



**Transit Advisory Board**

**Alvarado Transportation Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2018**

**Board Members**

In Attendance:

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

**Members of the Public**

In Attendance:

Katherine Arndt, Jon Messier, Lee Hammer, Sarah Kelly, Michael Lawlar

**ABQ Ride**

In Attendance:

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-walked; Cristen Conley-drove; Orville Pratt-drove; Jon Messier-drove; Lee Hammer-walked; Kathryn Arndt-walked; Andrew de Garmo-drove; Yvette Garcia-drove and Michael Lawlar-bus

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

**Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2018 and February 8, 2018:**

One correction to the February 8<sup>th</sup> minutes should be Mr. Balkin instead of Ms. Balkin for February 8th minutes. All board members approve both January and February Minutes.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Lawlar wanted to know who can enforce the rules on the bus besides the driver. Mr. Lawlar was getting on the fixed route from a fractured pelvis and needed to sit at the front of the bus where elderly or disabled sit. Mr. Lawlar wanted to know why the bus driver didn't know that there is a federal law requiring people to move from that seat. Mr. Lawlar wants to have the bus drivers better trained about the ADA laws. Ms. Conley stated that she will forward his concerns to Mr. de Garmo. Ms. Conley also mentioned for Mr. Lawlar to give 311 a call to put in a complaint. Ms. Arndt would like some clarification when taking a dog on the bus. What is the driver allowed to ask and what requirements the dog and owner have to know? Mr. de Garmo responded to Ms. Arndt's question by stating that bus drivers are allowed to ask two questions; one being "Is this a service animal?" and two, "what functions do they perform?" If the passenger with the service animal can answer those two question, then yes, we cannot second-guess their answer. Ms. Hammer asked by what behavior a dog would be removed from the bus. Mr. de Garmo responded, if the dog bites or growls, then the bus driver can ask to have the animal removed. Mr. Richardson wanted to address the earlier comment of the gentleman who left. According to his understanding, the

driver can only request for a passenger to move from that seat. He can't make them move whether they are in a wheel chair or if they are a senior citizen. Ms. Kelly wanted to see a little more education with regard to Mr. Lawlar's concerns. She added that maybe they should educate the public on giving up their seat to an individual that has a disability. Mr. de Garmo responded by saying ABQ RIDE does having training that covers that subject. The driver is only allowed to request that the individual get up from that seat, but can't require people to move. He also believes that the confusion may be that ABQ RIDE is required to designate seats for individuals with disability, but does not require them to move. There is no law that states they have to move from that seat. Mr. Richardson added that it could be the tone or the approach from the driver who is asking the individual to move from that seat.

### **Presentation:**

None

### **Chairperson's report**

Ms. Conley wanted to go over what it is that the Transit Advisory Board is charged with doing and what it is able to do. The most recent resolution passed that gave the Board specific direction was in 2014. There were two things; separate the Transit Advisory Board and the Para-Transit Advisory Board into separate, but equal roles, and that we are supposed to be represent different parts of the community. Ms. Conley stated that board members are supposed to serve for about three years, but she has been told that it is possible to repeat a term once. Ms. Conley asked if anyone knew of someone wanting to serve as a board member. They could be directed to a link on the city web where you can apply to serve on the board. As a board member, they make recommendations to the Transit department. They do send ideas and make public comments to Transit. Ms. Conley stated that Brendan Miller has made some recommendations regarding certain routes and that the transit department has looked into and is now considering them. Ms. Conley stated that Mayor Keller has an idea about improving the fare for city transportation. Ms. Conley and the board will put some ideas together regarding the fares. Ms. Kelly suggested that the (ATC) Alvarado Transportation needs to be open to the public as far as restrooms. They should be open every day of the week. Mr. Balkin offered to assist with marketing and talking to individuals about the ART project. Mr. Balkin believes the board needs to promote ART more than less. Ms. Arndt thinks the shelters at the bus stops should promote the ART project a lot

more by hanging up posters. Ms. Conley stated that ABQ RIDE also serves as a vehicle to be in a consistent place so the public can come and speak. Ms. JonesFrancis spoke on when she used to work KANW, she would post on their calendar on when board meetings were. She re-tweets on social media if anything gets posted about Transit. Ms. Arndt stated there is a lot of individuals that don't use Facebook or Instagram and if they don't have those social media sites, they will never be informed about meetings. There needs to be some way that they can be informed. Ms. Conley stated that they should be communicating with other boards. Ms. Conley stated they do send letters to MRCOG. Ms. Conley suggested to the board members that she would like to see more board members attend more city and transportation and planning meetings. Ms. Conley stated as board, they are to consider passenger complaints concerning fixed route and ADA issues as well.

### **Director's report**

Mr. de Garmo talked about how ART construction punch list work is continuing in the corridor. Some areas that were highlighted before are being fixed as we speak. The westbound Central and Atrisco station platform was at the incorrect height, so there will be some work going on to fix it. Also, the Central and Washington platform issue that was brought up earlier about the striping at the station; the contractor had not yet done the striping per the plan, but this will be fixed as well. Mr. de Garmo mentioned the last construction that will probably take place is the signals. They are reviewing complaints, so if anyone has comments or concerns regarding those light fixtures, please call 311 and voice your concerns. The busses are continuing to be an issue for us, so we are continuing discussing with BYD on how to get those problems resolved. Mr. de Garmo stated that while everyone would like to know when ART will be starting, unfortunately as of yet, there is no start date. Ms. Conley asked Mr. de Garmo if ABQ RIDE had any functionally-accepted ART busses yet. Mr. de Garmo responded by saying while we do have the busses that were used for the River of Lights service, all those busses also have issues. Mr. Miller stated that they have printed our letter to civic leaders and hope the city considers adding flexible traffic delineators between the ART busses only and the driving lanes. For example, on Dr. Martin Luther King and Edith near side headed east, he knows the road has vertical poles they might keep motorists out of the bike lane. Ms. Conley wanted to know about our new Transit Director. Mr. de Garbo said his name is Bernie Toon and he starts March 19, 2018. Mr. Balkin wanted to know when the new routes would take effect. Mr. de Garmo stated they should take effect in May. Ms. JonesFrancis asked if all the ART stations would

have crosswalks. Mr. de Garmo replied that yes, all ART Stations will have crosswalks. Mr. de Garmo stated the ridership is down 37,000 riders for the month, for this fiscal year. He stated that ridership was also falling down pretty quickly at this time last year. He asserted ridership should be climbing this year.

**Unfinished business**

None

**Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm**

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