

Submitted by: PTAB
Prepared by:
For reading: September, 10th 2026

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION No. 2026-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ANCHORAGE
PUBLIC ADVISORY BOARD ...**

WHEREAS, the Public Transit Advisory Board (Board) was established to advise the Assembly and the Mayor on matters related to public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Board is charged with recognizing the value and importance of public transportation, making recommendations to the Assembly and Mayor on municipal policy with respect to budget review, capital improvement programs, and funding of the publicly owned and operated transit system; and

WHEREAS, dependable and accessible transportation services are essential for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other residents who rely on AnchorRides and People Mover for daily mobility and livelihood; and

WHEREAS, AnchorRides provided approximately **176,974 Client trips** during the most recent reporting year, providing essential transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities to access healthcare, employment, education, shopping, and other vital community services; and

WHEREAS, AnchorRides provided approximately **33,427 trips for medical appointments** during the most recent reporting year, ensuring that seniors and individuals with disabilities have reliable access to essential healthcare services throughout the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, AnchorRides faces increasing operational costs driven by rising trip demand, higher fuel and vehicle maintenance expenses, expanded service area needs, and staffing requirements necessary to maintain safe, equitable transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the Public Transportation Department has successfully implemented its People Mover passenger endorsement training program and consistently reduced bus operator vacancies, but still faces operator shortages

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even when fully staffed from a lack of coverage for absences due to illness and PTO, which directly reduces route reliability, service frequency, and the system's ability to meet the community's transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding to cover AnchorRides' operational costs and increased staffing for People Mover bus operations are critical to maintaining a **consistent**, dependable, and equitable public transit system in Anchorage; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD, Supports increased municipal general operating funding for the Public Transportation Department to address rising operational costs for AnchorRides and fund two additional bus People Mover bus operators to ensure reliable, efficient fixed-route service throughout the Municipality of Anchorage.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Public Transit Advisory Board this the 10th day of September, 2026

**Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB)
Municipality of Anchorage
Minutes for Meeting of August 13, 2026
City Hall, Rm 155 and MS Teams – hybrid meeting**

PROPOSED [draft 01]

[Note: this version of the minutes is the draft distributed to the Board for approval. Corrections may be reflected in the final draft, in addition to the removal of this Note. If you are reading this after the meeting, and you want to determine whether any corrections were made, and if so, what they were, you can find the final version posted on the municipal website or watch the video recording of the meeting, also posted on the website.]

[Drafting note: this draft was prepared from the automated meeting transcript, which recorded nearly all speech under a single speaker label and contains two large gaps (approximately 0:03–0:29 and 0:55–1:14 of the recording). Speaker attributions were reconstructed from context. Items shown in square brackets could not be verified from the transcript and should be checked against the recording before the final draft is issued. A list of these items appears at the end of the document and should be deleted from the final version.]

1. Call to Order called by: Kyle Mielke, Chair

Time: [5:40 pm]

The following members of the public were present for at least part of the meeting:

- [Not captured in transcript – confirm from recording]

The following Public Transportation Department or affiliated staff were present:

•	Bart Rudolph, Director	x
•	Isabella Zamarron, Planning and Marketing Manager	x
•	Stephen Stone, Senior Planning	[X]
•	Maria Owens, Community Outreach Coordinator	x
•	Michael Coffey, Senior Planning Technician	x
•	Cecelia Sanchez, AnchorRides Administrative Officer	[X]
•	Nigel Stewart, AnchorRides (online)	[X]

2. Roll Call

The Board roll call (conducted by staff):

Present:

1)	Chair:	Kyle Mielke	x
2)	Vice Chair:	Bridget Jochum	x
3)	Member:	Sarah Preskitt (online)	x
4)	Member:	CB Brady	[X]*
5)	Member:	Michael T. Williams	Excused
6)	Member:	Issa Spatrisano	Excused
7)	Member:	Francisco Mercado	x
8)	Member:	Terrence White (online)	[X]*
9)	Member:	Charlie Rogge	x

Quorum declared? Yes

** Answered “not quite yet” at roll call; [joined later – confirm from recording].*

3. Public Involvement Announcement: read by the Chair

4. Approval of the Agenda: August 13, 2026 – Approved

No additions or amendments were offered. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

5. Approval of the Minutes: July 9, 2026 – Approved

The Chair thanked staff for preparing the minutes. No corrections or modifications were offered. A motion to approve was made [mover / second not identified] and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

6. Public Comments

- a. Written comments: [NA – confirm]
- b. In-person and on-line comments:

[The public comment period falls within a gap in the transcript and could not be reconstructed. Check the recording at approximately 0:03–0:10.]

7. Action / Information Items

a. Reports, Updates, and Presentations:

Department 2026 goals – mid-year status update presented by the Director, Bart Rudolph [paraphrased; the beginning of this presentation falls within a gap in the transcript and only the final four goal areas were captured]:

- *Strengthen safety, accountability, and trust: formalizing coordination with APD is flagged as at-risk; it is a large, ongoing effort aimed at written processes and consistent communication on both sides. Internally, a new safety-suggestion tracking mechanism has been implemented so every employee can see each suggestion and its disposition (implemented, under review, or rejected with reasons); six suggestions have been implemented to date. The accident matrix and investigation process has been updated so that preventable-accident discipline emphasizes retraining before suspension or termination.*
- *Advance priority capital projects: the Downtown Transit Center (new building at the Chinook parking lot) is on track, with design and engineering nearly under contract; design will likely run through 2027 with construction in 2028 or 2029. The Muldoon and DeBarr Transit Center study is on track to finish in 2027, and staff will soon return to the public with three preliminary sites and rough layouts. The Tudor/Elmore aging infrastructure work plan is at-risk because environmental work is taking longer than anticipated. The Transit on the Move plan update is on track for the end of the year.*
- *Test new service models and improve efficiencies: a microtransit pilot is planned for Midtown – an app-based, on-demand small-bus service within a defined zone that connects riders to the nearest fixed-route stop for trips outside the zone. The zone has not yet been defined and the pilot will likely begin using Uber and Lyft vehicles. Benefits include first/last-mile access and a lower-cost option for some AnchorRides trips.*
- *New fareboxes and expanded payment options (tap-to-pay, scannable mobile tickets): procurement is expected to proceed this year, but installation is not expected until 2027 (at-risk).*
- *In-house paratransit feasibility study: expected to be complete within the next couple of months. The concept would include a non-CDL entry pathway that could feed into bus operator positions.*
- *The Director will report back at the end of the year on how the department performed against its goals.*

Board questions and discussion on the goals update:

- *[Member – attribution to confirm]: Asked whether the Municipality or Uber/Lyft would pay microtransit drivers. The Director responded that in the pilot the Municipality would pay Uber and Lyft; if the pilot succeeds, the department would move to its own vehicles and municipal drivers.*

- [Member – attribution to confirm]: Asked how safety-suggestion feedback is communicated to staff. *The Director responded that the employee who made the suggestion receives an e-mail and a one-on-one conversation with the safety officer; department-wide, a dashboard is posted on an information board with more detail available online.*
- Kyle Mielke (Chair): Asked whether these goals are the department's Performance Value Results (PVRs) or a separate set. *The Director responded that they are separate, with some overlapping information.*

Security incidents update presented by the Director [paraphrased]:

- *The July security incident report was included in the packet. Totals are hovering around the same level as prior months. Going forward the report will be included as an informational item rather than reviewed in detail, with questions taken as needed.*

Board questions and discussion on the security report:

- [Kyle Mielke (Chair) – attribution to confirm]: Asked for any update on the employee assault listed in the report, noting it appears to be the first since the new ordinance was adopted, and whether it was physical. *The Director confirmed it was a physical assault but could share nothing further as it remains under investigation.*
- [Member – attribution to confirm]: Asked for more context on days with unusually high counts (e.g., 10 incidents on July 3 and 12 on July 9), and whether related incidents could be separated out. *The Director explained the “other” category is very broad and the numbers represent separate, unrelated incidents (an incident involving several people is counted once); further breakdown would require manual review of individual reports. He proposed inviting the security contract administrator to a future meeting – likely September – to explain what is typical within each category. The Board agreed this would be helpful.*
- Francisco Mercado (PTAB): Asked whether incidents can be identified by route or bus stop (e.g., Route 25 or Route 10) so the Board can see where the most serious incidents occur. *The Director said that data is likely collected and staff will look into it. Members suggested a map, perhaps produced annually; the Director noted the department is already working on a similar map of collisions, which could go hand-in-hand.*

b. New Business:

i. Budget increase information

The Director provided an update on the department's 2027 budget submission as a lead-in to the Board's resolution [paraphrased]:

- *The Mayor has directed all departments to submit a flat budget (no increases) and a scenario showing a 5% cut.*
- *The department's “flat” submission nevertheless includes an increase, framed as the cost of maintaining service as it exists today. The principal driver is the AnchorRides contract, which is expected to rise by approximately \$1.6 million. Without that increase the department would have to significantly cap non-ADA senior rides on AnchorRides – from roughly 5,000–6,000 rides per month to roughly 1,000 – because ADA-eligible trips are federally required while senior trips are a municipal choice.*
- *The 5% cut scenario would include that AnchorRides cap plus elimination or reduced frequency on one or two fixed routes.*
- *Submissions were due to the Administration the previous week. The Mayor's proposed budget (120-day memo) is expected at the end of August, and the Assembly will take up the budget in October. The Director noted the Board could pass a resolution now, so that it reaches the Mayor, or wait to see the Mayor's proposal and direct its resolution to the Assembly; either way there is time before the Assembly acts.*

◦Charlie Rogge (PTAB): Asked for confirmation of the size of the AnchorRides reduction if the increase is not funded. *The Director confirmed the figures above.*

ii. PTAB resolution supporting increased operating funding (AnchorRides costs and People Mover operators)

Vice Chair Jochum introduced the draft resolution, prepared with staff assistance, and invited members to suggest additional or stronger arguments. The Chair read the draft into the record. In summary, the resolution recites the Board's advisory role; the essential nature of AnchorRides and People Mover for seniors, people with disabilities, and other residents; AnchorRides' annual client trips [figure garbled in transcript – confirm] including approximately 33,427 medical-appointment trips; rising AnchorRides operating costs; and continuing People Mover operator shortages. It recommends increased municipal support to meet rising AnchorRides operating costs and an increase in the number of People Mover bus operators.

◦Kyle Mielke (Chair): Suggested the Board consider requesting a specific, modest number of additional operator positions (a minimum of two) as a sustainable first ask, given the size of the AnchorRides request and that operating funds for operators would be a new request. Also suggested highlighting the department's work to keep the vacancy rate low (passenger endorsement pathway and training program) and the retention/burnout argument – protecting the Municipality's training investment in new operators by reducing mandatory overtime. Noted that other advisory boards (e.g., the HAND Commission) are making similar asks in response to the flat-budget direction. Given timing, he indicated the resolution could reasonably pass unedited.

◦Sarah Preskitt (PTAB): Asked what "rising trip demand" and "expanded service area needs" refer to in the resolution. *Staff responded that this refers to the aging population and growing demand. The Chair added that AnchorRides serves a premium service area in South Anchorage beyond the FTA requirement; the Director confirmed the department could shrink that area under FTA rules but is not proposing to.*

◦[Member – transcript reads "Scott"; attribution to confirm]: Urged approving the resolution that evening so it could be submitted as soon as possible.

◦[Sarah Preskitt (PTAB) – attribution to confirm]: Countered that the Board should direct the resolution to the Assembly rather than the Mayor, because the Mayor's office has only about two weeks to process all department submissions and the resolution could get lost, and because the Assembly ultimately adjusts and adopts the budget. Suggested the Board decide who its audience is.

◦Kyle Mielke (Chair): Agreed with Member Preskitt that he would rather wait to see what the Mayor proposes before making the funding argument.

◦*[The remainder of this discussion, including any amendments and the final disposition of the budget resolution, falls within a gap in the transcript (approximately 0:55–1:14 of the recording). When the transcript resumes, the Board appears to have agreed to put the resolution forward to the Assembly, and the Chair noted – following a comment from Maria Owens – that the resolution would also be a useful tool for individual members meeting with Assembly members, similar to the Assembly's own policy-priority documents for the Legislature. Confirm the motion and vote from the recording.]*

iii. Week Without Driving resolution

[Introduction of this item falls within the transcript gap – confirm presenter and details from the recording.] Staff noted that buses will be free all week during Week Without Driving, and the Chair thanked staff for preparing the poster. A motion to approve the resolution was made and seconded [mover / second not identified]. Hearing no objection, the Week Without Driving resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

iv. Arctic Thunder Air Show route (Route 98) recap

Isabella Zamarron presented a preliminary recap of the August 8–9 Route 98 service and thanked Members Preskitt and Rogge for volunteering at Northway Mall [paraphrased]:

- *Turnout far exceeded expectations. The plan called for four buses plus one spare; by Saturday morning the department was running seven buses, with dispatch calling in operators and driving buses themselves. The schedule was abandoned in favor of continuous turn-and-burn loops. Stop locations on base changed several times, which complicated messaging. By Sunday operations were running smoothly.*
- *Preliminary ridership: 4,533 riders over the weekend on 143 loops (65 Saturday, 78 Sunday). Route 98 accounted for roughly 25% of system ridership on Sunday [confirm figure].*
- *Communications: Facebook reach of roughly 108,000 with 700+ reactions; Instagram reach of 140,000+; about 2,700 views of the Arctic Thunder web page; Route 98 viewed 1,536 times in the transit app. Lesson learned: the service was sometimes described as a “shuttle,” and messaging should reinforce that it was a regular inaugurated route.*
- *Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, including a thank-you letter and \$4 check from a former Lieutenant Governor [name to confirm] and a formal thank-you e-mail from the Mayor. Staff are preparing an after-action report and one-page visual summary and have launched a public survey; results will be brought to the Board.*
- Charlie Rogge (PTAB): Asked for the total weekend ridership figure. Answer: 4,533.
- Sarah Preskitt (PTAB): Commended staff for making a highly complex operation look seamless, and asked that staff present at the next meeting, for the record, what goes into planning an event route from concept to execution. Noted that a new employee on their first day was singled out by a rider for helpfulness with the app.
- Kyle Mielke (Chair): Suggested a fuller celebration of the results at the September meeting once the numbers are finalized.

c. **Continued Business:**

[Any continued-business items (e.g., 2026 PTAB goals, non-motorized safety, proposed rules and procedures) fall within the transcript gaps and could not be reconstructed. Confirm from the agenda and recording.]

8. Member Comments

- 1) Charlie Rogge: Reported a hiccup connecting via AnchorRides to reach Northway Mall for the air show (AnchorRides called to say it was running behind); he instead walked to the transit center and took Route 20, arriving without further issue. Otherwise noted no problems with the event.
- 2) Sarah Preskitt: Thanked Vice Chair Jochum and staff for drafting the budget resolution, and again thanked staff for the air show route, noting riders reached the show faster than drivers waiting in traffic and could still enter after the gates closed to vehicles.
- 3) Francisco Mercado: Thanked staff for the weekend’s work. Raised a safety concern about the Route 25 stop in front of Walmart, where riders have expressed concern about waiting at the stop because of the unhoused population there.
- 4) Bridget Jochum: Echoed praise for the Arctic Thunder service; living near the base, she had been unable to reach home through event traffic and appreciated the buses reducing it. Expressed a wish for similar service at all major municipal events.

5) Kyle Mielke (Chair): Offered accolades to the department for its progress on goals and its strong performance, which provides the Board with excellent data and results to draw on in upcoming budget conversations.

6) Bart Rudolph (Director): Reminded members that the bus rodeo is Tuesday, September 1 at the Tudor/Elmore campus; the event is not open to the public but PTAB members are invited to the BBQ lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. An invitation will be sent.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded [mover / second not identified].

Time: [approximately 7:07 pm]

[Items to verify against the recording – delete this list from the final version:]

- Call-to-order and adjournment times (recording file is stamped 5:40 pm; transcript ends at 1:27:02).
- Members of the public present, and whether any public comment was given (transcript gap ~0:03–0:29).
- Staff attendance for Stephen Stone, Cecelia Sanchez, and Nigel Stewart (not identifiable from transcript).
- Whether CB Brady and Terrence White joined after roll call (both answered “not quite yet” at roll call).
- Movers and seconds for the July minutes, Week Without Driving resolution, and adjournment.
- Speaker attributions marked “[attribution to confirm],” including the member the transcript labels “Scott.”
- First portion of the Director’s 2026 goals presentation (transcript gap ~0:03–0:29).
- Final disposition of the PTAB budget resolution – whether it was amended, adopted, or deferred, and any vote (transcript gap ~0:55–1:14).
- Introduction and presenter of the Week Without Driving resolution (transcript gap ~0:55–1:14).
- Any continued-business items discussed.
- AnchorRides annual client-trip figure in the budget resolution (garbled in transcript), the “25% of Sunday ridership” figure, and the name of the former Lieutenant Governor.

Security - 2025																													
Date:	Number Incident Reports	Suspicious Activity	Disturbance (loud music, yelling, Sleeping/intoxicated on)	Fighting	Persons in need	Noise complaint	Maintenance Issues	Drug & Alcohol activity	Property Crimes	Property crimes (graffiti, broken property)	Property crimes (theft)	Passenger assault (non-physical)	Passenger assault (physical)	Solicitation/Aggressive Panhandling	Unattended Bag/Item	Suspicious Activity - Vehicle	Other - (Health and Safety/Police Check, Non-Incident/Response, Restroom, Littering)	Employee assault - non-physical	Employee assault - physical	Actionable Items	Banned Passengers	Passenger Removals	APD Response	Arrest Made	AFD/EMT Response	ASD/CSP Response			
January 2026	363	1	119	6	5	0	14	51	6	0	0	1	0	22	0	129	0	9		1	102	12	4	8	92				
February 2026	313	2	100	6	4	0	4	49	5	0	1	1	0	1	3	130	3	4		1	70	0	0	0	106				
March 2026	362	1	103	0	4	0	3	60	2	0	0	2	0	9	1	169	3	5		4	78	11	4	12	125				
April 2026	417	0	96	3	2	0	7	109	5	0	1	3	0	26	0	156	6	3		3	71	7	2	10	59				
May 2026	344	4	55	7	7	0	11	95	6	0	0	1	1	23	1	130	2	1		1	27	8	0	7	52				
June 2026	333	6	44	3	10	0	9	95	4	1	1	0	0	25	8	120	1	6		1	33	8	6	6	41				
July 2026	351	1	65	2	17	0	6	84	2	0	1	1	0	26	3	140	2	1		4	38	9	5	10	54				
August 2026	285	4	47	5	18	0	7	59	1	0	0	4	2	15	3	108	9	3	0	1	27	8	3	19	52				
September 2026																													
October 2026																													
November 2026																													
December 2026																													
Total:	2768	19	629	32	67	0	61	602	31	1	4	13	3	147	19	1082	26	32		16	446	63	24	72	581				