

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Alvarado Transportation Center – 2nd Floor**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 10, 2018**

**Board Members**

In Attendance:

Lucy Birbiglia, Nancy JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Brendan Miller, Willie Richardson, Harris Balkin, Rachel Hertzman, Patricia Salisbury, Bob Tilley, Orville Pratt

**Members of the Public**

In Attendance:

Will Maus, John Fleck, Beverly Hill, Oma Sandoval, Michael Lawler, Sarah Kelly

**ABQ RIDE**

In Attendance:

Sandra Saiz, Operation Supervisor; Yvette Garcia, Administrative Assistant; Jeremy Gonzales, Office Assistant

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. He then took roll and asked everyone in attendance what their mode of transportation was to the meeting: Brendan Miller-Walked, Lucy Birbiglia- Sun Van, Nancy JonesFrancis-Walked, Patricia Salisbury-Bus, Bill Richardson- Drove, Davis Kesner- Drove, Harris Balkin-Drove, Rachel Hertzman- Uber, Bob Tilley-Biked, Orville Pratt- Drove, Will Maus- Walked, Michael Lawler- Bus, Sarah Kelly- Bus, Beverly Hill- Carpool, Oma Sandoval-Bus, John Fleck- Did not state, Sandra Saiz- Drove, Yvette Garcia-Drove, and Jeremy Gonzales-Drove

**Acceptance of Agenda:** All members of the board approved agenda.

**Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2018:**

All Members of the Board approved April 12, 2018 Minutes.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Kelly stated an issue that she says has been happening time and time again. The bus schedules have been taken down from most of the stops and she feels that every bus stop needs to have some kind of spot to place bus schedules in. She stated that not everyone has a smart phone to look up times and bus routes. Mr. Tilley would like to see schedules at stops as well. Mr. Tilley mentioned there is the option of Text 2 Ride. This does not require you to have a smart phone. However, Mr. Tilley said he also would like to see schedules available to the public. Ms. JonesFrancis mentioned she knows it could be due to route changes, but Ms. Saiz clarified by saying they took some of the schedules down due to graffiti and some stops just don’t have a place to keep them. Ms. Hill mentioned that she had called 311 to ask about the new routes and to get bus times. Ms. Saiz stated that she will get in contact with a 311 supervisor to make sure Transit employees are aware of the problem. Mr. Lawler said he was erroneously quoted as saying that last month, there is no law requiring that we seat a handicap person. Since then, he researched the federal regulation and found that even though the signs in the older buses say that you must vacate seats for elderly or disable, there is no mandate to actually vacate those seats. However, there is a requirement in the regulation that the bus driver must ask those individuals who don’t have priority to vacate the seats. The bus driver cannot inforce his request, but does have the right to ask. Mr. Lawler recommended that people should not be allowed to stand in the narrowest part of the bus, which interferes with people getting on and off: these people are talking to the bus drivers and sometimes putting their feet on the seats. Mr. Lawler would also like to see the bicycle pull down racks lubricated. Ms. Hill was wondering why the talking walk signals have not yet been activated, because they are very helpful. Ms. Hill stated that she is very happy that the 766 Rapid Ride stop is going eastbound in Nob Hill, but on the way back, the stop is on the east side of Carlisle and that the Carlisle and Central intersection is very difficult to navigate. Ms. Hill recommended that until ART is in place, could the stop be moved to the Westside? Ms. Saiz responded by saying we can definitely put up a temporary stop until ART opens. Until then, they will look into it for her. Ms. Salisbury said she would like the #8 Menaul bus to remain on regular schedule because on Saturdays at 12th and Indian School, the #36-12th St./Rio Grande announces that you can get off to catch the #8 bus. However, the #8 doesn’t pass that intersection on Saturdays, so people get off. She says they are unaware of this, which makes them wait up to an hour to catch the next bus. She added that on holidays that fall on a Monday and have limited service, that particular announcement (to get off at that intersection to catch the #8) also pops up, which riders aren’t aware that on those holidays, the service is running a Saturday schedule. She would like the Menaul bus to stay on the same route every day. Mr. Tilley stated that he had a friend come in from the airport and had no idea where to catch the #50 from the airport. Mr. Tilly wanted to know how come there are no signs that say an ABQ Ride bus picks up here. Ms. Saiz stated that they have put up numerous signs at the airport; that Transit has been in contact with the Sunport Director and that neither can figure out what is happing to those signs. Ms. Saiz stated that she has a supervisor them check daily to make sure the Sunport signs are up for individuals who catch the city bus. Ms. Kelly would like to see more water fountains and available restrooms to the public at the Alvarado Transit Center. Because right now, they close the lobby at 5 p.m. and buses run a lot later than that. Mr. Miller would like to see the #8 run on weekends. Ms. Sandoval stated it’s difficult for the visually impaired when bus stops change. Mr. Tilley recommended riders should contact our city counselors, because that’s where the money comes from and is sure Mr. Toon would like to add more bus stops and a lot more routes. Ms. Birbiglia wonders if the Transit Advisory Board can make a specific recommendation to Mr. Toon to reexamine the changes in the Downtown bus routes. Ms. Birbiglia would like to recommend that Mr. Toon reconsider reinstating a bus stop at Civic Plaza due to the negative effect on accessibility of bus riders to Civic Plaza. Mr. Miller stated “All in Favor” and everyone agreed.

**Presentations:** None

**Chairpersons’ report**

**Director’s report**

Ms. Saiz spoke about the ridership and how overall FY 2017-2018 has seen a 7.8 percent decrease in ridership. Mr. Balkin wanted to mention that with all due respect to Mr. Toon and while he knows Mr. Toon has a lot on his plate, he would like for the Director to update the Transit Advisory Board on the status of the ART project. After all, the board in constantly asking about the project. Ms. Birbiglia asked if is there anyway besides the ridership in which routes and ridership have been reduced and by how much? Ms. Saiz stated that yes, the data is on the web site.

**Unfinished business**

Mr. Miller said he would like to see the #8 serve more parts of town. For example, the Southwest, Southeast, North Valley and Main Campus and also to have the #8 run on weekends. Mr. Miller would like the #8 to provide transportation and have it come every 40 minutes instead of every 45 minutes, as well as have an extra 15 minutes of run time.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.**