

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 12, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Ms. JonesFrancis called the meeting to order at 11:46 am

**Board Members:**

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

**Public:**

In Attendance: Donna Eldredge, Cristal Wilson, Tom Menicucci,

Elaine Romero, Rebecca Burt, Don Hyde.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; 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. Mr. Schott moved to accept the minutes. Ms. Conley seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from March 10, 2016 and April 14, 2016**

The minutes for March 10, 2016 were approved after a motion that was moved by Ms. Conley and seconded by Ms. Birgiblia.

The minutes for April 14, 2016 were not ready to be approved at this meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Donna Eldridge, Principal and Co-founder of Coral Community Charter School, explained her school provides a lot of out of school instruction. Ms. Eldridge introduced Ms. Cristal Wilson, who is a kindergarten teacher at the school. Ms. Eldridge continued and stated that they are committed to this community and to riding the bus, they teach bus etiquette. Ms. Eldridge stated that when riding the bus, they try to avoid the intersection of Central and San Mateo and when they do have to get off at that location, they are almost always met by an incident there. Ms. Eldridge also was concerned by the number of times that her students have been at a bus stop, only to have the bus driver pass them up without even stopping to let them know that the bus was full and to wait for the next one. They have had this happen on the 66 route.

When asked about the details, Ms. Eldridge spoke about times when route 66 did not stop for her students. This happened with two buses and they had to walk ½ mile with 45 students. Ms. Eldridge stated that this happens to the older boys all the time.

Ms. Eldridge described the time they got off at Central and San Mateo, and there was a fight going on. They managed to keep the children safe and the people fighting stopped and walked away.

Ms. Eldridge stated she just wants some way for children and families to be safe and stated they want to be part of the solution.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that he knows about the problems at this intersection. The department is not able to assign security officers to be there all day to control these situations. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the department works with APD regarding this intersection.

Regarding the bus drivers that are passing up passengers: to assist in identifying the drivers Mr. Rizzieri asked that in the future the following information be sent to ABQ RIDE: the bus stop location, the time of day, the direction of travel, and the bus route number. Also, if possible, the bus number.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that the driver who has a full bus is obligated to contact the dispatch and inform the dispatcher and get permission to continue without making stops. The driver needs to change the message on the bus to indicate that it is full and is only dropping off passengers. Stopping to inform people that only “drop-offs” are being made, often times creates altercations between the driver and people who are not allowed to board the bus.

Mr. Brendan Miller commented about the commuter routes: he believes they should run all day. This would allow more people to come to City center areas without using their cars.

Ms. Salisbury read a letter to the editor in which the writer also wanted the number 6 commuter to run all day.

**Visitor presentations:**

Ms. Elain Romero from Councilor Ken Sanchez’s office and Ms. Rebekka Burt from Councilor Brad Winter’s office, as well as Mr. Tom Menicucci, from City Council staff, attended the meeting to provide information regarding Councilor Sanchez and Winter’s proposal to create a Central Avenue Advisory Board.

Ms. Romero thanked the Board members for the time they put into representing residents in the City.

Ms. Romero explained that Councilors Sanchez and Winter met with business owners along the corridor who had concerns. The councilors wanted to provide a method for these owners to discuss their concerns.

Ms. Conley and Ms. JonesFrancis, as well as other Board members, voiced concerns and felt like this was a duplicate effort of the current Transit Advisory Board.

Ms. Romero stated that because of concerns of TAB members, the councilors are in the process of changing the language of the proposed new board. It will now be named the Central Avenue Business Advisory Board. The proposal will be published for two weeks before it is voted on. Ms. Romero states that this new board wants to work with the TAB.

Ms. Conley’s concern is that this new board is not capturing all the concerns of riders, if it is only made up of business owners. Ms. Burt stated that the proposed board would improve communications regarding the ART project or transit service by working with the Transit Advisory Board.

Ms. JonesFrancis questioned the purpose of the new board: “This board is not just focused on transit?” Ms. Burt stated it is not just concerned with transit service. The draft resolutions states it is to work with other departments along with the Transit Advisory Board.

They discussed how important it was to include riders on this new board, not just property or business owners. Ms. Burt acknowledged that the duties of the two boards differ.

It was commented that the city should try to exceed ADA requirements.

Ms. Salisbury brought up that marketing is an important part of the ART project and believes it needs a professional campaign. Ms. Burt agreed.

Mr. Menicucci gave the Board a history of the Central Avenue corridor.

Ms. Burt concluded by stating they learned a lot about what the Transit Advisory Board does. Ms. Burt thanked the Board members for the time they spend on the board and for being the voice of the riders.

They thanked Mr. Rizzieri and stated they will take the concerns of the board back to the councilors.

**Announcements/Chairpersons’ report:**

Ms. JonesFrancis spoke about the Bike to Work Day that will be on May 20, 2016.

Ms. JonesFrancis passed out a flier with the information.

**Director’s report:**

Mr. Rizzieri distributed a booklet about the ART project to the Board. The booklet contained background information, dedicated lane information, project funding and other information.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that ridership is down just under eight percent compared to the same time period for FY15. Mr. Rizzieri referred to the gas prices that are slowly going up which may cause ridership to increase.

**Adjourned:**

Ms. JonesFrancis moved to adjourn and Ms. Birbiglia seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 pm.

**Next meeting:**

11:45 am, June 9, 2016, at the Alvarado Transit Center.