



M E M O R A N D U M
September 26, 2022

TO: John Cooley, Chairman – Future Fort Smith

FROM: Ken Savage, Transit Director

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Implementation Report for Fort Smith Transit

The following update highlights Future Fort Smith activity accomplishments through September, 2022. The department's last report was provided in July 2021.

The transit department is pleased to keep the Committee informed of progress achieved over the last year. Projects noted in this report may look familiar; however, many have advanced from the planning stages to design and implementation. While we are relieved to see signs the pandemic is slowing, the transit system is now better equipped to mitigate the effects of future pandemic occurrences. We hope to demonstrate through this report that employees, as well as residents utilizing our services, will appreciate a more comfortable and prepared public transportation environment. Federal grants provided in part through COVID-19 relief funding have made several of these developments possible.

1. Large Heavy Duty Transit Buses:

Staff received our first of six large heavy duty CNG buses on August 29th. The remaining five (5) buses are scheduled to arrive late September or early October, pending material supply shortages. The new large low floor buses will replace an existing fleet of medium duty cutaway buses. Having the first bus on site has allowed staff to test the current routes and determine the need for any alterations. Once the remaining buses arrive and inspections are complete, the plan is to undergo the inception of all new buses at one time. Drivers have been working diligently to complete their CDL upgrades and become familiar with the features of the new type of bus. Large heavy duty transit buses were selected as a COVID-19 relief project in an effort to improve social distancing. These buses are more accommodating permitting passengers to sit/stand further apart during times of a pandemic. The more modern style of bus offers a ramp for entry, as opposed to negotiating steps and a wheelchair lift, is equipped with a kneeling feature for a more stable entry and will improve safety for fixed route boarding overall.

NCR 2.3	Improve air quality.
NCR 2.3.2	Improve miles per gallon (MPG) for all vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Reduce any unnecessary mileage and increase usage of CNG where deemed appropriate.
TI-3	Improve public transportation

2. Passenger Awning and Improvements to the Transfer Station:

The City completed construction of the transfer station awning earlier this year in May. Passengers now have more room to spread out along the boarding line. This attractive new feature improves social distancing and provides shelter from the elements in adverse weather conditions. The station now has a touchless entryway into the public restrooms making access more user friendly for persons utilizing mobility devices. Funding for the project was made possible with the use of COVID-19 relief funds.

TI-3.1	Promote and maintain a public transit system that is safe, efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to the needs of the residents.
TI-3	Improve public transportation

3. Emergency Generator at the Transit Facilities on Jenny Lind Road:

The City completed the installation of an emergency generator at the transit offices on Jenny Lind in June of this year. The generator serves as a back-up power supply for the entire complex and operates off of natural gas. Staff has already experienced at least one power outage and the new generator permitted employees to continue working without interruption, including fueling of vehicles. Funding for the project was made possible with the use of COVID-19 relief funds.

TI-3	Improve public transportation
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4. Transit Service to Local Food Banks

Staff assessed the need to alter the less frequently used on-call portions of the fixed route system while utilizing the new large heavy duty buses in test mode. Eliminating the on-call loops would omit service to two (2) food banks along the routes. Staff is proposing to offer passengers the use of demand response service to access approved local food banks at the fixed route rate. To qualify for this service passengers would be required to register in the department's database and be willing to accept demand service on select days and times to be determined by transit management. This new service proposal will be presented to the Transit Advisory Commission in late September and if approved the plan is to begin this service with the inception of the large heavy duty buses. Transit management believes this to be an efficiency measure that could potentially help out our local food banks, benefit the timing of the fixed routes, and strengthen demand response ridership during off peak hours.

PFS-4	Prevent wasteful use of public resources and services.
TI-3.1	Promote and maintain a public transit system that is safe, efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to the needs of the residents.

5. Cell Phone Applications, Free Public WIFI and USB Charge Ports

The department's RouteShout 2.0 phone app has been in use since the last report and dispatchers have noticed a reduction in calls pertaining to the location of fixed route buses. The on-line scheduling feature appears to be used less; however, staff believes passengers to prefer to schedule

directly with a dispatcher. The on-line scheduling feature is thought to be good management tool for case workers and care providers. The advanced notification of bus arrival for origin-to-destination service seems to be a welcomed feature for passengers. The free Public WIFI function seems to be well utilized. Dispatchers are promptly notified of any WIFI concerns, as was experienced when the system was first placed into service. USB charge ports are placed at every seating location on the new large fixed route buses for an added amenity. Transit staff will continue to market the new system-wide features. Passengers may select the department's URL below to monitor the fixed route bus or to self-schedule a demand response travel request.

Customer Portal : <https://fortsmith.routematch.com/customer/>
 Fixed Route : <https://fortsmith.routematch.com/fixedroute/>
 RouteShout : <https://fortsmith.routematch.com/routeshout/>

TI-3	Improve public transportation
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6. Amenities:

Nearly all of the thirty (30) new bike racks/stands the department received last fall have been installed. The street department has been gracious in helping with the construction of the concrete pads to place the new bike rack/stands. Attached is a picture of the leaf like bike racks installed for the rider's enjoyment. The additional amenities should help to encourage alternative transportation. The First Presbyterian Church provided the local match to make this amenity project possible.

Approximately ten (10) bus stop shelters each containing a backdrop of art display is underway in the downtown area. Staff graciously received a donation from local artist Sarah Ridgley. The donation serves as local match to leverage a federal grant for the shelter art project. The shelters have arrived and staff is working with the street department to construct the pads to secure the shelters. The new shelters are similar to our existing shelters; however, are half cantilever in design which requires less area for maneuvering in and around confined spaces. The timing of installation will vary depending upon the street department's work load. Shelter art was previously introduced as a First Presbyterian Church project where the City enjoys five completed shelters with backdrops containing local art displays.

ED 6.1.1	Invest in beautification of major transportation corridors; the provisions of trails, open lands, and public gathering spaces; innovative architectural and site designs; and alternative transportation choices to all business areas.
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7. Displaying City Assistance Programs Inside Fixed Route Buses:

A new service is offered by the transit department to better inform low income residents about the assistance programs available through the City. The inception of the large buses will make this project possible using information cards located above the windows and just below the roof line. Programs such as Project Concern, whereby qualifying residents can seek assistance from water, sewer and sanitation services, will be displayed in the specified areas described above. Transit staff will work with all departments to provide notification of public service accommodations where possible.

PFS-1	Promote a business-friendly and citizen-friendly government
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8. Alternate Access to the Transit Facility on Jenny Lind

The transit department is slowly making progress towards the new alternative access road connecting its transit offices to South 28th Street. Since the last report staff has been coordinating where to place the drive in conjunction with surrounding property owners to obtain authorization. The department is currently working on a rail crossing agreement to allow the project to progress more swiftly. Enclosed are tentative design drawings based on the department's desired placement. Currently, to access the transit facility requires negotiating semi-tractor trailers throughout Spartan Logistics warehouse property. Completing this project will enhance safety, reduce congestion and improve security for Spartan Logistics operations.

FLU-1.61	Develop corridor and area plans that address access management, land use, design, internal parking, and circulation.
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9. Continue Existing Transit Service

Transit employees work hard to provide consistent services for our community. Public transportation as a whole provides numerous benefits that help improve mobility, reduce air pollution, ease road congestion and conserve parking, just to name a few. The department is hopeful the new fleet of large fixed route buses will increase ridership while adding safety and comfort. Quite often people compare transit buses to a school bus where the thought is to transport many people to one destination. In reality the fixed route buses are constantly transitioning mobility and moving residents throughout the entire city. Some passengers may only ride a few blocks while others complete various transfers to reach their destination. The large buses help to facilitate any combination of mobility needs such as large families, popular destinations, local events, as well as the movement of multiple mobility devices at one time. The transit department looks forward to continuing great service to the community with new added features that are much more accommodating.

TI-3.1	Promote and maintain a public transit system that is safe, efficient, cost-effective and responsive to the needs of residents.
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10. Coordination of Transit Services and the Crisis Intervention Unit

A 2023 Budget goal for the transit department involves working closely with the Fort Smith Police Department's Crisis Intervention Unit. The Crisis Intervention Unit assists individuals suffering from mental health illnesses by determining root causes of issues and by allocating the proper resources to resolve. Transportation is often a vital resource needed; therefore, the transit department will work with the police department team and transit commissioners to help provide transportation vouchers as needed to facilitate a basic need.

PFS-2	Build consistency and trust with the public
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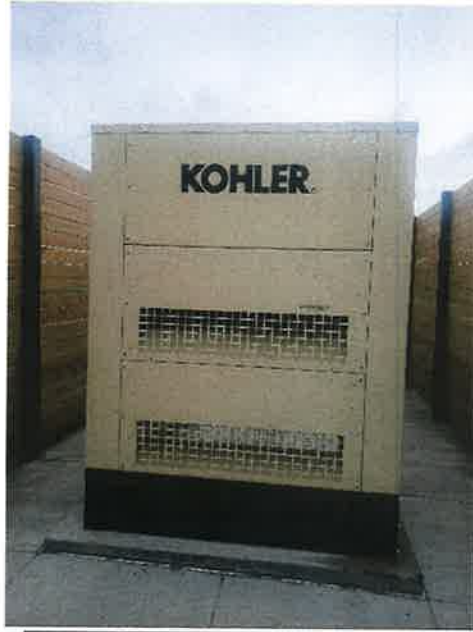
The comprehensive plan has been a helpful tool in determining projects to pursue and demonstrates priorities for the community which is beneficial for our grant partners.

Please don't hesitate to call at 783-6464 or email at ksavage@fortsmithar.gov if you have questions or would like more information about the status of activities and/or projects of the department.









DOWNLOAD THE APP!!!

 **RouteShout 2.0**



ANDROID APP ON

Google play



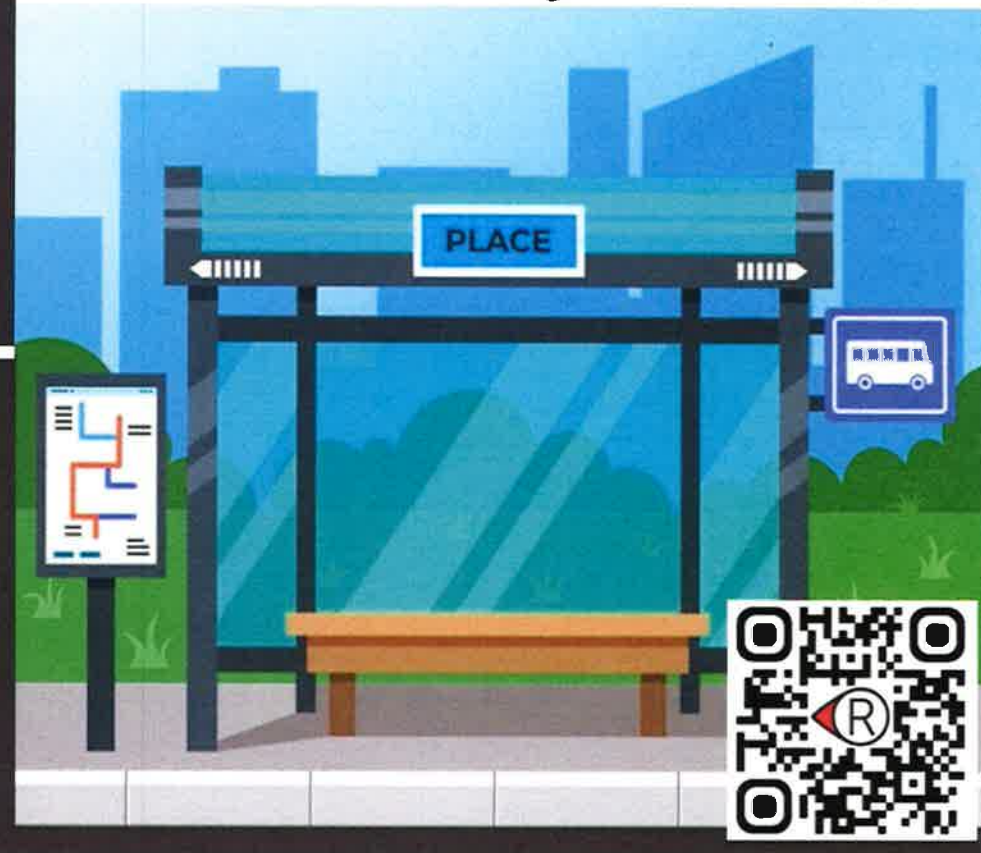
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HOW IT WORKS:

- ① Download The **RouteShout 2.0** App
- ② Find Stops And Times
- ③ See Bus Location In Real Time

FortSmith  **TRANSIT**

Moving Fort Smith Forward





WiFi Name: FS_Transit_Public

Password: FSTransit!

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Moving Fort Smith Forward



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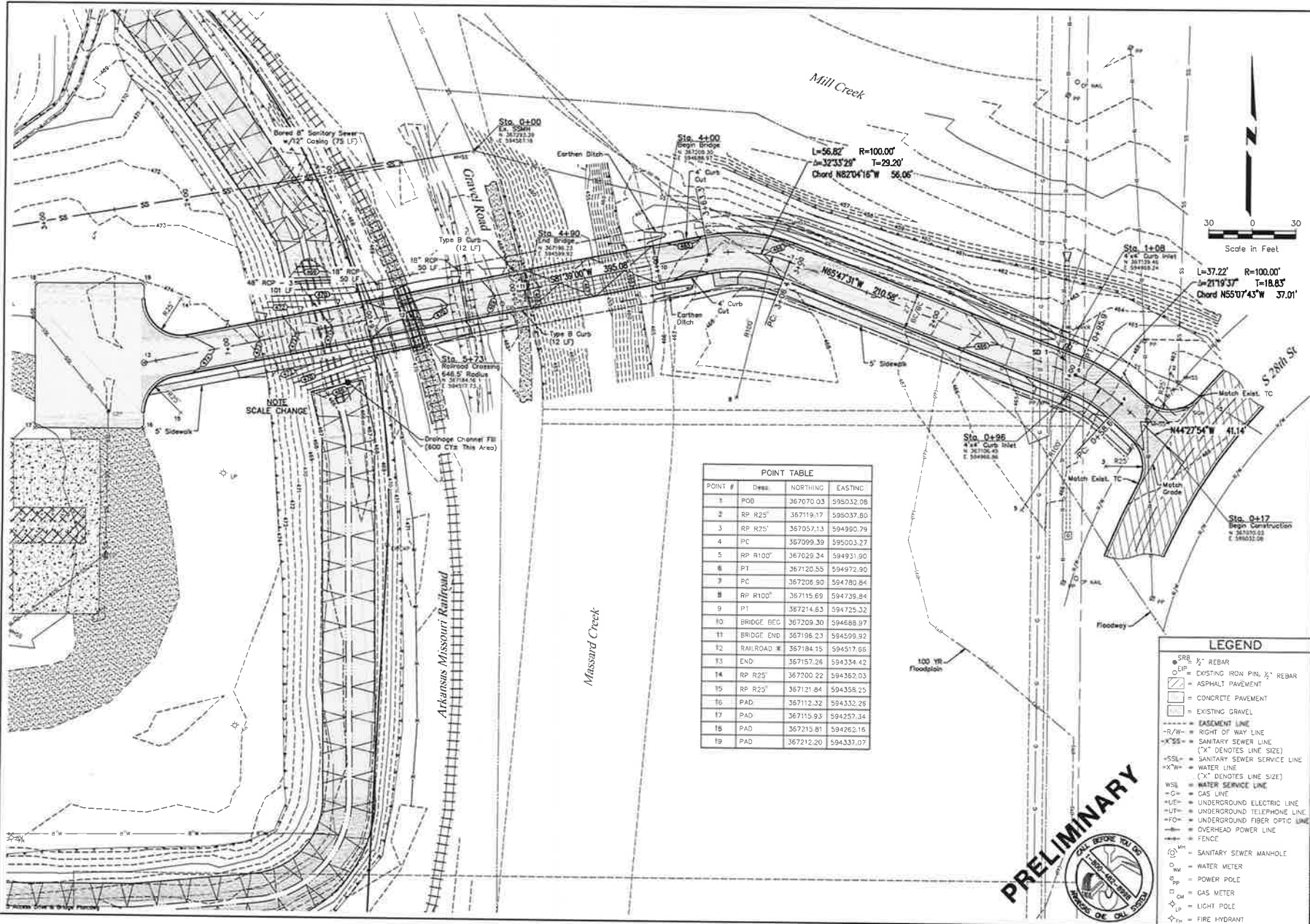


U.S.ARMY

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contact: SFC He
1-877-789
ricardo.heredia@usa

You may qu
a \$70,000 col
or up to a
enlistment



POINT TABLE

POINT #	Desc.	NORTHING	EASTING
1	POB	367070.03	595032.08
2	RP R25°	367119.17	595037.60
3	RP R25°	367057.13	594990.79
4	PC	367099.39	595003.27
5	RP R100°	367029.34	594931.90
6	PT	367120.55	594972.90
7	PC	367206.90	594780.84
8	RP R100°	367115.69	594738.84
9	PT	367214.63	594725.32
10	BRIDGE BEG	367209.30	594688.97
11	BRIDGE END	367196.23	594599.92
12	RAILROAD #	367184.15	594517.68
13	END	367157.26	594354.42
14	RP R25°	367200.22	594362.03
15	RP R25°	367121.84	594358.25
16	PAD	367112.32	594332.28
17	PAD	367115.93	594257.34
18	PAD	367215.81	594262.16
19	PAD	367212.20	594337.07

- LEGEND**
- SRE 1/2" REBAR
 - EIP 1/2" REBAR
 - ▨ EXISTING IRON PINS 1/2" REBAR
 - ▨ ASPHALT PAVEMENT
 - ▨ CONCRETE PAVEMENT
 - ▨ EXISTING GRAVEL
 - CASEMENT LINE
 - R/W- RIGHT OF WAY LINE
 - XSS- SANITARY SEWER LINE ("X" DENOTES LINE SIZE)
 - SSL- SANITARY SEWER SERVICE LINE ("X" DENOTES LINE SIZE)
 - W- WATER LINE ("X" DENOTES LINE SIZE)
 - WSL- WATER SERVICE LINE
 - G- GAS LINE
 - UE- UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
 - UT- UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE LINE
 - FO- UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC LINE
 - OHP- OVERHEAD POWER LINE
 - F- FENCE
 - MH SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
 - WM WATER METER
 - PP POWER POLE
 - GM GAS METER
 - LP LIGHT POLE
 - FH FIRE HYDRANT

PRELIMINARY

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
800-4-A-HEADLINE
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

DATE	REVISION	
BY		

MICKLE WACNER COLEMAN

Engineers-Consultants-Surveyors
2500 Westport Club Ave.
P.O. Box 100
Fort Smith, Arkansas
501-669-9881
Fax: 501-669-9881
Info@mw-c.com

ACCESS DRIVE & BRIDGE PLAN

TRANSIT AUTHORITY - PHASE I

City of Fort Smith
South 28th Street Entry

FORT SMITH, SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS

30% Complete

ISSUED BY	G. LANE
ISSUED DATE	11-1-20
SCALE	1" = 30'
DATE	JAN 2020
PROJECT	TRANSIT AUTHORITY

SHEET 3 OF 11