

Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Alvarado Transit Center – 2nd Floor

100 1st St. SW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

**Members Present**

Brendan Miller, Chair, (walked), Bob Tilley, (walked), Lucy Birbiglia, (Sun Van), Nancy JonesFrancis, (walked), Harris Balkin, (car), Patricia Salisbury, (Sun Van), David Kesner (bus), William Moore, (walked)

**Members Absent**

Israel Chavez, Rachel Hertzman, Orville Pratt, Warren Smith and Geoff Zehnder

**Staff Members Present**

Bernie Toon, Transit Director, (Car) Andrew De Garmo, Principal Planner, (bus), Yvette Garcia, Administrative Assistant (Car) and Rita Chavez, Executive Assistant, (Car)

**Visitors Present**

Helen Maestas, Deputy Director for Constituent Services (walked), Coby Livingstone, (Sun Van), Christopher Ramirez, (Uber), Xavier Barraza (Uber), and Luis Colunga (Uber).

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Brendan Miller, Chair called meeting to order at 11:47am.

Helen Maestas, Deputy Director for Constituent Services will give a presentation about Boards and Commissions. Rita Chavez is the new Executive Assistant for the Transit Director, Bernie Toon and will provide support to the TAB.

**Approval of Agenda**

Brendan Miller, Chair asked for a Motion to approve January 10, 2019 agenda as presented. Harris Balkin 2nd the Motion. Motion approved unanimously, 8-0 by Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

**Approval of Minutes**

Brendan Miller, Chair asked for a Motion to approve the December 18, 2018 minutes as presented. Lucy Birbiglia made a Motion to accept minutes with corrections. Nancy JonesFrancis 2nd the Motion. Motion approved unanimously, 8-0 by TAB.

**Public Comment**

Christopher Ramirez, Director of Together for Brothers announced that Rosa Parks birthday is on February 4, 2019 and the organization will be celebrating “National Transit Equity” day. Mr. Ramirez would like to know if the City will be involved with recognizing this day and will the Transit department be contributing. The Transit department will be providing “Free” bus rides in observation of Rosa Park’s day on February 4th.

**Resolution and Discussion**

Brendan Miller, Chair asked for a Motion to approve the Resolution to amend the TAB meeting time to 4:00pm in lieu of 11:45am. Mr. Kesner asked if security will be available after 5:30pm when the TAB meeting ends? Bernie Toon replied yes, there is security at the ATC center 24-hours a day and security will be available to provide escort services for the TAB members. Patricia Salisbury 2nd Motion. Bob Tilley, opposed motion. Motion approved by 7-1 by TAB members.

**Board and Commissions Presentation**

Helen Maestas, Deputy Director of Constituents Services from the Board and Commissions Department attended the TAB meeting to answer any questions related to the Open Meetings Act, minute taking, the role of an Advisory Board, Robert’s Rules, members missed meetings and training that will be available to members sometime in February.

Over the past year the Boards and Commissions Department (BCD) made over 200 new appointments to various Boards and Commissions. They are working very diligently to fill many of the vacant positions. The

BCD knows that there are Board Members whose terms have expired and members are allowed to continue to participate as an appointed member. Helen suggested that if a member’s term has expired to please re-apply for a new appointment. If you would like to know what your status is as a Board Member you can contact the office at (768-3322) to get more specific information related to your term.

With regard to the notifications of meetings being publicized the BCD office is looking into utilizing the Public Information Officer to publicize all meetings and board vacancies. Currently, the TAB meetings are being publicized on the City of Albuquerque’s transit website, postings are located in the ATC building. The meeting notices are being posted on social media outlets as well.

The number of times a TAB member can miss a meeting is in the by-laws or the resolutions. Each Advisory Board has varying rules.

**Board and Commissions Presentation/Discussion**

The TAB has invited Mayor, Tim Keller to attend a meeting in order to get his vision for his plans regarding the COA’s Transit Department. He has yet to attend a TAB meeting. A concern of TAB is that the Mayor has not mentioned the Transit Department in his public meetings. TAB members would like to see more positive reinforcement about Transit and more involvement from the Mayor directly.

Helen Maestas responded by stating one of the Mayor’s main initiatives is public safety. The Mayor is focused on hiring 100 new police officers every year and making downtown a safe environment. He has opened an APD substation in the ATC. The ART project was consuming a lot of the Mayor’s and the Transit department’s time.

Christopher Ramirez, Director of Together for Brothers, a public attendee at the TAB meeting stated public transportation affects the lives of young people in the community and many of the young people in our community rely on public transportation. Several Board and Commission meetings are held during the day when young students cannot attend and miss out on the opportunity to talk about their concerns with the Transit system. Christopher would like to suggest that Helen take his concerns to her department and talk about how the BCD can get more young people to serve on boards.

**Director’s Report**

Andrew De Garmo, Public Planner gave a report on the ridership for December. (Ridership report distributed).

Ridership is down by 10% and Transit is unsure why. It could be because of weather conditions and gas prices being super low. The department will continue to monitor ridership closely.

The Mayor and the Transit department is looking into a new transit system. We are looking into what other cities are doing and what success they are having. The Transit department is currently working on putting a budget together. The planning process should take about a year, and will include hiring a consultant, public meetings, and reviewing routes. More information to follow as the project progresses.

The BYD buses have been returned and the City of Albuquerque is currently in litigation with the company. The best case scenario is the City would be reimbursed for the expenses it incurred while trying to get the buses running.

Andrew De Garmo addressed the #13 and #34 commuter routes and why trips were eliminated in previous years, which reduced service to current levels. These routes had some trips eliminated due to low ridership and budget cuts. It was not fiscally prudent to operate more than two trips, commuter direction only, on these routes.

**Director’s Report/Discussion**

Mr. Balkin asked what the plans are for the $11 million dollars of Federal appropriations. The discussion has been on-going and we are looking at allowing the community to use the ART station stops for community events. More information to follow.

Will a canopy be installed at the Edo station and the other stations that do not have a canopy? The Transit department is looking into this. The TAB members will be notified when something has been decided.

A discussion ensued regarding the ridership. In other cities such as, Houston and Phoenix ridership is up. The Transit department should consider hiring an outside consultant to reimagine or recreate an updated transit system. The transit department should look at the marketing aspects of ridership.

**New Business**

None

**Announcements and Correspondence**

None

**Adjournment**

The TAB meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm by Brendan Miller, Chair.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 14, 2019; 4:00 PM at the ATC-2nd Floor**