

Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Services

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:15a.m. by Josh Bruns

Committee Members Present: Anthony Fadale, Deborah Dawkins (ETSC), Kim Dietrich (RCIL), Kristin Stock (Astra), Mary Thomas (CRC), Staci Wunder (TARC).

Committee Members Absent: Nancy Johnson, Brian Snodderly, Topeka Rescue Mission Rep, Mark Webb, Mike Nolting, Bobby Whyte.

Minutes sent to members from last meeting were approved as written.

Josh told the committee that TARC committee member Shelby Frye will no longer be on the committee. She is being replaced by Staci Wunder. If Staci cannot attend, Jennifer Love-Baldwin or Brandon Hatfield are her alternates.

Josh started off with explaining the Metro Safety Huddle and how it has helped to get all employees on the same page when severe weather is in the area.

Josh explained the new California detour/deviation. With the California bridge demolished our original detour was California to 10th Street to Golden to 21st then back to California. The issue is that most of all traffic was taking the same route causing the California to be down on time for most of the route. To help mitigate the issue, planning has come up with a detour/deviation to help keep the California on time. Josh explained, the California will not be servicing the Belleview Apartments. It will essentially be using Walmart East as it's turn around point. All members said they understood. Josh told the members the amount of construction has but all but a few of our routes on some kind of detour, and asked that the committee members clients will be patient with our operators. Deborah Dawkins said, she understands and is sympathetic to the operator's as she has had to endure the construction also. Deborah feels we are just waiting for a colossal accident to happen. Anthony Fadale said, if needed, he can reach out to some people to try and get a problem taken care of.

Josh brought up that Metro has been having a decent number of issues with passengers not knowing the difference between a service animal and an emotional support or therapy animal. Josh described what the operators should be asking any passenger that tries to board the bus with a dog. That each passenger must have control over their animal and provide the operator with the service/task the animal does for them. Josh said, if someone says their dog alerts them when their blood sugar is low or when they are about to have a seizure; those are service animals. Those that come on and say, it helps keep me calm, those are emotional support animals and need to be in a pet carrier. Anthony Fadale said, anyone can go on the DOJ website and click on the service animal link to see if their dog qualifies as a service animal. Anthony is going to send Josh the

link to the DOJ website. Anthony also stated that as far as the ADA is concerned, only dogs and miniature horses can be a service animal.

Josh told the members that we are seeing an uptick in passengers with walkers tripping on the lip of the ramp. Most of this happens when they are deboarding the bus and turn too soon, catching their foot on the lip of the ramp. Josh asked that all clients be reminded to take their time while boarding and deboarding.

Josh told the members that long-time scheduler Gina Charay retired effective May 26th and Ashley Ortiz-Vizueth is taking Gina's position.

Josh told the members that Metro's Director of Planning will be attending the National ADA Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona on July 19-22nd. Josh said he hopes Jessica will come back with some good information and it will be shared with the members during the September meeting.

Josh asked if there were any questions.

Kim Dietrich asked Josh to explain what happened to the MOD service. Josh explained that the BOD voted to end the MOD service effective 6/16/2026, due to ridership numbers. Josh said that Metro BOD will have many new faces in the coming months, and it is possible that the new board could vote to reinstate the MOD service, just not in the same area.

No other questions were raised.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date 7/8/2026.