

Tucson Transit Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on Safety & Security

MINUTES

Friday, September 4, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:37 AM. All subcommittee members were present: Vanessa Gallego, Suzanne Schafer, Mike Sanchez, Malia Flores

2. Member introductions & statements of interest

Each member shared their personal history with Tucson's transit, their interest in working on safety issues, and what safety around transit means to them. It was noted that the group brings a diverse range of perspectives based on different experiences. There was acknowledgment that perceptions of safety vary with personal experience. Feeling oriented to one's surroundings and knowing what to expect from the system as well as from operators and from other riders emerged as important elements in members' perceptions of safety.

3. Member roles and tasks/duties

Suzanne and Vanessa will co-lead the subcommittee and collaborate to set/post agendas and submit Minutes and LARs. The group should designate a note-taker for each meeting. The importance of attendance was discussed, especially since with four members, more than one person absent would disallow a quorum. The group agreed to increase or intensify their transit use from what it currently is (this varies among members), so that monitoring of the TSSAC, and recommendations, are founded on a growing knowledge base.

4. Scope of committee's work, discussion of priorities, meeting structure/elements

It was decided to provide the opportunity for visitors/audience to address the committee both at the beginning of the meeting and again at the end, so the subcommittee can benefit from input and audience members can comment on the proceedings. In addition to monitoring the progress of steps outlined in the TSSAC, members expressed interest in the opportunity to recommend added areas or modifications, and discussed whether all the areas seen as important for safety are already included in the plan. Members reviewed the notes from the Safe City Connect: TRANSIT meetings provided by Sara Sherman (attached). Topics the members would like to address and learn more about include atmosphere and amenities at transit centers; use of signage space on buses; and content of de-escalation type training. Members agreed that a role of the subcommittee should be to bring overviews of specific issues to the TTAC and, as appropriate, suggest recommendations that the TTAC can provide to the Mayor and Council.

5. Meeting logistics: frequency, time, venue, ad hoc vs regular interval

It was agreed upon to meet monthly at least through the end of the calendar year and to evaluate the frequency thereafter. Members generally did not feel that a quarterly interval would be sufficient to keep up with progress and opportunities for improvement. Meetings will continue to

be online/virtual and the date/time for each meeting will be set at least two weeks in advance.

6. Proposed date & agenda items for next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively planned for October 13 at 3:00 PM, pending availability of staff who participate in the Albuquerque delegation because the next agenda is planned to include a debrief on the Albuquerque trip and what was learned.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 AM.