

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 14, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Ms. Annie JonesFrancis called the meeting to order at 11:49 am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Annie JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Brendan Miller, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson, Patricia Salisbury, David Schott, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley, Jayne Frandsen.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Rene Fernandez, Cheryl Hunt, Joe Estrada, Judy Hatfield.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Sandra Saiz, Customer Service Supervisor; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

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

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes from June 9, 2016:**

Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes, Ms. Salisbury seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Cheryl Hunt inquired how long was the process to paint a bus stop because she has been reporting a stop near Encino House that is not painted and cars park there making this an unsafe stop for passengers to get on the bus when the bus cannot pull into the stop. Ms. Saiz asked for the cross street so this can be looked into.

Ms. Hunt asked if a shelter or stop will be replaced at Oak and Encino because the current stop was removed to create a turning lane. Ms. Saiz stated this will be looked into.

Ms. Hatfield stated that she spoke to a Transit employee who informed her that there are four individuals who work at cleaning the bus stops. Ms. Hatfield feels that this is not enough to take care of all the stops in Albuquerque. Ms. Hatfield spoke about a business owner who had his employees clean the stop in front of their business and this stop is immaculate. Ms. Conley inquired how often the stops are cleaned. Ms. Saiz stated that this is handled through the maintenance division and suggested that she have the head of maintenance come in and do a presentation for the Board.

Ms. Conley had a concern about an incident she observed regarding the D Ride. The driver was behaving angrily at a mother who was having trouble getting off the bus in a timely manner because she was struggling with her two children.

Mr. Miller inquired about holiday service for the ART. Ms. Saiz stated that it will probably follow the same schedule as the fixed bus route but was not completely sure of this.

Mr. Pratt stated that if so much money can be spent of ART, it should run on holidays. Mr. Tilley also added that this is providing rides from a large population who depend on the service. Ms. Birbiglia added that the connecting routes should also run on holidays. Ms. JonesFrancis stated that the service is essential like hospitals and police departments. Mr. Richardson stated that the service is there on a Sunday schedule, but it becomes difficult when you have to pay the drivers time and a half because the budget is limited.

Ms. Salisbury stated that one of the reasons she wanted to be on the TAB was to change and add service in the North Valley on Sunday. Ms. Salisbury added that the routes change on the weekends and it is not always posted, she does not understand the rational for this change.

Mr. Schott stated that the changes to routes should at least be on the major stops. Ms. Salisbury added that there is ridership on Sunday. Mr. Tilley asked, “Is there no ridership on Sunday because there is no service or there is no service because there is no ridership?” Ms. Saiz explained that a lot of the service in the north valley is in the County and there is an agreement that the City has with the County to help fund these stops, which causes some routes on Sunday to be limited.

Mr. Fred Robinson felt like the drivers he has dealt with are rude because they will not answer any questions he had regarding drop off points and times. Mr. Robinson is a visitor to the City and felt more comfortable asking a stranger on the street rather than being treated badly by the driver. Ms. Conley pointed out that it may have been a safety issue, so that the driver would not be distracted and was waiting to be at a stop before he could answer, Mr. Robinson stated the driver was on his cell phone. Mr. Robinson was asked if he got the bus number or the name of the driver, in which he did not.

**Announcements/Chairperson’s report:**

 **Meeting notification resolution**

 **Meeting schedule**

 **TAB elections**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Mr. Richardson nominated Ms. Cristen Conley. Ms. JonesFrancis asked for a vote and it was unanimous, Ms. Conley was elected as the new Chair person.

Ms. JonesFrancis then nominated Mr. Bob Tilley as the co-chair. Mr. Pratt seconded. It was then voted on and it was unanimous, Mr. Tilley was elected as the new co-chair.

**Director’s report:**

 **Update on ART**

Ms. Saiz updated the board on the electric bus that Transit wants to purchase for the ART. Ms. Saiz suggested doing a presentation to the Board. Mr. Kesner asked if the bus would be present at which Ms. Saiz said, “The bus was only here for a few days.”

 Ms. Conley stated that she did not get any notification about the presentation of this bus, and Ms. JonesFrancis and Mr. Richardson stated they did get notification

Ms. Saiz spoke to the Board about a law suit that was reported in today’s newspaper regarding the stop at Walter and Central. Ms. Conley stated there was a concern about the historical preservation in this area. Ms. JonesFrancis stated they also had a concern about the stop in the middle of the intersection.

Mr. Kesner asked about the effect on ART of congress cutting funding in the Small Starts program. Ms. JonesFrancis stated that multi-year funding for ART was always a possibility.

Ms. Birbiglia indicated that the City will need to have accessible kiosks. Ms. Birbiglia also states that each station should be visited to evaluate.

**Status Cats/Dogs allowed on buses effective July 1, 2016**

Ms. Conley commented that her and her husband had a very good experience riding the bus with their pet.

Ms. Saiz stated that this is a pilot until December 31.

Ms. Saiz also stated that there will be posters available for drivers regarding the types of leashes that are allowed and the type of muzzles that will be accepted. Mr. Tilley asked if they were keeping track of the number of pets that are riding with passengers. Ms. Saiz felt that would be a good idea to do so. Mr. Tilley asked if they track bicyclists, Ms. Saiz said “yes”.

**Paratransit Advisory Board report:**

Ms. Frandsen was not present to do a report, but Ms. Birbiglia had a comment. Ms. Birbiglia stated that she has experienced more late rides, she is now up to her 20th late pick up. Ms. Birbiglia suggested that more Sun Van drivers are hired and that more Sun Van coaches are purchased to compensate.

Ms. Birbiglia’s concern is for the hundreds of Sun Van riders who do not make complaints about their late rides. “If I’m experiencing late rides, the other Sun Van riders are as well. “Most Sun Van riders do not complain because they believe no improvements will be made, or they are physically or mentally unable to make complaints, or they believe they don’t deserve better service. Many, perhaps most Sun Van riders do not realize that the service is federally mandated, not optional.

**Unfinished Business: Proposed Central Avenue Business Advisory Board:**

Ms. Conley asked about the status of this Board. Ms. Saiz stated she did not know.

Mr. Smith spoke about the petition that was generated by the Old Albuquerque High Apartment complex. They are in support of the ART and they are promoting people to boycott the businesses that are opposing the ART. Ms. JonesFrancis and others stated that being negative towards those who oppose is not going to help. Ms. Salisbury stated that a lot of the ABQ Drivers do not speak well of the ART and she feels they should not be so vocal about this while driving with passengers. Ms. Conley stated that it would be nice for drivers here to speak to drivers where an ART type project was implemented so they could hear from them about the experiences they went through with the changes.

Ms. Conley thinks it would be good for the board to speak with someone who works with maintenance.

Mr. Richardson stated that the bus drivers should report dirty bus stops, Ms. Saiz stated that they do.

Ms. Salisbury wanted to know if there was action taken when the teachers came to the meeting to discuss the safety of the bus stop that these students use? Ms. Conley stated that there is a general response from transit and APD. Ms. Salisbury asked what did we do to clean it up. Mr. Tilley stated that they do meet about the situation and they are aware of all the hot spots.

Ms. JonesFrancis commented that she hopes to hear an update about the law suit at Walter and Central at the next meeting. Ms. Saiz also stated the she hopes to have a ten-minute presentation from the maintenance department.

**Next meeting 11:45am, August 11, 2016 at the Alvarado Transit Center:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:10pm**