

Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation Services

Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

820 SE Quincy Street South meeting room

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

Committee Members Present: Anthony Fadale and Kim Dietrich by Zoom.

Committee Members Absent: Nancy Johnson, Libby Adams, Doris Foster, Kristin Stock, Deborah Dawkins, Shelby Fry, Marty Winans, Mike Nolting, Brian Snodderly, Mark Webb, and Mary Thomas.

There were no previous minutes to correct or approve.

Denise started introducing Josh as the new staff member to the committee, due to supervisor Al Bradley's retirement.

Denise then went over the by-laws with Mr. Fadale and Ms. Dietrich. Ms. Dietrich was asked if she is representing RILC or herself as an Ex-officio member. Ms. Dietrich is going to speak with her boss and let us know. Denise also stated that the by-laws need to be updated and will email members when they are completed.

Mr. Fadale suggested we prefer the meeting to be in-person, only offering Zoom if they cannot make it. Denise agreed, but said, we need to find out which members still want to be a part of the committee and proceed from there. We do want to make it accessible to all members.

Denise asked Mr. Fadale and Ms. Dietrich to reach out to the other members. Ms. Dietrich asked about the committee, Denise explained why it was started, and that it is to address any comments or concerns.

Mr. Fadale wanted to make note of an accident a bus was in, that he was a passenger on. Mr. Fadale said, "it was the slowest speed accident in history." Mr. Fadale commended the driver, dispatch, and supervisor for following procedures. His only concern was the other vehicle was blocking the only exit doors on the bus. He said, in the ARBOC they could have used the rear door, but not on the Glavals. Josh thanked Mr. Fadale for the commendations and explained that if an issue arose that we needed to get a passenger off the bus in a situation like that, we would have the operator pull forward or backup to get door and lift clearance. Mr. Fadale also commented on the length of time it took TPD to arrive on scene, he said it was almost two hours before they came.

Denise brought up winter preparation and explained what Topeka Metro does to have our operators and staff prepared, by having ice cleats, emergency supplies on the buses, and

reminding the operators to dress for the weather. Denise also mentioned how hard it is to get our maintenance employees out to clear the shelters. She told the members, if the shelters are snow packed, we have the operators make a Reasonable Modification and pick them up before or after the stop.

Denise talked about the emergency closing for agencies, and they are expected to tell their clients when they close during inclement weather. If an agency fails to notify a client and a bus is there to pick them up, we will not charge the passengers for a last-minute cancel, since they did not know of the closure. Denise said scheduler Jennifer Tafoya will be working on the emergency closure email.

Denise asked Ms. Dietrich, who the director of RCIL is now, Ms. Dietrich said it is Deanna Wilson out of Osage City. Denise said she is hoping to build a bond with RCIL.

Denise asked Ms. Dietrich how Dennis Jackson was doing, Ms. Dietrich said unfortunately, Dennis was no longer with us.

Denise told the members of a recurring issue we are having with other agencies giving out reduced fare passes, without making sure the person has a reduced fare ID. We found out the agencies are checking; the problem is the person getting the pass is either giving it to or selling it to someone who doesn't have an ID. We are continually watching out for this.

Denise discussed human trafficking and the training we provide our operator's, and that all CDL employees must take a course on HT, to be able to get their CDL.

Denise discussed MLK day will have limited service.

Denise told the members about the next BOD meeting.

Denise asked the members what information they would like us to discuss at our meetings.

Mr. Fadale made a pitch to the city ADA council, recommending the public work employees ride a fixed route bus to get a feel of the streets. Mr. Fadale thinks it would be a good way to evaluate the roads. The ADA council did recommend it; public works did not take advantage of it. Denise told Mr. Fadale, she would discuss it with Bob.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Bruns

Topeka Metro Operations Supervisor