

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 8, 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Annie JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, David Schott, and Warren Smith.to

**Public**

Brendan Miller has applied with a position with the Board, so the Board felt it was appropriate for him to sit with the Board today. They welcomed Mr. Miller.

**ABQ Ride:**

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

Poll taken by Ms. Jones Francis as to how each of the attendees arrived to the TAB meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Miller stated that on Christmas Eve, his mother and he waited for the number 5 going east for half an hour past the scheduled pick up at the intersection on Montgomery and Louisiana. Mr. Rizzieri stated he will look into this.

**Acceptance Agenda:**

Ms. JonesFrancis added two items to the agenda; the agenda was moved by Ms. Birbiglia to accept and Mr. Schott seconded and the agenda was approved.

**Minutes from December 11, 2014:**

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

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Ms. JonesFrancis stated she wanted to review Bus Passes. Ms. JonesFrancis wanted to information on Drafts future for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Ms. JonesFrancis stated there will be an “open meetings” on January 15 from noon to 7p.m. at MRCOG. Mr. Pratt asked if one could go anytime during that time and it was noted by Ms. JonesFrancis that the formal presentation will be at 6 p.m. and will last half an hour.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about ridership for the month of December. Mr. Rizzieri stated that ridership was up for December compared to December of 2013. However, total ridership, Year-To-Date, is 2 percent below the ridership for the same time period last year.

The Board had a question regarding the suggestion for an all-day pass for students and seniors. Mr. Rizzieri responded that offering this fare product would require a change in the Fare Ordinance. Before such a change could take place, ABQ RIDE would need to prepare a fare analysis, conduct a public meeting, send a Fare Ordinance change proposal to the administration, which could send the proposal to the City Council.

Mr. Kessner asked about the misquotation of fare product prices from the drivers. Mr. Miller stated the ABQ RIDE app shows different fare product prices than those quoted by the drivers. Mr. Rizzieri stated he believed that this was taken care of and he will look into this further.

Mr. Rizzieri elaborated on questions about how the cost of fuel affects the department. He explained that the budget is evaluated every year and that some savings are used to pay for unexpected needs. When we are under budget it is good, but money goes back into the general fund.

Mr. Rizzieri answered the question from the Board, regarding the present situation with the ACTMI Board. Mr. Rizzieri explained that Rene Mullen left due to no longer being eligible to sit on the Board and that Tonia’s work duties at UNM were at a level that she felt she need to resign from the Board.

Mr. Rizzieri undated the Board regarding the Resolution for the Board name change. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the City Council approved this Resolution at Monday night’s meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the obligations of the Sun Van driver. There were questions regarding curb to curb service as opposed to door to door service. Mr. Rizzieri explained that a client of the Sun Van can request door-to-door service. The discussion also included the fact that the Sun Van clients have an obligation to be ready, at the curb, like a regular Bus Route, the only difference being, is that the Van is in front of your home.

Mr. Smith had a question to Mr. Rizzieri, regarding the updates for the ART. Mr. Rizzieri stated that many project activities are occurring. One item is the University to Girard area, where the project team is looking at the stimulation of traffic flow. Landscape renderings are being prepared. Ms. JonesFrancis asked when construction is going to start. Mr. Rizzieri stated that when the funding process is more developed he could provide a response.

Mr. Schott commented about the single lane situation along the BRT route, and how in Tucson motorist are allowed to use the street car lane. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the dedicated, rapid vehicle lane could also be used by police, fire and emergency vehicles. Otherwise, the use of the dedicated lane would not be allowed for general purpose traffic, unless there was a major accident or similar event. Mr. Schott had concerns about the lanes that are being taken away in the Nob Hill area, he stated that it will affect that area, especially in retail; it will take a “big chunk of business”. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the department was not making unilateral decisions.

Mr. Schott stated that the Web site that is providing information for the ART, still has no map for the Nob Hill area. He states that the people who live in this area continue to not have current information. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the renderings are being worked on. Mr. Pratt asked if the engineers are considering alternative routes to bypass Central. Mr. Rizzieri explained the MRCPG is looking at the re-distribution of the traffic

Discussion continued regarding the pros and cons of the ART proposal. Members of the Board talked about the effectiveness the ART and the improved transit travel times.

**Unfinished business/new Business:**

Ms. JonesFrancis moved to postpone the letter to City Council agenda item.

Ms. Birbiglia wanted to discuss bus accidents and especially the most recent ones. The Board had questions about the video in the news and wanted to know if the driver was ok and what was the policy for seat belt usage. Mr. Rizzieri stated that this is a good reminder as to why it is required for drivers to wear a seat belt. Ms. JonesFrancis stated that it is her understanding that there are four to five accidents a week, Mr. Rizzieri stated, that is correct. It could range from broken mirrors, due to being too close to trees when turning to more serious accidents.

Mr. Schott mentioned an incident where a passenger was injured while running after a bus. He wondered if a driver intentionally leaves a person behind. Mr. Rizzieri explained that when the bus is pulling away from the curb, the drivers are looking to his left side, for traffic, they are no longer looking to their right.

The status of activating the new traffic light at the Montaño Transit Center was raised. Mr. Rizzieri stated that this light needs to be coordinated with the rail crossing light and the traffic lights at Second Street and Edith Blvd. This is the first arrangement of its kind in the city. He hopes this light will be activated by July 1 of this year.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting Ms. Birbiglia seconded the motion. The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.