA Next will provide funding to multiple transit elements, including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Stone Avenue, which will require obtaining federal funding. RTA Next also contains funding for streetcar operations for the next 20 years, as well as the expansion of bus frequencies and service area. PAG/RTA is developing a plan related to the implementation of future changes in the transit system. There will be public outreach as part of this process, which is estimated to take a year to complete. More discussion will ensue next month with Preston providing more information from the PAG/RTA team.

Davita mentioned the second phase of the Sun Tran COA service changes will be proposed for implementation in August. The third phase would take place after the BRT on Stone Avenue is in place. The Sun Tran COA service changes are cost-neutral.

9. Transit Budget Update – 20 minutes

Isaac explained that at the onset of this budget season, the direction that was given was identifying unmet needs, such as where the shortfalls between FY26 and FY27 are, which would be fuel for the buses, for instance. Isaac said with the deficit being what it is, the team is trying to minimize that number. He said the City is still moving forward with its capital projects related to transit, including the CNG Fuel Station at the Northwest Yard, which would reduce our use of diesel. Regarding personnel, negotiations with the Teamsters have begun to take place.

Suzanne mentioned that while the amount of money used for transit from the General Fund has increased, the percentage of the total has been relatively stable and has held steady at approximately 3% throughout the last couple of years.

10. Call to the Audience (Second) – 5 minutes

James Archuleta explained that both Alvernon and Palo Verde are in serious need of street maintenance, he has seen vertical and horizontal cracks on the street multiple inches long. He said this is a problem for both bus drivers and riders. He also mentioned there are not enough drivers to staff the buses and he thinks fares need to be implemented again. He believes everyone in the room should ride the bus on a consistent basis to really understand the situation and that serious changes are needed.

Elaine thanked everyone for their input in the meeting. She said the bus environment pre-pandemic vs post-pandemic is quite different. Kimberly said going to work feels truly dangerous and she is worried about the kids riding buses to and from school.

11. Items and Date for Next Meeting(s) – 5 minutes

May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm

12. Adjournment

For further information, contact: Monica Landgrave-Serrano, (520)-780-0635, [monica.landgrave@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:monica.landgrave@tucsonaz.gov). Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Transit Services at 520 791-5409. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.