



From City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
 North Kansas City Business Council
 November 16, 2021

Note: As a reminder, the notes below represent topics that, in my judgement, might be of interest to the business community. It does not include everything that was on the agenda.

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

KCATA Flex Service

Although this subsidized, point-to-point bus service within North Kansas City is typically enjoyed by North Kansas City residents who don't have their own transportation, it is also available to employees of North Kansas City businesses.

Flex service is the most expensive part of the cost for bus service the City pays to KCATA. Revenue from passengers is minimal at 25 cents per ride. Money to subsidize Flex service comes from the Gaming Fund (the source is from Harrah's). During this past year the subsidy was approximately \$330 thousand. The City is trying to find ways to reduce that subsidy dependency while not reducing service significantly and without raising fares too much. A proposal by KCATA includes a combination of service with Gladstone which could provide a broader range of service and be more economical.

The illustrations below show current service and proposed Flex service. No actions were voted on during this Work Session. A proposal will be brought to City Council on December 6.

<p>Current Service Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday to Friday: 6:10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday: 8:40 a.m. to 7:20 p.m. Sunday / Holiday: 10:45 a.m. to 6:10 p.m. Advance scheduling by phone or new mobile app, same day requests pending availability Service unit cost is unchanged All service costs borne by NKC Staffing challenges since July  <p>RideKC Kansas City Area Transportation Authority</p>	<p>Flex Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernize Operations (November 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to new software ('RideKC Flex' app) Virtual bus stops to improve efficiency Reintroduce/Increase Fare (April 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore fares w/on-demand option to reduce cost \$0.25 to \$1.50 (req'd if combined with Gladstone) \$3,843 @ \$0.25 per trip / \$23,056 @ \$1.50 per trip Adjust Schedule (April 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End service at 6pm daily to reduce cost Consistent span weekdays/weekends 201 North Oak runs 5a-midnight daily via Burlington 238 Meadowbrook runs 5a-8p daily via Swift/Armour to NKC Hospital Combined Gladstone/NKC Zone (April 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More destinations for NKC residents Shared billing for trips (ridership/mileage in City)  <p>RideKC Kansas City Area Transportation Authority</p>
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It was pointed out that a fare increase from 25 cents to \$1.50 would make only a tiny impact on the use of Gaming Fund money and might reduce ridership. It was also pointed out that combining service could dilute the quality of service for North Kansas City residents. The population of Gladstone is more than 25 thousand compared with less than 5 thousand in North Kansas City.

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public

A brief presentation was given by Chris Evans, Executive Director of Feed Northland Kids, explaining the various ways this non-profit organization provides food for children living in food insecure homes.

Re-Districting of Wards

New boundary lines for the four wards in North Kansas City were approved based on census data to enable each ward to have approximately the same population and each must be contiguous. This followed previous work session discussion when City Council members had the opportunity to offer suggestions.

Emergency Mask Order

City Council representative Lisa Tull proposed that the mask mandate for school children in grades K-5 be extended until December 18. Several comments were made about the possible confusion of continuing the mandate if the City of Kansas City lifts their mandate. The ordinance passed with a vote of 5 to 3.

One North Final Plat

Approval was given for approval of the final plat of 9.3 acres in the One North development for multi-family residential apartment development by Milhaus.

Downtown Streetscape Project

After bids were reviewed it was determined that the price for this project would be approximately \$3.7 million. The agenda item offered a “guaranteed maximum price” contract of just under \$4 million.

A strong objection was voiced by City Councilman Anthony Saper who questioned the value of this project. Questions were asked about what is necessary for preventive maintenance and repairs rather than the larger investment for beautification. Examples given were light poles being corroded at the bottom with risk of falling as well as trees that have outgrown their root wells.

Approved.

Staff Comments

Covid-19 Report from Dr. Reintjes at North Kansas City Hospital

	Nov 8	Oct 27	Oct 13	Sep 29	Sep 15	Sep 8
Total Active COVID cases:	20	14	26	35	41	41
Total recovering COVID cases:	16	18	21	19	25	18
Total COVID patients in the ICU:	2	9	7	16	16	19
Total COVID patients on a ventilator:	1	8	4	11	14	15

NKCH is closely monitoring the increase of COVID cases affecting our community and we continue to ask for all support to encourage those who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated. We will continue to meet the healthcare needs of our community. Thank you.

The full agenda for this meeting with links to critical documents is available on the City's website www.nkc.org under the heading of Agendas and Minutes. As always, additional details about City Council agenda topics are often available as attachments on the City's website www.nkc.org and later as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-6WpmTG2Ss> part of the approved minutes.