

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 14, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Ms. JonesFrancis called the meeting to order at 11:50 am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, David Kesner, Warren Smith, Patricia Salisbury.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Cheryl Hunt, Judy Hatfield.

**ABQ Ride:**

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

Ms. JonesFrancis took roll and polled the Board as well as others as to what was their mode of transportation to the meeting.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes from March 10, 2016:**

The minutes were not ready to approval at this meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Judy Hatfield stated that she is present to sit and listen. She commented when she is asked about the ART she doesn’t have any answers.

Ms. Cheryl Hunt observed a bus driver chastising a citizen at a bus stop. Ms. Hunt related information regarding a bus stop in front of Encino House, she stated that there needs to be better communication when there is construction and it effects a bus stop.

Ms. Conley questioned Ms. Hunt about the driver chastising the citizen, and asked “Did you find that to be appropriate or inappropriate?” Ms. Hunt felt it was inappropriate because the driver claimed he would call the police if he did not move from the bus stop bench. Ms. Conley stated that the questions of having someone sit at a bus stop bench will be brought to Mr. Rizzieri, to address at a later time in the meeting.

Mr. Rizzieri responded by stating he will look to see if this was a scheduled construction because normally if we get a notice of an upcoming construction, we place signage and accommodate for the stop that is affected.

**Announcements/Chairpersons’ report**

Mr. David Kesner commented that he had attended the Stardust Neighborhood Association meeting where Diane Denish was present. Mr. Kesner stated that the meeting turned into a near riot when the conversation of the ART came up. He was able to speak to Ms. Denish who is not for the ART and plans to write a letter.

**Director’s report**

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about fixed-route ridership and explained that it is doing a little better than this time last year, due in part to gas prices going up by six cents per gallon in the last week.

ART public outreach efforts continues.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the EDo area (from Broadway, eastward to I-25 on Central). The Landmark and Urban Conservation Commission (LUCC) during its April meeting had an ART project item on its agenda: the ART station at Walter Street. The Commission deferred any action to the May meeting.

Mr. Kesner commented that it was stated in today’s newspaper that the ART is not a go.

Mr. Rizzieri explained that on February 9 of this year the President’s recommended budget was released. The ART project was recommended in the Small Starts category for funding of $69 million. Congress has to approve the appropriations bill in which this funding is included. If the funding is approved, FTA will let the city know if the funding will be provided in one fiscal year or over several fiscal years.

Mr. Rizzieri continued, City Council has approved a resolution to accept the $69 million is approved by congress. The cost of the project, which includes the transit portion, sidewalk enhancements, lighting improvements, is $119 million.

Ms. Birbiglia asked that if the project cost exceeds the $119 million, does the city need to provide additional funds. Mr. Rizzieri answered that it would.

Mr. Kesner thought that the contractor and city would agree to a guaranteed price. Mr. Rizzieri answered that this correct. However, if changes are made to the project, the construction cost would probably increase.

 Ms. JonesFrancis asked when design has to be submitted. Mr. Rizzieri answered, “Before the grant is signed.”

Ms. Salisbury wanted to know the status of the project design and who is in charge of the design? Mr. Rizzieri stated that we are pretty close to 100 percent completion. HDR is the company responsible the design.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the upcoming 75th anniversary of Kirkland AFB. They will have the Thunderbirds air show on June 4th and June 5th ABQRide will be operating 50 buses to shuttle people to the event.

Ms. Salisbury inquired about obtaining a summary of the discussions on the ART. Ms. Salisbury wanted to know if there was an outline about the positive as well as the major criticisms on the ART. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the project website has a lot of information about the project. The web address is [www.brtabq.com](http://www.brtabq.com).

Ms. Conley asked Mr. Rizzieri if there was a policy about people sitting at bus stops. Mr. Rizzieri answered that if it appears that people are ‘hanging out’ at the bus stop, they will be asked to leave. Ms. Conley asked Ms. Hunt if the person that the bus driver chastising appeared to be intoxicated, Ms. Hunt answered that he did not.

Mr. Kesner wanted Mr. Rizzieri to discuss the new City Transit Advisory Board and wanted to know who was going to choose the board.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that his understanding of the purpose of this board was to address concerns of people who managed or owned businesses along the Central Avenue corridor; similar to the Downtown Action Team.

Ms. Conley was concerned that the board would be comprised of people who do not use the transit system and are valuing the word of property owners over those who may use the system. Ms. JonesFrancis was concerned because the City has not been able to fill positions on this Board or the PTAB; why does the City feel that they can fill nine positions on this proposed board when it’s on the same topic.

Ms. JonesFrancis stated that she needed answers. Mr. Rizzieri stated that if board members wanted to talk about their concerns with this resolution, they would need to go talk to the city councilors.

Ms. Birbiglia wanted to know if the appointed members to the proposed board would have term limits. Mr. Rizzieri answered that he didn’t have an answer to this question. The Resolution may have this information.

Ms. Conley asked Ms. Salisbury how long ago she applied to be on the TAB. Ms. Salisbury stated it took about five or six months and she stated that she stayed on top of it and she kept in touch with Carmen Ortiz and also spoke with her City Councilor.

Mr. Kesner stated that this was the first meeting that he has heard that there was a pamphlet for ART. He would like to have some available for work. He has an event for which he would like to make sure he gets pamphlets. Mr. Rizzieri said that he would make sure that Vanessa Baca gets those to him.

Mr. Kesner stated he works for the federal government and there are many employees who get federal funding for bus transportation and he thinks that the TAB board can be advertised through the agency coordinator.

Ms. Conley found the language of ordinance 0-16-12 and stated that the ordinance is written in positive language. Ms. Conley is still concerned that it would only be comprised of property owners.

Ms. JonesFrancis, Mr. Smith and Mr. Kesner believe that the proposed board is a duplication of effort. It was stated, “Why do they need another board if they have us?”

Ms. Conley’s concerns regarding the ART project are about adequate feeder service, service running later, and perpendicular lines to Central Ave. and parking.

Ms. JonesFrancis stated there is going to be an overall upgrade. Central Ave. is getting an upgrade because it is the backbone of the system but the rest of the system will not be ignored because Rapid Ride buses will be used on other routes. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the Rapid Rides will not be used for other routes immediately that will be the next planning effort.

Mr. Kesner asked if that would also be including expanding service times. Mr. Rizzieri stated that is going to take about a year to work on extended times.

Ms. Salisbury suggested that the Rapid Ride that travels on Rio Grande make more stops and Mr. Rizzieri stated that he will look into this possibility.

Mr. Smith asked if there will be a special tax for more routes and Mr. Rizzieri stated “no”.

Ms. Conley e-mailed a copy of the ordinance to each Board member.

Ms. Birbiglia asked if the issue that a driver had at the last meeting was resolved. This was regarding construction barriers placed near bus stops interfering with the stop when he had a handicapped passenger on board and his need to extend the ramp. Mr. Rizzieri stated the cones are removed at the end of the day and it will continue to be monitored.

Ms. JonesFrancis asked about a project that was announced last year, in which there would be apartments at the Uptown Transit Center. Mr. Rizzieri stated that a gentleman is still working on this proposal.

Ms. Conley stated she likes the proposal that pets can ride on the bus. Ms. JonesFrancis had concerns that big dogs would take up the seats, or what if a dog is violent. Ms. Conley states this proposal requires all dogs to wear muzzles and they cannot be on the seats. Ms. Birbiglia thought the proposal was only for companion dogs and not pets and Ms. Conley stated that pets will also be included and Mr. Rizzieri stated that pets are defined as dogs or cats.

Ms. Salisbury inquired if someone from the TAB could sit on the proposed Central Ave. advisory board.

 Ms. Birbiglia stated that there is something wrong with a city sponsored board where property ownership is the criterion for membership. Ms. JonesFrancis wondered if the board would be run separately from TAB or could this be a sub board. Ms. Conley stated that our charter and this ordinance presume the ability to interact and go to other board meetings.

Ms. Salisbury wanted to know if a grocery type cart has to be folded up. Mr. Rizzieri stated he agreed that it does not have to folded up and this information can be brought to the driver’s attention through training.

**Adjourned:**

Ms. JonesFrancis moved to adjourn and Ms. Conley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm

**Next meeting:**

11:45 am May 12, 2016 at the Alvarado Transit Center.