

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

 **February 11, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Mr. David Kesner called the meeting to order at 11:46 am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson, David Schott, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Art Lake, Cheryl Hunt, Senior Advocate; Judy Hatfield.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Vanessa Baca, Marketing Manager; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

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

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Mr. Kesner asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Birbiglia moved to accept the minutes. Ms. Tilley seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from January 14, 2016:**

Mr. Smith moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Richardson seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Art Lake commented that our bus system is very nice but could use some tweaking.

Ms. Hatfield commented that she is happy with the bus system.

Ms. Hunt stated route 66 has continued to be standing room only.

**Visitor Presentation:**

Ms. Vanessa Baca, Marketing Manager spoke about ways they plan to increase ridership thru advertising. They will highlight positive points: you can read on the bus, you can text a friend on the bus, and you can relax while riding the bus. Ms. Baca informed us of a pending city-wide contract with Clear Channel Communications for digital bill board information.

Ms. Baca also described the fixed-route travel training program for groups, and individuals. Program information includes reading bus schedules and the system maps.

Ms. Baca responded to several other questions about the system maps and explained that ABQ RIDE marketing staff were posting system maps at many bus shelters.

Ms. Baca spoke about “Kids In Motion”; an introductory transit program for elementary and mid-school students.

Mr. Schott inquired about the summer bus pass program. Ms. Baca explained that this program hasn’t been used for a couple of years now due to a low pass sales. Mr. Schott pointed out that if you want kids to use the bus that would be a good program.

Ms. Baca responded to questions regarding transit schedule information at the Sunport and how schedule information is provided to hotels and at the Convention Center.

Mr. Lake inquired about the ART project. He wanted to know if the Route 66 line will remain on Central Ave. Ms. Baca informed him and the Board that the ART will replace Routes 766 and 777. The ART is part of the infrastructure that will accommodate the urban growth west of the river, it is setting the stage for job growth, for the baby boomers who want to downsize and who do not want to have to drive everywhere.

Ms. Baca also answered questions regarding the ART and access during construction for business and any adjustments for perpendicular service, like to the airport. Ms. Baca stated that transit does not want any business to close down due to this project and there will be events along Central Ave., community events such as block parties that will highlight businesses.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri reports that the ridership is steady.

The ART project was included in the Small Starts funding category of the president’s proposed 2017 budget. Mr. Rizzieri announced that there were ten cities who received these Small Starts funding recommendations.

Mr. Schott spoke about the Central and San Mateo intersection, where pedestrian safety has been an issue, Mr. Rizzieri stated he will talk to DMD about ways to prevent J-walking in this area.

Mr. Tilley inquired about the status of the new CNG buses. Mr. Rizzieri stated that almost all of them have been placed into service.

There was a question about one of the stops for the D-Ride at Fifth and Roma. Mr. Rizzieri stated that stop will be permanently closed because it was becoming a challenge for the drivers to pull in and out.

Mr. Lake noticed that there were a lot of bus stops in the City and wanted to know why. Mr. Rizzieri stated this was for customer service.

**Paratransit Advisory Board Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the upcoming Sun Van Newsletter, and asked the Board if they had any suggestions for items to include in the Newsletter.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that there was discussion at the PTAB for potential changes to the appeals process.

They are still in the process in filling vacant seats for the PTAB and spoke about the requirements.

Ms. Birbiglia asked Mr. Rizzieri if the Newsletter will be presented in brail? Mr. Rizzieri answered that at the request of the recipient a copy will be made available in brail.

**Unfinished Business:**

Ms. Conley stated that since ART federal funding has been recommended, the board can now look at writing a letter to help the public better understand the ART project.

Ms. Conley also would like to make businesses more aware of the low interest loans.

Ms. Conley would like more Park-n-ride’s to be considered.

Mr. Kesner stated they can continue to work on preparing a letter to the City Council.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Kesner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schott seconded and the meeting is adjourned at 1:07 pm. The next meeting for TAB will be held on the second floor of the Alvarado Transit Center at 11:45 am on Thursday, March 10, 2016.