

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May, 15 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Bill Richardson, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley, Jayne Frandsen.

**Public:**

Julie Luna

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Annette Paez, Associate Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistant.

Poll was conducted to see how each person arrived to the meeting.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Presentation:**

Guest Julia Luna from MRCOG spoke about pedestrian safety with emphasis on the Central and San Mateo intersection, as being the highest area in the State for safety issues. Ms. Luna described how the Road Safety Assessment Team goes over data; they observe the intersection and invite people to speak about their experiences’ at the intersection. With the information, they hope ABQ Transit can take advantage and use this towards future planning. Ms. Luna invited the Board to work with the Team and invited them to open meetings. These meetings will be scheduled for Monday, 8-31-15, all day, Tuesday 9-1-15, all day and Wednesday 9-2-15 for half the day, at the Bank Building at Central and San Mateo in the Conference Room. Mr. Schott inquired how the ART is going to make thing better at that intersection and where will the stop be. Ms. Luna stated that all things are still in the planning stage and with this information it will give them the opportunity to make these decisions. Ms. Birbiglia discussed the fact that the intersection is big, and the time allotted for crossing my not be sufficient and wanted to know what percentage of accidents were caused due to the disabled unable to navigate the intersection quickly. Ms. Luna did not have that data, but they did observe pedestrians with canes, wheel chairs and walkers in that area.

Mr. Tilley explained that the ART is not just in the center lanes, that it will be part of an infrastructure, and we all want to create safety for pedestrians also, i.e.; if fencing is needed. Mr. Tilley states pedestrians are always the ones blamed and he thinks cars are the safety issue, and that needs to be reined in. This is providing an opportunity to make things safer in that intersection, which is poorly designed.

Mr. Schott stated he is concerned with safety of crossing Central with the ART and wanted to know how that was being addressed.

Ms. Paez explained that all this is still in the planning process, and this is the opportunity to look at other cities that have a system similar to the ART, who have already solved these types of issues.

There were several questions and suggestions from the Board about planning the crosswalks for different locations along Central where the ART will have stops. Ms. Birbiglia suggests a three part crossing cycle, and wants to know if the group has thought about that, in which Ms. Luna states, they have thought about everything. Mr. Tilley stated the ART is well thought out and they know what they are doing, and having said that it is good to verbalize your concern.

Ms. Conley would like updates and asked Ms. Luna to provide them through e-mail, regarding the six issues that the Board brought to her attention.

**Acceptance Agenda:**

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

**Minutes from April 9, 2015**

Mr. Kessner asked for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Tilley moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Richardson seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

None made.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri was not present, due to other meetings with the ART. Ms. Paez addressed the Board on his behalf. In regards to ridership, Ms. Paez stated although there is a high ridership, it is has dropped 4.50 percent from FY14 to FY15.

Ms. Paez spoke to the Board about the Quantum System that is being tested on Bus Number 6901. This is a mechanism that electronically secures wheelchairs with just a push of a button; the wheelchair is in a rear facing position, for safety, and will be tested for efficiently. ABQ RIDE is only the third transit system in the country to test the device. A survey will be distributed to users asking about their experience using the device. Ms. Paez stated that all types of mobile devices can be safely secured.

Mr. Schott wanted to discuss the possibilities of having an ART stop at San Pedro, where there are many small businesses and apartments as well as Expo New Mexico. Ms. Paez stated the goal is not to have a lot of stops, but she will not speak for Mr. Rizzieri who worked to pick good spots. In which Mr. Schott said it should be considered in the planning.

Mr. Tilley relayed a situation in which the bike rack was full and he asked the bus driver if he could get on and take his bike in the back, he states other drivers have let him. She initially would not allow him, and after some discussion, she called a supervisor who said it would be “ok”, but not until there was a threat from her, stating it would be his fault it anything happened.

Ms. Paez responded by letting Mr. Tilley know it is the drivers discretions to allow the bike on the bus, but she would like to know if he knew the driver’s name, in order to counsel the driver on how to better handle a similar situation. Ms. Paez stated that we really have a great group of drivers who go through ADA, safety, and customer service training every six months.

Members of the Board also had suggestions to provide bike racks, so the public can “practice” and feel more comfortable when the time comes to use them on the bus. Ms. Paez added that Mr. Rizzieri is looking at other systems that will be more cohesive for riders and bikes.

**Para-Transit Advisory Board:**

Jayne Frandsen addressed the Board, stating there have been no significant issues, except that the IVR notification system is still not working properly.

Ms. Frandsen stated that the PTAB meetings were down to about 20 to 40 minutes long and their Board was down to six people.

Ms. Frandsen wanted information on the method used to update files, of those that are no longer certified or moved.

Ms. Birbiglia spoke about a friend who has given up on complaints of the late rides and the routes being taken all over that are a waste of time. Ms. Birbiglia states she has sent e-mails with no response.

There was a discussion about the newsletter, it was said that some passengers did not receive it; Ms. Birbiglia stated it is not in brail or large print which if not seen is not legal.

Mr. Kessner has concerns about the subscription rides. He stated that if there is a change of time or if the passenger has moved, they are removed and he would like to be educated on this.

Ms. Paez explained that the FTA has mandated that no more than 50 percent of the passengers can be on subscription rides, which makes scheduling a balancing act. The list is very long because everyone who has a set schedule wants this service. Ms. Birbiglia commented that this raises the issue of new Sun Vans and drivers.

Ms. Paez stated this should be talked about at the PTAB.

**Unfinished Business/New Business:**

Mr. Pratt commented that Ms. Carmen Ortiz thanked him for his inquiry to be on the PTAB Board and he e-mailed her to say it was for the TAB and not the PTAB.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The next Meeting will be on June 11, 2015 at 11:45 a.m. at the ATC.

The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.