

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 13, 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance; Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Annie Jones Francis, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson, David Schott, Bob Tilley.

**Public:**

Cheryl Hunt, Pat Pavisch, Olivia Jaramillo.

**ABQ Ride:**

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

**Acceptance Agenda:**

Mr. David Kesner asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Conley moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Pratt seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from July, 9, 2015:**

There were corrections to the minutes. Ms. Cristen Conley was not present as stated in July, 9th minutes.

Mr. David Kesner asked for approval of minutes. Mr. Tilley moved to accept the minutes. Mrs. Richardson seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Cheryl Hunt spoke about the shelter at Martin Luther King stop, which had graffiti on the plastic, but when the graffiti was removed the system map can hardly be seen because the plastic is scratched.

Ms. Hunt discussed that she has called 311 about the trash cans at several bus stops. Ms. Hunt had a concern about the security at the Alvarado Transit Center, Ms. Hunt feels that they should separate and patrol that way, instead of together in a group, so they can eliminate smokers, and other violations at the ATC.

Ms. Hunt suggested that Transit add another bus to the Central Route. Ms. Hunt states the ridership between 9am and 4pm causes riders to stand on the busses and when the busses are full like that, the busses drive past bus stops.

Ms. Hunt asked if the ART was a project that was still going through, in which Mr. Rizzieri stated that he will be speaking on this subject during the Director portion of the meeting.

Ms. Hunt had a concern about the westbound bus stop at Lomas and the American Legion. Ms. Hunt feels that this stop needs a bench and a shelter. Ms. JonesFrancis stated that people don’t use this stop, but Ms. Hunt said that because of the Dr.’s offices in the area, that it is used.

Ms. Hunt stated she advocates for seniors and would like to advocate for senior businesses, she would like to have a talk session for them with someone from Transit.

Ms. Patricia Pabisch spoke about her concerns regarding the ART. She expressed that the walk from her home through her neighborhood to Central to use the ART is crime riddled. In the winter, when it is dark outside, the walk would be unsafe. Ms. Pabisch states she would use mass Transit, but can’t get there safely. ART is putting the cart before the horse; the City needs to address this safety issue first.

Ms. Olivia Jaramillo stated that she has used Transit and she also has concerns about the ART. Ms. Jaramillo stated with the ART running through Central she fears it will cause the traffic to go into the side streets. She would not like to see increased traffic in the neighborhood.

Ms. Jaramillo added that if there were better lighting in the neighborhood, it would be accessible for all to walk safely.

**Announcements/Chairpersons’ Report:**

Ms. Annie JonesFrancis discussed recruiting new TAB members. Ms. JonesFrancis spoke to Ms. Carmen Ortiz from the Mayor’s office who told her it was a good idea to recruit Board members.

Ms. Hunt asked if seniors could be appointed for Board members. Mr. Kesner thought that maybe for the Para Transit Advisory Board. Mr. Rizzieri stated that they could.

Mr. Orville Pratt stated that he received his appointment by way of a certificate signed by the Mayor.

Ms. Lucy Birbiglia stated that the Board requires four new members before anyone can leave.

At this time Ms. Annie JonesFrancis extended her appreciation for the members of the Board who have been on an expired status and yet still remain.

Ms. Jaramillo asked if there was a web site that listed the qualifications for being a Board member. Mr. Rizzieri guided Ms. Jaramillo to the City web site, under Boards and Commissions. Mr. Tilley also added that there are several Boards that a person could look into, not only Transit.

**Directors Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri started his report by stating the ridership is slightly over one million for July. Mr. Rizzieri sees ridership going up with increases in enrollment at UNM and CNM. Mr. Rizzieri also stated “with the new businesses in the Downtown area, as well as the increased use of the Downtown Social Security office, ridership could increase.”

Mr. Rizzieri updated the Board about the ART and the funding process that has begun.

Mr. Rizzieri explained to the Board that there will be meetings held with Rio Metro, ABQ Transit and other organizations from other parts of the country, to discuss Transit Oriented Development, urban revitalization and how to provide service to the residents, whom they expect to be moving into the area.

Mr. Rizzieri updated the Board with information on the progress of the new Sun Vans. Mr. Rizzieri stated 40 vans were ordered; most are replacement vans. There will be seven to ten new vans. The vans should be in production by October.

Mr. Rizzieri also added that all of the remaining 300 series fixed busses will be replaced.

Mr. David Kesner spoke about Route 140-141 and asked that it be looked at so that would also serve the new development that is towards the back at West Jefferson. Mr. Rizzieri stated he will have someone take a look at the route. And at the ridership in the area, and have someone call the Gap location regarding travel training, Mr. Kesner stated he would be happy to coordinate this effort.

Ms. Lucy Birbiglia asked Mr. Rizzieri about the 300 series busses that were running on Route 140-141, because of an earlier concern that these busses have ramps that malfunction. Mr. Rizzieri stated that maintenance tries not to have the 300’s on this route, but it depends on what buses are available.

Ms. Birbiglia also thanked Mr. Rizzieri for the four percent raise the drivers got.

Mr. Bob Tilley was concerned about the parking for people going to the Social Security building and suggested that the D Ride be extended so it would go near the office. Mr. Rizzieri stated he has been in contact with the manager of this office and they plan to meet to discuss options to the parking.

Mr. Tilley also suggested that Route 50, which goes by the airport, should extend their hours or service, both by running later and by running seven days a week. Mr. Tilley feels that tying this route to the Downtown area for conventions would be accommodating due to all the hotels in the airport area.

The Board continued to discuss route changes that would provide more service from the Airport to Downtown and the Rail Runner.

Mr. Kesner stated that there needs to be better signage at the Airport for transit information.

**New Business/ Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Orville Pratt commented about senior transportation concerns. Mr. Pratt feels that not only millennial citizens are interested, but also seniors.

The Board discussed that there seems to be no ART planning for the Tramway and Central area. Mr. Tilley stated, “Once the ART is complete, there will be more housing, roads and busses.

It was discussed that the ART needs more stops. Members of the Board relayed that businesses are rejecting the ART because of how they will be affected. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the ART team will be speaking to business owners and answering any questions they may have, there will be improvements to the sidewalks with ADA curb cuts and landscaping.

The question came up as to what will happen with Routes 766-777? Mr. Rizzieri stated it will be replaced with the ART.

Ms. Birbiglia inquired if there are new routes will that mean there will be additional drivers. Also, with the Sun Van passengers increasing at the rate of one hundred people per month, will this cause an increase in the number of vans and drivers? Mr. Rizzieri stated that there will be about 10 new busses added to the Sun Van fleet. This addition will provide some scheduling flexibility.

Mr. Rizzieri was asked if Transit was going to be involved in transportation for the State Fair. Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the park-and- ride locations, as well as free shuttle rides from the Casino area to the State Fair admission gates.

Next meeting will be September 10, 2015 at the Alvarado Transit Center.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.