

Minutes

The Dubuque Transit Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 10th, 2025

4:30 pm-5:30 pm

Intermodal Conference Room

950 Elm Street, Dubuque, IA 52001

Transit Advisory Board Members:

Greg Orwoll, Chair

Talma Brown

Dora Serna, Vice Chair

Others Present

Ryan Knuckey

Director of Transportation Services

Jodi Johnson

Transit Operations Supervisor

Russell Stecklein

Parking Operations Supervisor

Joseph Lueck

Transportation Services Analyst

1. Call to Order

The Dubuque Transit Advisory Board (TAB) meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

2. Review/approve the agenda for Thursday, April 10, 2025, Dubuque Transit Advisory Board meeting

Motion by Orwoll, seconded by Serna to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Review/approve the minutes from the Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Dubuque Transit Advisory Board meeting

Motion by Orwoll, seconded by Serna to approve the minutes from the March Dubuque TAB meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Swear in New Board Member, Talma Brown

Stecklein notarized Brown's oath of office.

5. Discuss the Function and Role of Transit Advisory Board

Introductions were made by all in attendance. Knuckey gave a brief history of the TAB and the role it plays in the Transit Department. The budget was also discussed, and Knuckey explained how the Jule receives State and Federal money as well as local support for The Jule's Fixed Route and Paratransit or MiniBus services. Johnson shared that the new Bus Driver contracts had been finalized.

Knuckey also inquired if the meeting time and location worked for all. All were in favor to continue to meet at the Intermodal at 4:30.

6. Vote for Transit Advisory Board Officers

Orwoll requested to serve again as Chair and Serna and Brown approved. The request was passed unanimously. Serna also requested to serve again as Vice Chair and Orwoll and Brown approved. The request was passed unanimously.

7. Review The Jule's Application for Consolidated Funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation

Knuckey informed the TAB that the date has been set for a public hearing on May 19, 2025, at the City Council meeting for The Jule's Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Consolidated Funding Application. Knuckey explained the importance of the funding and how it plays an important role in our operations and the rules and regulations we must follow to comply.

8. Director to present FY26 Budget Presentation

Knuckey gave a quick summary of the active grants The Jule has along with FY26 budget information. The Jule is on track to receive the first electric bus from Gillig in either November or December of 2025. A charging station location has been selected at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) and will be installed prior to the first electric bus delivery.

The Jule will be publishing a request for proposal (RFP) for the Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant. The RFP will be looking for a consultant to gather community input on levels of service they are looking for from public transportation and generate solutions to meet those needs.

9. General Public Comments & Service Requests

Lueck reported several riders and businesses are interested in expanding The Jule's services. These requests will be addressed with the RFP for the Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant. All parties have been notified of this as well.

Lueck reported a rider contacted The Jule requesting a tracking application that would allow riders to see bus locations in real-time, similar to what the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) offers its riders. Staff replied back that The Jule already offers this type of service through the MyRide application for the Fixed Route service. Lastly, a rider informed The Jule of a mislabeled bus stop, Wacker Drive at Wendy's. The bus stop number was corrected to #3020 when the Fixed Route bus schedule was put into production.

Lueck remarked that the GovQA service will be replaced soon by the Report2Dbq service.

10. Ridership Report

Lueck informed the TAB that again ridership for the Fixed Route was up at the beginning of the FY. Ridership for Paratransit also followed the previous FY trend of starting low then surging in October. Overall ridership for FY25 is trending up and looks like it will surpass FY24 numbers. All were excited to hear the news.

11. Board Comments

Serna suggested The Jule promote a “No Car Day” or a “Car Free Day”, similar to the “Bike to Work Week”. It would encourage people to utilize public transportation. The more someone knows about a service, the more likely they are to use it.

Brown asked if there has been any effort to inform current ridership of the benefit of The Jule’s smart pass or to have exact change out and ready to go prior to boarding? This would speed up boarding times and the smart pass would eliminate the need for a change card.

Johnson commented that this could be done through a social media post, Lueck to look in to.

Brown inquired if a rider’s smart pass could be loaded using the Genfare app on a smartphone, instead of loading it at the Intermodal transfer center or through the Genfare customer portal?

Knuckey asked Lueck to look into the request.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Orwoll to adjourn, seconded by Brown. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

These minutes passed, approved, and adopted on this 11th day of September 2025.

Greg Orwoll, Chair
Dubuque Transit Advisory Board