



**Transit Advisory Board**  
**Alvarado Transportation Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**February 8, 2018**

**Board Members**

In Attendance:

Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Nancy JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Brendan Miller, Willie Richardson, Warren Smith, Harris Balkin, Rachel Hertzman, Geoff Zehnder, Patricia Salisbury

**Members of the Public**

In Attendance:

Katherine Arndt, Jon Messier, Lee Hammer, Will Maus, Christopher Ramirez

**ABQ RIDE**

In Attendance:

Annette Paez, Acting Director; Andrew de Garmo, Principal Planner; Yvette Garcia, Administrative Assistant

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 11:47 AM. He then took roll and asked everyone that was in attendance what their mode of transportation to the meeting was: Brendan Miller-Walked, Lucy Birbiglia- Sun Van, Nancy JonesFrancis-Walked, Patricia Salisbury-Bus, Bill Richardson- Drove, Davis Kesner- Car, Harris Balkin-Drove, Rachel Hertzman- Uber, Warren Smith-Drove, and Geoff Zehnder- did not say how he got here. Cristen Conley- Drove, Jon Messier- Drove, Christopher Ramirez- Carpool, Will Maus- Walked, Lee Hammer-Carpool, Kathryn Arndt- Walked, Annette Paez- Drove, Andrew DeGarmo- Biked, Yvette Garcia-Drove.

**Acceptance of Agenda:** All members of the board approved agenda.

**Approval of Minutes from January:**

Ms. Conley and the rest of the board will wait to approve the January 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. There was no motion to approve the minutes until next month until the Board has a chance to review the minutes.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Ramirez' organization, "Together for Brothers", is working on a health impact assessment on universal free youth bus passes in Albuquerque. A few weeks ago, the group went to Santa Fe to educate their state legislator about our health impact assessment program. Mr. Ramirez found out a couple of years ago that the Mayor gave costs in Santa Fe that worked with bus system and Santa Fe public schools to have a free bus pass. Mr. Ramirez was not aware of any other community in New Mexico that also has free youth bus passes in their community and is looking forward to getting more information from the groups in Santa Fe. He said he has been inviting stakeholders in the community to give updates on our health impact assessment, but also wanted to ask ABQ RIDE to start a pilot bus pass project. Thursday in the Science building on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor at 10 a.m. Mr. Ramirez is doing a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15 on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Simms

Space at 10 a.m. and would like to invite community members and Transit Advisory Board members to come out get an update on how HIA helps with this decision. Mr. Ramirez would like an update on how much each route cost the city. He stated that the city had mentioned that it cost more to run Westgate busses and would like an update from Transit regarding that figure. Mr. Ramirez would like to see someone from ABQ Ride come to his next meeting to provide information. There is a generic cost of \$90.30 an hour cost for ever route and would like a more of an understanding on the cost for each route.

Ms. Conley wanted to know more about the Santa Fe youth pass project and if they have data or any information that we can view. Mr. Ramirez stated that they are still gathering that information and would update as soon as they receive it.

Mr. Balkin is curious to see how expensive it is to run the buses to Westgate because the new Transit facility (Daytona) is on the west side.

**Presentation from Lawrence Rael, Chief Operating Officer-City of Albuquerque:**

Mr. Rael spoke about the ART project and what the status is toward getting the project complete. Mr. Rael gave an example about how the ART project is like an onion; how we have to peel away the layers to see what improvements we need to work on. Mr. Rael stated that what he is trying to do now is gather all the information that has been done by all the contractors and all the teams that were involved and see where he needs to start. Mr. Rael mentioned that the city is in the third month for review that he has divided up into three categories: #1 would be funding which most important because of the amount of dollars spent on ART. #2 equipment and where that is and #3, the last one, which is the actual construction of the project. Once we get through all that, then what follows is the service and the education of the public and how they use the corridor and the accessibility for the public. Mr. Rael talked about the funding and as we know it today, was funded by the city of

Albuquerque, which was able to put together money from a capital program the city administers. The project is being delayed because of environmental reviews or what have you. They were all in the programs for transportation. In that process, they relied on a Federal Transit Administration's representation to the city that this was a good project that ranked medium to high in their category in funding. They were very interested in moving forward with this project in Albuquerque. The city asked would there be way for us to move forward and get paid for project. The FTA stated yes, there is a process called a Letter of No Prejudice. It gives us the approval to move forward if you want to fund it and build with our own dollars. Mr. Rael stated keep in mind that all of the decision making was when Obama was president. So know we have a new president and there is new decision-making. Mr. Rael has meet with the FTA in Ft. Worth; the mayor went to D.C. last month and had conversations with the acting FTA administrator. The city has spent over hundred and some millions dollars to move ART forward. They are still waiting on a grant agreement with the FTA that is an important document that binds them officially to reimburse the city for the expenses. Mr. Rael stated that he cannot give a timeline or a date or when ART will be complete. The contracts that were all issued under this project to the City's credit were structured in such a way that these contracts will not close out until all the work is completed. Mr. Rael stated that they are working with teams to get out to look at the stations and see what problems need to be corrected.

Ms. Conley wanted to ask what sort of team is looking at those problems. Do we have individuals with hearing or visual impairments represented on those evaluation teams? Mr. Rael stated that before we close any of these contracts, the City will be sure that have enough conversations with the public that do have impairments. Mr. Rael will set up a process for individuals with impairments so they can be more directly involved in the process. Ms. Conley mentioned to Mr. Rael that

they publish a letter every 2-4 months that goes to the Mayor and City Councilors about issues that has happen in these TAB meetings.

Mr. Kesner asked Mr. Rael that he notices as he drives throughout the city that people are not understanding the way the system is laid out and there is lots of near misses. He feels that we need to educate the public.

Mr. Rael stated disconnects in how the system was laid out. For example the busses using one lane and the alternate the use of one lane which is not just an issue for the public, but also an issue for our drivers. Mr. Rael does not want to start an education process and then if a lot of new changes are made, doesn't want to confuse the public even more.

Ms. JonesFrancis was wondering as the projects gets closer to completion, what if we the TAB Board takes a field trip and goes out to two or three different stations to get a better understanding of how to use them?

Ms. Conley stated maybe by putting barrels in the bus lanes to prevent people from using those lanes, maybe that can stop of the bad behavior.

Mr. Balkin would like to see an increase in ridership from the outlying areas, not just lower incomes. He also wanted to know if Mr. Rael could give a starting date on when the ART project would be done. Mr. Rael responded to Mr. Balkin's question by saying he is unable to provide an exact date, but once he finds out, he will definitely let everyone know.

Ms. Hammer stated she feels that we really need to let the public know we would appreciate their input about concerns they may have.

Mr. Rael stated that the Mayor has said that ART is a project that the City inherited and that we will work to make it right.

### **Chairpersons' report**

Mr. Warren Smith will be retiring from our board after 15 years of service. On behalf of the board and Ms. Conley, they presented him with a certificate for willingness to show up and giving good ideas.

## **Director's report**

Ms. Paez reported that the ridership is dated thru January with a 2.3% decrease from FY 2018 to FY 2017 which is good. Overall we are at 9.47% decrease but if you compare July 2017 is almost 14% decrease compare to 2.3% is great. This shows we are headed in the right direction and people are riding the bus more often.

Mr. Miller wanted to know about the changes to the D Ride and Routes 36, 155, 50, 37. He knows that the changes to these routes were supposed to happen when the ART project is complete, but since the ART project is on hold will these changes still go into effect. Ms. Paez stated that they have decided to include those changes into the new bid, regardless of whether ART is in operation.

## **Unfinished business**

Ms. Conley stated that we cannot put a date on when ART project will be complete.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm**