

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2023 LAVTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Chair Melissa Hernandez at 4:02pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present

Evan Branning – City of Livermore
David Haubert – County of Alameda
Brittini Kiick – City of Livermore
Melissa Hernandez – City of Dublin
Jean Josey – City of Dublin
Karla Brown – City of Pleasanton
Julie Testa – City of Pleasanton

3. Meeting Open to Public

No comments for agenda item 3 and agenda item 6, 7 and 8 did receive public comments.

4. November Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee Minutes

Donna Singer, Vice Chair of the Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee (TAAC), attended the meeting and requested assistance from staff to provide the report out. Executive Director Christy Wegener reported on the minutes of the November 1, 2023 Zoom hybrid teleconference meeting. Discussed at the TAAC meeting were Wheels in Motion, one seat ride program, PAPCO report, and no service updates or concerns.

5. Consent Agenda

Recommend approval of all items on Consent Agenda as follows:

A. Minutes of the November 6, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

B. Treasurer’s Report for October 2023

The Board of Directors approved the October 2023 Treasurer’s Report.

Approved: Josey/Kiick

Aye: Brown, Josey, Testa, Branning, Hernandez, Haubert, Kiick

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Public Hearing to consider changes to Wheels’ fixed route bus service routes and schedules

A. Wheels in Motion service modifications: Proposed Scenario

1. Open Public Hearing

The Public Hearing was opened at 4:07pm by the Chair, Melissa Hernandez, for a staff presentation and then public comment.

2. Present Staff Report

Executive Director Christy Wegener informed the public that LAVTA staff took significant steps advertising the public comment period and public hearing, and have received a handful of comments to date. She also explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive testimony on the service changes that could be effective in March 2024 if adopted by the Board.

Director of Operations Michael Tobin gave the public a brief summary regarding the service changes being discussed with the community.

Director of Customer Experience David Mark reported to the public that LAVTA used various methods to advertise and market the proposed March 2024 service changes to the community. Announcements to notify the public included printed media, radio advertising, the Wheels website, social media, collateral distribution at local libraries, senior centers, and city halls, notices on buses and LAVTA offices. A general press release was also issued. David Mark explained that LAVTA provided many channels through which the public could participate and let LAVTA know their opinions on the proposed changes. The public provided feedback to LAVTA using webform, email, telephone, fax, US postal mail, and the Public Hearing for final input. As of December 4, 2023, LAVTA received approximately 9 comments and these were included in the Staff Report.

3. Hear Public Comments

Chair Melissa Hernandez then opened the podium for public comment.

Steven Dunbar, Livermore Resident, directed the following comments to the Board:

Dear Wheels Bus Board Members,

After careful consideration, I am in full support of the proposed changes for Wheels in Motion. They improve coverage, transfer timing, and service hours, and the frequency changes are reasonable.

While I understand concerns raised about falling below 15-minute frequency, I believe that overall travel times, rider comfort, and ease of use are more important for attracting riders right now. These are not easy to measure, but they matter, and improving them is more about consistent small actions too numerous to list here. It may be useful to target a survey towards those who stopped riding and why (other than changes to office work).

However, I am concerned about the time needed to implement this change and future changes. I know there are planning and operational constraints, but we need to be able to adapt more quickly to transportation needs that will continuously change. Q2 2024 is still quite a ways away.

I urge you to find ways to make our system more nimble and flexible so that future, smaller, route-specific improvements can be made more effectively. This could involve more tools and training for planners*, external help when needed, fair and efficient driver agreements, or other methods.

Thank you for your attention. I'm eagerly awaiting the new service and look forward to this and other future improvements.

Before closing the public hearing, Chair Melissa Hernandez requested Legal Counsel Michael Conneran give a brief summary of the process and description of the action required.

Legal Counsel Michael Conneran reported that staff presented the purpose of this hearing, provided a brief description of the possible service changes, and identified how the public was notified of potential changes. LAVTA afforded the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes, and satisfied all legal requirements. Legal Counsel Michael Conneran noted that the public hearing can come to a close.

4. Close Public Hearing

Chair Melissa Hernandez closed the public hearing at 4:19pm. The Board of Directors will consider taking action on the Wheels in Motion recommended changes at the January 2024 Board meeting.

7. **Wheels in Motion – Data Requests**

Staff provided the Board of Directors a PowerPoint presentation on ridership data for routes that may be reintroduced as part of the March 2024 service change. The presentation showed boarding per revenue hour and average weekday boardings for each of these routes compared with ridership data for routes that are currently operating. Staff also addressed the level of service provided in West Dublin along with various future options (Circulator, MicroTransit, and Flex Routing).

The Board of Directors discussed this agenda item with staff. Director Julie Testa requested LAVTA provide school tripper data.

Chair Melissa Hernandez opened public comment.

Herb Hastings provided public comments asking if staff informed the TAAC on Wheels in Motion and inquired if an autonomous vehicle could be used in West Dublin. Staff informed that the TAAC enthusiastically supported the staff recommendation.

Armaan Rizvi, provided public comments on Wheels in Motion proposed changes. He appreciates Wheels taking steps to move away from a 9-5 commuter dependent model and working to improve connections with other agencies to make transit easier for everyone. Timing to arrive at BART is an important part of making the region accessible to everyone. He appreciates that Wheels is increasing the 10R and 30R frequencies on Saturdays, but it is disheartening to see that Wheels isn't doing more to improve its notoriously inadequate

weekend service. The lack of Sunday service on the 4 and the complete absence of any weekend service on the 2 and 18 is unfair to riders in Dublin and Livermore who have been underserved by transit for years. The reduction of service on the 10R to every 40 minutes on Sundays will hurt the local economies of Pleasanton and Livermore. Instead of promoting Go Tri-Valley, Wheels should run service on the 2, 4, and 18 all weekend. Subsidized Uber and Lyft is not a substitute for actual transit service. It's expensive for people who have lower incomes and is inaccessible to people who don't have smart phones. Upgrading weekend service while also expanding coverage will make it easier to use transit, make Wheels a model agency for the region on how to improve suburban buses.

Steven Dunbar provided public comments on Uber and Lyft (Go Tri-Valley) and how it was to be a first and last mile connection and noted difficulties with scheduling the timing perfect with arrival times at BART. He informed there are apps that can assist with MicroTransit vehicles. He also noted that for the 70x and Hacienda service might benefit from Flex Routing and utilize an app to book the rides.

This was informational only.

8. Shared Autonomous Vehicle Project: Grant Update and Next Steps

Staff informed the Board that there are two grants funding the SAV project: the MTC RM2 Grant and a MTC IDEA Grant. LAVTA requested that the Board to direct staff to pursue reprogramming the MTC RM2 funding to another eligible project like Transit Signal Priority (TSP).

The Board of Directors discussed this agenda item with staff. Director Karla Brown asked staff if LAVTA services the County. Staff to research Director Karla Browns inquiry.

Chair Melissa Hernandez opened public comment.

Steven Dunbar provided public comment and is in support of reprogramming SAV funding to TSP.

The Board of Directors directed staff to pursue reprogramming SAV Phase 2 RM2 funding to another eligible project, contingent on concurrence of corresponding funding agencies.

Approved: Brown/Kiick

Aye: Brown, Josey, Testa, Branning, Hernandez, Haubert, Kiick

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Christy Wegener provided a brief overview of the Executive Director's Report that was included in the packet. She noted that ridership year-on-year continues to grow, but weekday ridership dropped slightly between September and October 2023. LAVTA implemented a small service change to a school tripper route from Dublin High School to alleviate overcrowding. The school tripper customer satisfaction results from 2023 were also provided for review. An Operator appreciation holiday lunch will be held on December 6, 2023

at the LAVTA office. Staff will update the board statistics for 2024. Executive Director Christy Wegener informed that LAVTA has BART Feeder Bus funding through FY 2026, but LAVTA needs to vigorously advocate for a long-term funding source and that she applied to be on the CalSTA Transit Transformation Task Force. Lastly, all current and upcoming procurements were provided.

The Board of Directors discussed this agenda item with staff.

10. Matters Initiated by the Board of Directors

None.

11. Next Meeting Date is Scheduled for: January 8, 2024

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.