

 **Transit Advisory Board**

 **Meeting Minutes**

 **June 11 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Cristen Conley, David Kesner, Willie Richardson, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley, Brendan Miller.

Poll was conducted to see how each person arrived to the meeting.

**Public:**

Cheryl Hunt, Amber Beach, Molly Blumhoefer.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Sandra Saiz, ABQ Ride Supervisor; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

**Acceptance Agenda:**

Mr. Kesner asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Smith moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Richardson seconded and the minutes were approves.

**Minutes from May 15, 2015**

Mr. Kesner asked for approval of the minutes. Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Tilley seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Visitor Presentation:**

Ms. Sandra Saiz, ABQ Ride Supervisor, presented information on subscription rides:

- If a passenger travels to the same location two or more times per week, at the same times, on the same days, they may be eligible to receive Sun Van subscription rides.

- Subscription service may not always be available for the dates and times requested or submitted.

- If a subscription ride cannot be accommodated the request will be placed on the waiting list, as space becomes available the Sun Van contact person will communicate this to the Sun Van passenger in regards to when the subscription trips will begin.

- If Sun Van is able to accommodate the subscription trip request, a standing reservation will be scheduled.

- The subscription trip does not guarantee a specific Sun Van, or Sun Van chauffeur.

- Sun Van subscriptions will automatically be canceled on holidays and days that Sun Van does not provide service.

- Sun Van subscription trips will be permanently canceled when 20 percent or more of trips are canceled within a 90 day period, or if subscription rides have not been utilized, consecutively for 30 or more days

- Sun Van will cancel subscription trips if there are changes in the times or address or days of the trips and if Sun Van is not able to accommodate these changes. If this situation occurs, the Sun Van passenger can request to be placed on the subscription waiting list.

Subscription service may not absorb more than 50 percent of the numbers of trips in any given day.

Ms. Saiz stated that there are currently 72 Sun Van drivers, (85 budgeted positions) with 69 operable Sun Vans and ridership has had a 14 percent increase in the last six years.

The department is in the process of ordering new Sun Van in order to replace older vans and to expand the total number of Sun Vans.

Mr. Kesner asked if any address change would cause the passenger to lose the subscription ride. Ms. Rizzieri stated, “Probably yes”, but a passenger can appeal to him, and he will make the final determination. Mr. Kesner asked if a passenger negotiates a time, could they stay on subscription. Ms. Saiz answered, “Yes, it’s possible.”

Mr. Tilley asked if subscription rides are above and beyond regular Sun Van service. It was explained that the only difference is that other Sun Van passengers have to call to schedule their rides.

Ms. Hunt asked if it would be possible to provide a Sun Van presentation to the people who live in her apartment. Ms. Saiz said, “Yes”.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Cheryl Hunt, who is an advocate for the elderly, stated that people who live in her residence, as well as others she has spoken to, have expressed their bad experiences with Sun Van.

Ms. Hunt understood that there are passengers added to Sun Van weekly and she would like to advocate for more vans. Mr. Rizzieri stated as a reminder more vans need more drivers.

Ms. Hunt stated, “They find it hard to qualify for Sun Van, so they opt to take the fixed bus routes. Because these passengers are often frail and unable to step up, they stumble trying to board and the bus will continue before they are seated.” Ms. Hunt would like ABQ Ride to provide a presentation to her community, for safety on the busses and other issues.

Ms. Conley asked what percent of the fixed route busses are able to “kneel?” Ms. Conley also wanted to know what ABQ Rides policy is for using ramps. Mr. Rizzieri stated that most buses are able to kneel. Motor coach operators are required to lower the bus ramp with requested to do so by a passenger.

Mr. Miller would like to see more stops for the Route 157 in or around the 3200 Block of Montgomery, due to the apartments and stores and hotels in the area. Ms. Hunt stated that Costco is in this area and it can get dangerous walking in this area. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the department would take a look at where stops are located in this area.

Ms. Amber Beach presented a petition, with signatures, requesting that a Route 16 stop be located at Girard and Gibson. Ms. Beach read a letter to the Board and also provided a copy to them. The letter pointed out that SL Start’s Career Link Program, located at 2021 Girard Blvd SE has several people who attend who would be serviced by placing a stop there.

Ms. Cheryl Hunt suggested that a shelter be placed at the San Mateo and Montgomery stop. Mr. Rizzieri explained there was a need for an easement, and it is not that simple, but he will look into this.

The discussion continued about bus shelters. Mr. Rizzieri explained that there were 425 shelters placed throughout the City. The bus shelters with solar panels cost up to $22,000 and the shelters that are not as large or have solar panels cost from $10,000 to $12,000. Where a shelter is placed is determined by ridership.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Mr. Kesner stated that if there is anyone who wants to run for Chairperson, please put in request by next month.

**Director’s Report**:

Mr. Rizzieri stated that at the next meeting the Board needs to vote on the annual meeting schedule resolution and the annual public notification resolution.

Mr. Rizzieri let the Board know about construction at the Yale Maintenance and Operations facility to improve on-site drainage into the City drainage system, the installation of an unleaded fuel tank and improved exterior lighting. Construction will continue through September. Due to this construction some busses have been moved to the Daytona Maintenance and Operations facility. Also, the MCO bid that usually takes place in August will now take place in September.

In response to Mr. Schott’s request for an ART station at Central and San Pedro, Mr. Rizzieri stated that no station is planned for this location. There are currently 20 stations planned between Coors and Louisiana.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about land use and transportation. Mr. Rizzieri stated the City Planning Department has hired a consultant to review the current zoning regulations and to make recommendations for changes. He plans on asking the Planning Department if someone from that department could provide a presentation to the Board. Mr. Tilley agreed that the Planning Department effort was important.

Mr. Rizzieri stated the ridership from FY14 to FY15 was down by five percent.

Ms. Conley asked what happens when ridership goes down; is there a reduction in the number of employees, a reduction in the number of busses being used.

Mr. Rizzieri explained this is the first decline in ridership in the past seven years. People are still using transit. Currently, there will be no change in structure. Mr. Tilley added that there might be an increase in summertime ridership due to the new late night service for Central Avenue.

Mr. Brendan Miller stated he feels that if the system was more grid like, more people would ride. He feels that Routes 16 and 36 meander. That Route 5 should continue on Carlisle and go to Gibson. Mr. Rizzieri disagreed. He stated that straight lines on a map are not as important as accessibility to riders.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The next meeting will be on July 9, 2015 at 11:45 am at the ATC.

The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm