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**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 11, 2014**

**Board Members:**

In attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Annie JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson, David Schott, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley.

**Public:**

Brendan Miller, Aaron Hagler, Dr. Susan Richardson, Kateri Zuni, Dan Majewski.

**Transit:**

Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistant

**Meeting:**

Brendan Miller presented his proposal to add service to Alameda Blvd. He states his idea would be to extend Route 31 from Wyoming and Wilshire to the Northwest Transit Center. Mr. Miller presented a map to his proposal. Mr. Miller’s second attachment shows detail of Route 31 extension near the Balloon Museum. Mr. Miller points out, that there is an existing cutaway spot. Mr. Miller states this would also help to connect people from the NE Heights and the Westside to Balloon fiesta Park and the Balloon Museum. The third attachment is a proposed schedule for the extended version of this route. Mr. Miller states the Route would be longer, by about fifteen minutes, to one hour longer, and funding would be the issue.

Ms. Birbiglia commented that every Monday evening, the City Council meets and will be discussing a 3% raise for bus drivers.

Ms. Birbiglia has a question regarding the second BRT on Central, where are the passengers going to wait? Mr. Rizzieri stated there will be stations located in the median with pedestrian access from the sidewalks to these stations. Mr. Rizzeri stated he does have a presentation for this in his Director Report.

Two students from UNM were present to observe.

Dr. Richardson wanted to add to Mr. Miller’s idea, regarding Rio Rancho. If the route 31 is extended, this would help the people in Rio Rancho connect to Albuquerque and it would help ridership. Mr. Miller states that would only by a short term solution and the long term solution would be to extend transit service along State Route 582 to the Rail Station in Bernalillo and the Base.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Ms. JonesFrancis moved that the Agenda be approved. Mr. Kesner seconded the motion. The Board members agreed to approve the Agenda.

**Meeting Minutes from August:**

Ms. JonesFrancis, initially asked the Board if they wanted to hold off on approving the minutes, and Mr. Kesner stated he feels they could approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Smith. The Board accepted and approved the minutes.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Dan Majewski, of Urban ABQ, presented information on the Inaugural ABQ CiQlovia, which will be held on September 21, 2014. Mr. Majewski explained that the streets will be closed off to cars. It will be an opportunity for the people to use the streets, like a block party. Mr. Majewski stated the event will invite people to get away, walk or bike to other areas in the city.

Mr. Majewski explains that policies need to be in place to attract walkers. He states it is critical in the Albuquerque area and important to the aged, people who want to “age in place”. Mr. Majewski stated we need to make it safer for walking and biking. Mr. Majewski stated it will be an outreach to the neighborhoods and to get people to use the streets, it will be family friendly, and people are encouraged to bring food, drinks, and umbrellas. It will be pet friendly. There will be food trucks. The businesses along the route will also benefit.

Mr. Schott asked why Silver Ave. was chosen. Mr. Majewski stated that initially it was to be a four mile route, but was lessened to a two mile route. Ms. JonesFrancis wanted to know how this effort was funded. Mr. Majewski stated the organization has website and is on Facebook where they accept donations.

Mr. Tilley had a question about the Silver Ave. route. Mr. Majewski stated it is configured for people to do a loop. Ms. JonesFrancis commented that the route would connect both ends of the Bosque. Mr. Majewski stated that the point of the loop is to show what a real boulevard is like. Mr. Majewski stated that the idea by the Mayor is to make this a cohesive network, to show the “cool parts of the city”, to bring people into neighborhoods and to be able to find their way without a car. This could lead to conversations for permanent bike and walking structures.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Mr. Kesner inquired about ABQ Transit’s organizational chart. Mr. Rizzieri handed out the chart to the board members and reviewed what was on the chart. Ms. JonesFrancis commented that this was a pretty basic structure. Mr. Schott discussed the up-coming even, regarding Mr. Rudolfo Anaya, which led to the Director’s Report.

**Director’s Report**

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the significant contributions that Mr. Rudolfo Anaya has made for New Mexico and Albuquerque. Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the event that will take place on September 30, 2014 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the State Fair that began September 10, 2014. He let the board members know about the shuttle that will be operated by Transit; the service will be available on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 noon until 11:30 pm.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the up-coming meetings for the Albuquerque Rapid Transit project. The meetings are: October 7th at Loma Linda Community Center, October 8th at the Albuquerque Museum, October 9th at the Old Main Library, October 14th at the Alamosa Community Center, October 15th at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, and October 16th at the Mesa Verde Community Center.

Mr. Rizzieri has a presentation regarding Central Ave., the Station Design, and information about the landscaping

. Mr. Rizzieri stated that ridership in the first two months of FY15 is down.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the Resolution for the TAB Board as well as the ACTMI Board. Mr. Rizzieri stated he asked city council staff to provide input on the draft resolution. Mr. Rizzieri asked board members to comment by the end of the month. Mr. Miller stated that ridership was down in Santa Fe.

Mr. Rizzieri stated Transit staff, are drafting route changes for the Route 16/18. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the changes have to be cost neutral and route neutral with no significant increases to the budget, before changes can be made. Mr. Rizzieri answered questions about the Board Members positions.

Mr. Richardson had questions about the Organizational Chart. Mr. Rizzieri explained that a there is a trainer for both fixed routes and para transit.

Mr. Rizzieri began his presentation, with slides, showing examples of landscaping options and curbside transition to mediums for the BRT. He explained the possibilities of using the lanes for the Eastbound in the AM and then Westbound in the PM.

Mr. Rizzieri showed several concepts for the station locations in the medium Mr. Schott stated that it appears to wipe out the parking. Mr. Rizzieri stated the proposed operating plan doesn’t remove any on-street parking.

Ms. Conley stated that narrowing lanes slows traffic.

Mr. Schott asked if there will be park- n- rides for downtown workers. Mr. Rizzieri stated they are looking for parcels of land for more parking spaces.

Mr. Schott expressed concerns with having several services on Central ave.; Route 66, the Rapid Rides and now BRT.

Mr. Rizzieri noted the BRT will replace the Rapid Ride service and would provide quicker service due to the dedicated lanes. Ms. Conley states this will be faster. Mr. Tilley states there will be choices.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the process for fare increases. The Transit department needs to conduct a fare equity analysis and hold public meetings. The administration needs to concur with the fare proposal and the City Council needs to approve.

Dr. Richardson stated that an All Day Pass for adults costs, two dollars. Mr. Rizzieri will get a copy of the fares for the next meeting. Dr. Richardson suggests there should be no discounts, only a straight forward rate for a wide group of people. Mr. Kessner commented that New Future School has free passes. Mr. Rizzieri explained that city’s Economic Development Department purchased the passes and made them available to the school. This is similar to UNM or CNM providing funding to ABQ RIDE and students who have the proper identification card don’t need to pay.

**Unfinished Business/New Business:**

Mr. Kesner stated they already spoke about the Resolution. Mr. Kesner was concerned that the Route 16/18 information on the ABQ RIDE app had not been changed; he stated it is still at the bottom of the route listing and should it should be located after the Route 13. It was stated that a new version of this app has Route 16/18 in the proper location. Ms. JonesFrancis stated she was not present for the last meeting, and commented about Mr. Tilley’s presentation. Ms. JonesFrancis also spoke about the re-appointments and the need to bring in resumes to Dayna [Crawford

**Next Meeting:**

The next TAB meeting is October 9, 2014 at 11:45

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm