

**Transit Advisory Board**

 **Meeting Minutes**

 **April 9, 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Annie JonesFrancis, Willie Richardson, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley.

**Public:**

Maurice Williams Jr., Dr. Susan Richardson.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Annette Paez, Associate Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistant.

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

**Public Comment:**

Dr. Richardson passed a flyer to the Board members on how to access information using the ABQ Transit app.

**Acceptance Agenda:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Birbiglia moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded and the agenda was approved.

**Minutes from March 12, 2015:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the minutes. Mr. Tilley moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Smith seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

None made.

**Director’s Report:**

Ms. Paez stated that the ridership is down from FY14 by 4 percent. Ms. JonesFrancis stated the ridership was over one million for March of last year. Does Transit have an explanation for the decrease in ridership?

Ms. Paez was not able to offer an explanation. Mr. Tilley stated that when the economy is down enrollment in the university goes up, and there are more riders.

Ms. JonesFrancis stated that with gas prices going up, ridership could increase. Ms. Birbiglia said safety issues are a factor.

Mr. Tilley feels buses are still safer, but the media keeps on going with the January accidents. Ms. Paez indicated that it is a combination of different factors. Mr. Tilley states there are a lot of incentives for people to drive; i.e. free parking.

Ms. JonesFrancis was concerned that some information was left off the agenda. It was determined that this information was not included on the agenda that was sent out by Ms. JonesFrancis.

Ms. Conley spoke about the concerns regarding improved bus service for the Job Corp area. Ms. Conley explained that the weekends and late nights need more service. Ms. Conley added that Mr. Rizzieri will be talking to her about this situation.

**Para-Transit Advisory Board:**

Ms. Conley would like permission from Ms. Frandsen to have her address so that she may write her a letter.

**Unfinished business/New Business:**

Dr. Richardson discussed the letter to the City Council. Ms. JonesFrancis explained to Dr. Richardson that this letter is currently in draft form at this time with ideas for outreach, support, and communication between City Council and the Board.

There was a discussion about the Rail Runner and how it was being looked at as a commuter train and not a passenger train.

Mr. Tilley stated he spoke to the City Council regarding public transportation. Mr. Tilley also said that there were other people who spoke in favor of transit, including business owners. One of the issues at the City Council meeting was a vote on funding of the BRT. The City Council approved $13 million for this project.

Mr. Tilley stated a Bike Share program will begin in May. Ms. Birbiglia would like this program at CNM.

Mr. Tilley had information for Mr. Rizzieri on UberCare, it could become a tool for ABQ Ride to expand routes and change routes.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Paez if money for advertising could go to a weekly column in the newspaper dedicated to news item about Transit. He stated that one Board member could write the column. Many of the Board members stated it should be someone from Transit who should write the column.

Ms. Birbiglia wanted to know if the traffic light have been placed at the Montaño Transit Center. Ms. Paez stated that this project is close to completion.

Dr. Richardson suggested that Route 157 might run better if the route segment timings were recalibrated; some segments appear to have more time than is needed, while other segments appear to not have sufficient running time. The next meeting will be on May 14, 2015 at 11:45 a.m. at the ATC

**Meeting adjourned**

The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15