

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
MAY 30, 2017**

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Attorney's Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joseph Harper; Don Kesler, Jr.; Mike Jones; Kay Love; Ray Polk.

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Ryan Landers and Sean Spell, LATS.

APPROVE MINUTES from April 11, 2017 meeting

Kesler stated on page 3 35th Street needs to be 34th.

Motion by Kesler, Second by Polk, to approve the minutes of April 11, 2017 with stated corrections. **Aye:** Kesler; Love; Jones; Polk; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

- A. Review and discuss proposed sidewalk project priority plans. Take action for reprioritization if necessary.

Jones stated you may have seen the sidewalk on east Gore is finished. The second half of the project is on the north side and will go to the shopping center. Once this project starts they have 60 days to complete it.

Kesler stated 35th from Gore north is complete except for a gap of about a block and a half. At some point we need to complete the gap.

Jones stated that will fill in from Cache to the block south. There will be 400 to 500 feet that will not have sidewalk. If the Board decides to make this a priority we will have to fit it in. With input from LATS maybe we can determine how many people actually use that area. Whisenhunt can get us a cost estimate and we will see if we have any funds in the sidewalk in lieu of account. That would give us sidewalk all the way from Gore to Cache.

Kesler stated we need to look at the bus station at Bishop east of 11th.

Landers ask are you referring to Jefferson Bus Lines.

Kesler stated yes.

Spell stated you might want to wait because they won't be in this location for long. When we move they will be moving also.

Jones stated so they are in a temporary location.

Landers stated yes.

Harper asked when will this happen.

Landers stated in two or 2 ½ years.

Kesler stated the paper stated that for the next fiscal year the airport will have a surplus. We need to talk with them about getting sidewalks from the terminal on 11th Street going north to Arbuckle.

Jones asked is there a LATS stop on either side of 11th between Bishop and the airport.

Spell stated there is a stop once you enter the Ranch Oak community and Bishop and 6th.

Jones stated we can see if this fits into the priorities. I'm cautious about inserting new priorities. Collectively we feel strongly that Sheridan needs attention. We would need to justify making that a priority above Priority Two. The north side of east Gore will start the middle of June and should be done by the middle of August.

Kesler stated we need to make certain they do sidewalks on NW 20th from Cache Road to Baldwin.

Jones stated I can guarantee you that is in the plans.

Harper stated there are some variances being allowed and that isn't good. Dr. Duncan stated he knew of 2 or 3 that were allowed. He is going to try and attend our next meeting.

Jones stated I'll try and make certain that Whisenhunt is here to answer his questions.

Kesler stated we need to be watching the southeast corner of 38th and Lee. They have bulldozed the whole quarter.

Harper stated something needs to be done on Gore from University to 38th Street. There are sidewalks but no curb ramps.

Jones stated Priority 1 was Lee Blvd in front of DHS and should be starting before long. At this time they are obtaining signatures for the right-of-ways. By the next meeting I'll know how much is in the sidewalk in lieu of account and then we can look at doing some curb cuts.

Spell stated the problem with the stop in front of DHS is you can't get off the pad.

Jones stated Priority 1 should take care of that. The sidewalk will connect to the access drive into DHS and go behind the LATS stop and down the street.

Landers stated you mentioned discussing some of our future projects. In the next couple of months we will be finalizing our route study and having it approved. It might be wise before making any decisions on a project to make certain our route doesn't change.

Harper asked when will those changes take place. I hope the red route doesn't change because I use it about 90% of the time.

Landers stated probably close to 2 years. With the new design we are trying to get higher frequency on the red route. We proposed instead of an hour long service it being a 30 or 40 minute service. We are trying to stay with the main roads.

Harper stated Sheridan is a main route and a popular route.

Spell stated it is the shortest and busiest route.

Landers stated there are 2 proposals that will go to a committee and once we make a decision then we will take it to the Trust for approval.

Jones asked when will the study be done?

Landers stated mid July. There aren't any drastic changes. It covers the issues with the Orange Route that goes to Fort Sill.

Jones asked is the red route is the busiest route and do you expect many changes to that route.

Spell stated yes. We might be adding a couple of buses to that area. It serves the Walmart riders so we are trying to get another bus to bypass the area to alleviate some of the pressure.

Love asked does the red bus go by the university.

Spell stated yes.

Landers stated the changes will have to do with the Orange Route. Everything else will have additional coverage and reduction on Saturday service due to low ridership. The major changes will happen once we have the new transfer station and hubs. We want to create better frequency so you can get from point A to point B quicker. The way to increase ridership is to increase frequency.

Jones stated I think use of the money would be better served on the red route.

Harper asked you talked about reducing services.

Landers stated not at this time. The proposal is to go to 6 routes with 1 bus on each route. It would be Yellow East, Yellow West, Red, Blue, Green and Orange. There would be 1 bus and it would run from 9 to 6. There isn't enough ridership to justify going until 8 or 9 with 2 buses per route.

Harper stated I didn't know there were 2 buses on the route. So 1 must makes a circle.

Landers stated they go counter clockwise and clockwise and yes. We are not taking anything away.

Harper stated except shorting the hours.

Spell stated shorting the hours and one bus on each route.

Landers stated this is for Saturdays only. The change for Monday through Friday is only for the Orange route. Anyone needing a bus will not be affected. If they are it will be very small.

Harper stated I hope someday we can get Sunday service.

Landers stated it comes down to funding and at the moment we don't have it. You have to start somewhere and we are excited about the new transfer center and hubs. There will be better passenger amenities. The LPS agreement has helped with the younger kids starting to ride. We have had great numbers for the first 4 months and I think it will go higher. We will receive 3 new buses in June and 3 in early 2018.

Jones stated excellent. I hear good stuff about the system and the drivers.

B. Discuss proposal from Don Kesler to assign board members to distinct areas of the city.

Kesler stated this committee has been re-active and I would like to see us become pro-active. In doing this we could provide the city with a better feel for where we are with sidewalks. I would like to divide the city up into quarters between the 4 of us. If you see construction or reconstruction of a street that doesn't have sidewalks bring it back to the committee so we can make the city aware. We will also want to add those to our series of maps. I don't believe the city should be using ADA money for these projects. People comment on how the city doesn't have sidewalks and we do. When a new bus stop goes in we can work with LATS to make certain it is accessible. At the stop in front of Tomlinson Middle School you have a sidewalk with no accessible route to or from the stop.

Jones asked is the stop on the east or west side.

Spell stated both. We drop them in a driveway because we have to drop them in the safest way we can.

Love stated maybe we could do sections close to where we live.

Jones stated you could start around you neighborhood and then spread outward. I could see each member bringing 5 priorities within their neighborhood and we would prioritize those. It all comes down to money.

Kesler stated on our maps we could us a symbol that shows where the bus stops are and if they are ADA accessible.

Jones stated that is easy to do and in some cases have already been done. You can access those maps on the city's website.

Kesler stated we need to do the same with city parks. If I could copy those maps into my account I could make those additions and bring them to you.

Love stated this is a great idea I'm just not certain how we would divide the city and how we are suppose to reach each section.

Kesler stated the city is divided from east and west on Railroad and north and South on Gore.

Harper stated my only mode of transportation is the bus and my chair. I can help if it is located on the red route.

Kesler stated let's kick this around and then agenda this for the next meeting so we can finalize and implement a plan.

Harper stated if your drivers noticed anything it would help if they would inform us.

Spell stated we already do that.

Polk stated the only problem I see is how do you break it up so we can all participate. I can be assigned anywhere because I have pretty good mobility.

Kesler stated I do also.

Jones stated we will move forward with this item and bring some more information to the next meeting.

2. Comments/Discussion

Landers stated the public hearing for the route reduction and Saturday reduction is June 27th. It will be implemented 2 or 3 weeks after that and will not drastically affect anything.

Love asked will you be adding ridership to the water park.

Landers stated we don't go to the water park because it is unsafe to pickup and drop off. This is something to talk about in the future. We would like to do a 60 day trial run on all new locations to see if there is enough ridership.

Jones asked where are they with the food bank shelter.

Spell stated they have laid the slab so it is moving forward.

Jones stated I'm proud to say that the city has recently hired a disable person at the E911 center. Before she started I went to the center to do an assessment of her work space, the break room and any area of the building she would be in. That building is pretty new and was in really good shape. There were a couple of issue in the break room and they didn't have a van accessible parking space. I'm working with the library to take care of some needed improvements. They have moved some of the shelving so it is easier for a wheelchair to navigate. They have some minor stuff that needs attention. I'm looking into getting some sensitive training for city employees with regards to disability. We will probably start with the employees who deal with the public on a daily basis. I attended the National ADA Symposium in Chicago and I'm now a registered ADA coordinator.

Kesler stated Love and I were involved with disability awareness training for law enforcement personnel. Lawton Police, Comanche County Sheriff, Cameron University, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Fort Sill were all involved.

Love stated the Cache and Elgin police were also involved. We had the help of Memorial Hospital at the industrial center. We had an actual police car in the building. I demonstrated how to load and unload a dog from the car and how to assist a person with a service dog. It was really interesting.

Kesler stated if police are called to a disturbance involving a disable person basically they calm the person and give them a ride home. We were able to point out that it has to be the same for everyone. Having a disability doesn't mean you get a free ride home.

Love stated or that a blind person wasn't dangerous.

Kesler stated they were taught you didn't want to take a service dog to the pound. We also dealt with the medical aspects. Being an alcoholic is covered by the ADA because it is an illness.

Jones stated that gives me a lead with Comanche Memorial Hospital. I know someone there that I can start the conservation with about the training.

Kesler asked were you able to find anymore about National Organization of Disabilities.

Jones stated no.

Kesler stated it might be worth following up on. I know at one time there was an annual competition and first place was a \$10,000 check.

Love stated there use to be grants a city could apply for.

Jones stated I'll look into both of those.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to adjourn. **Aye:** Love; Jones; Polk; Harper; Kesler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**