

**Transit Advisory Board**

 **Meeting Minutes**

**December 11, 2014**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Cristen Conley, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Brendan Miller, Dena Wurman

**ABQ RIDE:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistant.

Poll Taken by Ms. Conley as to how each of the attendees arrived to the TAB meeting; which also was used as the roll call

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Miller stated that he had completed the application to join the Advisory Board. Mr. Miller commented that the Route formally known as the 16/18, will be changing effective December 13, this Saturday, and the name will now be Route 16 and he quoted the Route change. Mr. Miller’s concern was that there was no longer a stop at Central and Broadway, southbound and there were no additional hours added to the route. Ms. Conley inquired about the nearest stop to this corner, which is Broadway and Coal on the south side of Central and Broadway, and Martin Luther King and Broadway on the north side of Central and Broadway. Ms. Conley inquired of Mr. Rizzieri how difficult would it be for Transit to put that stop back. Mr. Rizzieri stated that he would speak with the Transit route planning staff.

Mr. Miller suggests the Route 31 should have extended hours as well as the possibility to extend the route to Academy, he feels there is a lot of ridership in that area.

Ms. Wurman had a concern about the Route 16/18, in the Carlisle and Silver area. Ms. Wurman asks why the bus only runs until 5:00 pm. She states that with this schedule it does not allow her to travel for events that end after 5:00 pm. Mr. Rizzieri explained that the reason is budget and potential ridership. Ms. Wurman asked, if ridership is up, why doesn’t the Transit department receive additional funding? Mr. Rizzieri explained that departmental funding increase are determined by the overall increase in gross receipts tax revenues received by the city and the increase in operational costs. Ms. Wurman suggests doing a survey of ridership, to increase fares, and she state that she would be happy to pay more for the bus ride. Ms. Wurman asked if the TAB has the power to make changes, at which Mr. Rizzieri stated the Board is able to make suggestions to the City Council but the Budget hearings at the City Council are where *she* would be able to voice her suggestions. Ms. Conley states, that although these are *very important* comments, the fares do not cover the cost of Transit. Ms. Conley believes that Mr. Rizzieri is doing all he can and would surely want to provide more frequent service and add services to those areas in need but, Ms. Conley states Transit money comes from the general fund and it needs to be prioritized.

**Acceptance Agenda:**

Mr. Smith moved to accept and Mr. Richardson seconded and the Agenda was approved.

**Minutes from November 13, 2014:**

Mr. Smith moved to accept and Mr. Pratt seconded and the Minutes were approved.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Ms. Conley had no report, only comments regarding the Holiday Schedules that came out. Mr. Pratt states the e-mails he receives from Vanessa, comes out as “code’. Ms. Conley stated the Ms. Birbiglia reported to her, that she has had some issues, with her personal rides on the Sun Van. These concerns were regarding late rides. This happened three times in one week and one time in another week. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the Department is currently down 10 Sun Van Chauffeurs. Driver Interviews are taking place. Ms. Conley and Mr. Richardson want clarification on the process of hiring and suggest a bigger hopper to have individuals ready to hire when a vacancy occurs. Mr. Rizzieri states the Department is not normally this far behind in hiring for Sun Van.

**Directors Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri stated that the next meeting for the Rapid Transit is on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at the West Park Association.

Mr. Smith had questions regarding the Houston Trip members of the Transit Department attended. He asked if they received information on how to acquire revenues for the Transit Department, other than through taxes. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the transit staff only went to the Bus Expo so that they could speak with the represented vendors and manufacturers. Some items that staff looked at were: mobile ticketing, training simulators, new seats, maintenance equipment, new buses and supervisor vehicles.

Mr. Miller asked if the bus drivers like the driver partitions. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the drivers do not like them.

A copy of the Transit Advisory Board resolution was given to the board members. This Resolution, which updates information regarding the TAB, ACTMI and the Transit Department, passed the Finance and Government Operation committe and is now going to the City Council for a vote, but it was not know when.

Another handout was provided to the Board regarding a minimum fare box recovery ratio policy. The draft resolution provides definition of terms and requires a minimum 25% systemwide fixed-route recover ratio by June 30, 2022.

Mr. Smith asked how the department was going to go from a 12% farebox recovery to 25% percent given that the ridership is so poor. Mr. Rizzieri stated that this is one of the reason for have June 30, 2022 deadline.

Mr. Smith asked about expansion of transit services to areas in which there is no service. Mr. Rizzieri answered the Transit should viewed as a corridor service and not as a geographic service.

Ms. Wurman states, there is a problem when the transit system cannot provide late night rides, it will not attract people to move here.

**Unfinished Business/ New Business:**

Ms. Conley inquired about the process for service improvements. Mr. Rizzieri suggested that the Board decide on a service expansion it would like to occur. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the route planning staff would then present to the Board the process the staff used to determine, potential ridership, operating cost, required number of buses, etc. Ms. Conley stated, that will be business for the next meeting.

Mr. Tilley stated, in regards to the discussion, the big question is, there are two types of transportation to provide the city. Do we serve every neighborhood or do we improve corridors. Which would provide the “bigger bang for the buck”? Mr. Richardson questioned how many of the City Council people ride Transit.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Ms. Conley moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Tilley seconded the motion. The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:17pm.