

PORA Sun Cities Transit Committee Minutes for

Meeting September 9, 2020, 1:30 pm

Members Present: Kathy Chandler, Barbara Horton, Kate King, Yasmina Snider, Trudy Ware

Members Absent: Pam Schwartz, Carmen Reid, Harry Abramowski, Maureen Lansing, JR Reese, Deeann Hoover

Overview

1. Kate described the four documents on the Valley Metro website related to the *Public Hearing on the NW Sun Cities Transit Plan scheduled for 9/10/20*. Some members had not yet reviewed the materials, so Kate resent the link & briefly reviewed key points using the *two page Overview document* that review the need for transit and the *two page Potential Service Options*.

<https://www.valleymetro.org/project/northwest-valley-sun-cities-transit-implementation-study>

2. The Committee discussed how well the documents made the case for “transit need” & if the “options” addressed the needs as the Committee knew them.

Need: Trudy expressed concerns about the validity of the survey. Specifically she believed the document did not focus on those with the most need, and therefore underestimated “need” in general. She noted that the *need for transit* for residents of the Sun Cities in the survey did not corroborate that in national and state statistics for similar populations.

Kathy noted that the study mentioned the major mode of transportation used by residents in the Sun Cities survey was cars and second golf carts. But she questioned how many of those residents should actually be driving.

Kate noted the County revised eligibility for Dial-a-Ride **after** the survey had been collected. This change excluded individuals who were “65+” and required ADA certification for those who were disabled. Clearly this change would also impact the need for transit that the study did not adjust for.

Options: Of the five options, the Committee noted that only one directly impacted Sun City West which was the “neighborhood circulator option”. Kathy mentioned that transit

activities in Surprise were actively promoting some of the “bus options”, and that we should focus on promoting the circulators as a method for connecting to those bus routes.

- Circulators: The Committee spent time on discussing this option. Kate asked how would individual get to the *point of origin* of circulators if they didn’t drive a car or golf cart. Kathy stated that circulators could either “go off route a few blocks” to pick someone up, or build volunteer capacity to get folks to the circulator.

3. Preparing for the Public Hearing: Kate wanted the Sun Cities Transit Committee to be on record of engaging in the process, but wasn’t clear what the process for comment would be, if any. Kathy thought there would be an opportunity to make comments at the hearing, so the Committee discussed comments it would like Kate to make if the opportunity allowed. Specifically:

- The Committee supports the service concept for circulators in the Sun Cities, as this option would provide the best access to a wide range of important local locations, as well as connect residents to hubs where they could access other transportation modes.
- The Committee requests that it participate in selecting the types of vehicles to be used (no big buses), and in identifying the routes and stops circulators will make.
- The Committee is concerned about the validity of the survey (as mentioned earlier).

Valley Metro/MAG also allows for written comments until September 25th. The Committee agreed that Kate will draft written comments in advance of the next Committee meeting that would be reviewed/edited during the meeting.

4. The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17th at 1:30**. Kate will send out the info in advance for joining the meeting, as well as the proposed draft submission.

5. Draft minutes submitted by Kate King. Members will have an opportunity to make corrections/edits at the next meeting.