

Transit Advisory Board

Thursday, January 9, 2019

Alvarado Transit Center – 2nd Floor

100 1st St. SW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

4:00pm to 5:30pm

**Members Present**

Israel Chavez, Chair (car); Brendan Miller, Vice-Chair (car); Rachel Hertzman, (uber); William Moore (walked); Harris Balkin (car); Patricia Salisbury (bus); Christopher Ramirez (walked); Steve Pilon (bus); Kathy Foster (car), Orville Pratt (car)

**Staff Members Present**

Danny Holcomb, Director (walked); Yvette Garcia, Administrative Assistant (car); Ernest Apodaca, Administrative Assistant (car)

**Visitors Present**

Kathryn Arndt, Luis Islas, Nate Begay, Walter Fazio, Jerry Bower, Anna Horner, Enrique Cardiel, Pete Mclight- Asouye

**Call to Order**

Israel Chavez, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

Israel Chavez, Chair asked for a motion to approve the January 09, 2020 agenda as presented, William Moore made a motion to accept the agenda and Steve Pilon 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

**Approval of Minutes**

Israel Chavez, Chair asked for a motion to approve the December 12, 2019 minutes with corrections, Christopher Ramirez made a motion to accept the minutes and Brendan Miller 2nd the motion. Israel Chavez, Chair then asked for a motion to approve the October 10, 2019 minutes, William Moore made a motion to accept the minutes, Christopher Ramirez 2nd motion and it was unanimously approved by the Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

**Bernalillo County Community Health Council Presentation**

Anna Horner, Project Support along with Enrique Cardiel, Executive Director works for the Bernalillo County Community Health Council, they strive to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for the county. The presentation started with a breathing exercise, next, they went on to explain in 2008 the Governor of New Mexico stopped funding health councils and in 2015 they separated from the government to become a nonprofit organization. The City of Albuquerque has asked them to partner with Presbyterian, UNM, CNM and ABQ Ride to help advocate good health and to provide resources for citizens that can’t get transportation to medical appointments through public transportation.

**Public Comment** –*Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment(s).*

Walter Fazio-He would like to see if it’s possible to have the 6:30 am Northbound Eubank (#2) stop at the Kirtland Airforce Base before heading to the Multigenerational Center. The reason why the Eubank bus does not have a stop there currently is because the gate there was closed but now it’s back open and he would like the department to look into the bus stop at that location.

Kathryn Arndt-Crossing the streets on Central Avenue is more dangerous now because of the A.R.T bus route and would like to know if the Transit Department is receiving any negative feedback about this problem.

Jerry Bower-He retired last week from the Regional Transportation District, he was their Transit Analyst, he knows Danny Holcomb very well and recognizes he will provide excellent leadership for the Transit Department.

Enrique Cardiel-He would like to know when there are detours or road closers along a bus route and how the public can be informed that this particular bus might not show up due to the mentioned circumstances.

During public comment, Mr. Moore discussed an email relayed to him by a gentlemen named Chuck Ruben, the message explained that when taken the city bus daily, there is no connection to bus route #790 from where he lives in the North Valley and there is also no connection to the #790 that would take him directly to the University Hospital or the CNM main campus location. The message also asked how come the Transit Department allows these busses to return on Fifth Street instead of Sixth Street. If the buses ran on Sixth Street, older citizens and sick people would have a way to get to their destinations. After Mr. Moore was done, Christopher Ramirez mentioned Kansas City became the largest U.S. city to eliminate transit bus fares, the local government there recognized it was an equity issue and most of the low-income people were impacted having to pay bus fare. He would like ABQ Ride to look at the Kansas City Model as something we could replicate here in Albuquerque. Israel Chavez, Chair found this news interesting, he wonders if the cost it takes to collect fares is more than 5% of what the Transit Department receives now.

**TAB Chairperson Report – Israel Chavez**

Mr. Chavez started his report by talking about bus routes #36, #37 and #8. He said overall Andrew De Garmo, ABQ Ride’s Principal Planner gave some good information regarding those routes and would like to ask the department to have him send his presentation via email to the board members. He would also like to forward some questions to Mr. De Garmo from the Board Members about routes #36 #37 and #8. He would also like to address the bunching of A.R.T buses, and how multiple A.R.T buses arriving at one-stop means service will not be consistent. Overall he thinks A.R.T it a great system.

During the chairperson’s report, Patricia Salisbury discussed the signage at bus stops, specifically, they have not being taken down or replaced at the 12th Street and Indian School Road location. Passengers are waiting at those stops without knowing if the stop has moved or is temporarily closed. Mr. Chavez stated that this topic has been brought up several times throughout these meetings and has not once received an answer from the Transit Department.

**Director’s Report-Danny Holcomb, Transit Director**

Mr. Holcomb spoke about the concerns of the TAB members regarding bus route #8, he stated this is something we are looking into and any ideas that are brought to his attention is researched with options the department can implement.. Next, he read the ridership numbers for December, there were 738,885 riders and is up compared to December 2018. Overall ridership is up 10.19% when compared to last year. He then announced Deputy Director Annette Paez has retired and on January 20,2020, for Martin Luther King Jr Day the buses will be running on a Saturday schedule.

**NACTO Presentation**

Steve Pilon started his presentation explaining what NACTO stands for and what they're all about. NACTO is a short abbreviation for The National Association of City Transportation Official, they are an organization that is pushing to improve pedestrians and public transportation throughout the entire country. The mission is to disseminate what are the best practices to complete streets, bicycle lanes and improve public transportation throughout America. He stated cities like El Paseo, Tucson, Boulder, and Denver belong to NACTO.

Mr. Chavez, Chair would like to draft a letter to send to the Transit Department to join NACTO and Steve Pilon seconded the notion to send the letter to them.

**TAB Member comments** *Reminder there is a time limit on TAB Member Comment(s).*

Harris Balkin-When it comes to bus transfers, the only way for the driver to communicate the request is to go through central dispatch and this can cause you to miss the other bus. My concern is that you want to get the people that are not necessarily riding the bus to start riding the bus so you've got to give them better ways to communicate their requests to the other buses.

**New Business**

Christopher Ramirez would like to ask the Transit Department to once again provide free bus fare for Transit Equity Day and Rosa Parks Day on February 4th, 2020.

*Motion: Mr. Chavez, Chair motioned to approve Transit Equity and Rosa Parks Day for a free fare on all buses, Patricia Salisbury 2nd the motion and it was unanimously approved by the TAB members.*

**Unfinished Business**

Wasn’t mentioned

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Adjournment**

Israel Chavez, Chair asked for a motion to adjourn, Orville Pratt 2nd the Motion and it was approved unanimously by the TAB members. Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2020; 4:00 PM at the ATC-2nd Floor**