



AGENDA
Transit Advisory Commission
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2026 ~ 12:00 pm
6821 Jenny Lind Rd

ROLL CALL

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Minutes of December 18, 2025, Meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

- Update on transit services following reductions and public hearing
- Update on CNG time fill project
- Update on fare access and trip planning project
- Update on access road project

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

CITIZENS FORUM

ADJOURN



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transit Advisory Commission
FROM: Ken Savage, Transit Director
DATE: March 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Minutes of December 18, 2025, Meeting

ATTACHMENTS

1. [MINUTES OF MEETING 12-18-25.pdf](#)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Transit Advisory Commission
REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2025~ 12:00 pm
Fort Smith Transit
6821 Jenny Lind Rd.
Fort Smith, AR

ROLL CALL: The Transit Commission meeting of Thursday, December 18, 2025, was called to order by Chairperson Melissa Woodall. Other commissioners in attendance included Dr. Ann-Gee Lee, Jo Elsen, Melissa Bixby and Marian Azab. Staff in attendance included Ken Savage, Nancy Kain, Lori Carr, Jason Haley, Jeff Turrentine and Greg Carthon. The public in attendance included Melinda Fields, Ashley Torres and Director Andre Good.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Review Minutes of September 17th Meeting: Director Savage included the last two passenger surveys conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in response to a question asked by Chairperson Woodall regarding demographics. Chairperson Woodall also inquired about the Veteran's Day Parade and the Christmas Parade, which FST participated in both. Commissioner Elsen made a motion for approval of the minutes as drafted, Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, the minutes were approved with all in favor and none opposed.

The transit department made a variety of adjustments to comply with the budget reductions approved by the Fort Smith Board of Directors at their December 16 meeting. Department staff made internal modifications where it was possible to offset expenses; however, staff reductions in personnel eliminating two (2) full-time driver positions, coupled with budget cuts totaling \$150,000, required some degree of service decreases.

Staff requested the Transit Commissioners to open a required 30-day public hearing so staff can learn from passengers affected by the following changes. After a short discussion, the commission decided to hold off on voting until all items requesting public hearings were discussed and they would vote on all of them combined into one vote. These changes will go into effect on January 19, 2026.

2. Public Hearing to Discontinue the Rogers Supercenter Fixed Route: Discontinuing the Rogers Supercenter fixed route provides the most significant cost savings measure and is the service least utilized when compared to the performance levels of all other fixed routes. Information gained from the 30-day public hearing will be evaluated to help identify options to ease the loss of service. The County Health Department and the Social Security office will be covered by the Towson route. Commissioner Azab asked if this was a temporary or permanent change. It will be a permanent change. The Rogers Supercenter route is scheduled to end effective Monday, January 19, 2026, with the final day of service Saturday January 17, 2026.

3. Public Hearing to Scale Saturday Service Hours: Scaling back Saturday service hours has also been identified as a cost savings measure necessary to comply with the required budget reductions. Service on Saturdays is less utilized when compared to weekday services; therefore, staff selected this day of the week to modify start and end times. Revised hours will start the fixed routes at 9:00 am and end service at 4:00 pm. Demand Response / ADA Paratransit service will begin at 8:00 am and close at 5:00 pm.

4. Public Hearing to Discontinue Limited Services on Holidays: Limited Services, though understandably valuable to individual passengers, are marginally utilized by all users of the system. Limited Services are costly to the department considering the staff required to operate in a scaled type setting and maintain adequate safety and service levels pertaining to maintenance, dispatch and supervision. All hours worked on limited-service days are paid at OT rates. There are eight (8) holidays throughout the year affected by the elimination of Limited Services, effective January 19, 2026. The holidays that will no longer have limited service are MLK Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, the day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. FST will be closed on all city-observed holidays.

5. Public Hearing to Discontinue the Transportation Assistance Program: Elimination of the Transportation Assistance Program is determined by staff to be a revenue enhancement measure. Discussions evolved around increasing revenues, as well as reductions, at the November 17 Budget Review by the Fort Smith Board of Directors. In the overall budget reduction recommendation to administration, staff included additional revenues calculated from amounts provided as free vouchers through the Transportation Assistance Program. Staff are hopeful the enhanced revenues will offset further cuts in the transit department's overall services. Staff is hoping the information learned can be applied to options available through a future fare access system.

Commissioner Elsen made a motion to open a 30-day public hearing to mitigate concerns and to approve all items at the end of the 30-day public hearing. Commissioner Bixby seconded the motion. The motions were approved with all in favor and none opposed.

6. Other Business:

CNG Slow Fill Station: Project start date is pending the arrival of the dryer.

Access Road Project: Staff had another meeting with A&M Railroad yesterday and a new option was discussed, and staff are exploring all options discussed to see which one would be the most viable.

7. Commissioners Forum: Chairperson asked if the issue with the missed rider and her son had been solved. She was informed it was an isolated incident. It was due to darkness and low visibility.

8. Citizens Forum: Director Andre Good addressed the commission, thanking them for all their hard work and devotion to transit. He thanked transit staff for all the time and effort devoted to the arduous budget process.

ADJOURN: After a brief discussion, the next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at noon at the Transit facility, 6821 Jenny Lind Rd.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Woodall.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transit Advisory Commission
FROM: Ken Savage, Transit Director
DATE: March 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Update on transit services following reductions and public hearing

SUMMARY

In an effort to comply with the required budget reductions for the 2026 Budget, the transit department discontinued the Rogers Supercenter fixed route on Monday, January 19, 2026.

Saturday service was scaled back beginning the following Saturday, January 24th. Drivers, dispatchers and supervisors have worked diligently to adjust rides utilizing demand response and other fixed routes where possible to assist passengers affected by the reductions. Staff suspects some Saturday riders may have found alternative transportation or quit riding all together due to the limited operating timeframes.

Staff will continue looking for ways to do more with less in an effort to sustain rider confidence in transit. Regarding the public hearing process, most complaints were centered around passenger(s) discontent for the budget cuts while others were a bit confused about how the reductions in service might affect them personally. Adjustments were made to the Towson fixed route to accommodate the Health Department, Social Security Administration and the Guidance Center. Some passengers electing to access the Super Center are now traversing back downtown extending their commute times.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transit Advisory Commission
FROM: Ken Savage, Transit Director
DATE: March 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Update on CNG time fill project

SUMMARY

The contractor installing the CNG time-fill system equipment stated they would be testing their equipment on March 3, 2026. The testing is slated to be an all-day event and will consist of pressurizing the lines to ensure no leaks are present. This project is progressing nicely and should be completed within the next two or three weeks. This project, when completed, will allow all the CNG buses to fuel overnight autonomously after the PM drivers attach the retractable hose to each bus. Staff is anxious for the completion of the project in order to simplify the fueling process.



MEMORANDUM



TO: Transit Advisory Commission
FROM: Ken Savage, Transit Director
DATE: March 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Update on fare access and trip planning project

SUMMARY

Staff prepared a resolution and packet of information for consideration by the Fort Smith Board of Directors at their March 3, 2026 meeting. The packet includes a recommendation for entering into a three (3) year contract with Cubic Transportation Systems Inc. Attached for your review is the memo, product flyer, value statement and return of investment information that was included in the Board packet for the Fort Smith Board of Directors. We look forward to sharing more information following the March 3, 2026, Board discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$99,042.75



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transit Advisory Commission
FROM: Ken Savage, Transit Director
DATE: March 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Update on access road project

SUMMARY

Update will be given at the meeting.