

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 12, 2015**

**Called to Order:**

Mr. David Kesner called the meeting to order at 11:48am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Bob Tilley, Brendan Miller, Annie JonesFrancis, Cristen Conley, Bill Richardson, Lucy Bribiglia, David Kesner.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Kathryn L. Arndt

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

Mr. David Kesner took roll and polled the Board as well as others as to what was their mode of transportation to the meeting.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Mr. Kesner asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Conley moved to accept the minutes. Ms. Bribilglia seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from October 8, 2015:**

Mr. Tilley moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Richardson seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Kathryn Arndt spoke to the Board about Transit service. Ms. Arndt specifically addressed the lack of Holiday service and Sunday service. Ms. Arndt stated, “unless you are in walking distance” a person who relies on Public Transportation does not have much choice on where to go. Ms. Arndt does appreciate the bus system, but it is changeling because to go farther east and downtown from the SW area of town there are no buses available. Ms. Arndt also appreciates that security has approved, but also states the cleanliness of the buses particularly the seats need improvement. Ms. Arndt states that she has witnessed children soil the seats in the presence of the parent.

Mr. Tilley agreed that the wrong people were being dealt with when it comes to rules about helping to keep the buses clean. Instead the drivers are making people with latte’s and drinks dump them out before boarding. Mr. Tilley also agrees that this is not a seven-day service and people who rely on the Transit system do not have options. Ms. JonesFrancis also stated that the service should be available all the time. Ms. Birbiglia feels that bus service should be for people who need it. Ms. Birbiglia stated she feels that “they say, screw you we don’t care.” Mr. Miller added that there are cities that are smaller than Albuquerque who do have limited Holiday service, but at least there is some and it should be in line with firefighters and medical workers. Mr. Miller proposed raising transit taxes for more service.

**Visitor Presentation:**

Mr. David Kesner presented his collapsible bike. It is a Brompton bike that is made in England. Mr. Kesner demonstrated that it rolls after it has been completely collapsed. Mr. Kesner brought it to demonstrate what the bike looks like when it is collapsed to see if it would be allowed on the fixed buses, he stated that in reviews, there are a lot of transit systems who do allow and in New York City they are allowed on the Subway. Mr. Rizzieri pointed out that the subway doors are wider.

The Board asked questions about the cost and the weight and they pointed out that it was about the size of a stroller when it was collapsed, their main concern was that if this type of bike is acceptable to carry on the bus, the drivers need to be consistent.

Mr. Rizzieri explained that there are several challenges to allowing these types of bikes.

The payment system, if they brought these bikes through the front, the wheel chair position cuts room for bikes to come through, if they brought the bikes through the back, they would still have to go to the front to pay.

Not all the buses have the space in the back. The 700 series and the 900 series could accommodate but the 600 series narrows in the back. If the bus was empty it could work, but passengers could still be boarding down the line.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that he would be happy to send notification to the drivers and make sure they are trained on devices such as wheelchairs, strollers walkers, when the driver has to apply breaks. Mr. Rizzieri states it is a safety issue and does not want items flying around.

Mr. Rizzieri will look into evening routes, which may easier to start with, for changes into policy for allowing bikes on the buses. Mr. Rizzieri pointed out that when these types of policy changes occur for one route, others will question why not for this route. Mr. Rizzieri states that not everyone will be accommodated.

**Chairpersons Report:**

Ms. JonesFrancis commented about how impeccable the Transit system was in Japan, which led to questions on how ABQ Ride could maintain a clean transit system.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that years ago they had personal who kept everything clean, but that program faded away. Mr. Rizzieri stated that it is hard to get volunteers for this type of service. Mr. Rizzieri asked the Board to keep transit in mind, if they come across a program that would be able to help.

Ms. Conley asked if they could possibly purchase buses without cloth seats, to address the problem with soiled seats.

Ms. Paez explained that the fabric that is purchased is meant to make the bus look presentable and not uninviting.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that they do not want it to look so sterile.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri reported that the 50-year celebration that was held on October 30, 2015 was a good event. It was well attended by the APD Color Guard, the Cibola High School, former employees and speakers included Councilor Alan Armijo. They had buses on display from 1965 when the City of Albuquerque purchased the bus company and even displayed a 1927 white motor coach, that has since been refurbished to its original self.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that ridership in the first four months of FY16, compared to same month last year. Overall ridership is at 8.5 percent, which is not much different compared to other transit agencies. The bright side is that ridership is over one million rides. We will be looking at what happens in October and the Holidays.

There will be full service for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day there will be no service. On the Friday following Thanksgiving we will run a Saturday schedule.

It was stated that because the Friday following is “Black Friday” they should consider a full schedule so that people who rely on this transportation have this option.

Ms. Bribiglia stated that she heard that Transit was contemplating purchasing new uniforms. Mr. Rizzieri stated that they are getting feedback from the employees as to what the drivers wanted and also for the supervisors who are in public view to Identify them and give them a good image.

Ms. JonesFrancis inquired about the negative campaign to shut down the ART and wanted to know about changes if the funding doesn’t go through. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the President will be announcing his new budget in February 2016 and at that point we will know more. The second step is the congressional process and how much money will be for small projects. We will know how many small projects will be approved and how many projects will get fully funded.

So far there is a Transit Infrastructure group that supports Transit and we should be hearing from them soon stated Mr. Rizzieri.

Ms. JonesFrancis asked if the ART project has progressed farther than the Street Car project? Mr. Rizzieri stated that it is further in design, further in matching money and it is very hopeful at the Federal Level.

The Board discussed more on the ART and about different ways to turn the negative talk about the ART. The Board suggested writing letters, bill boards and radio and TV. Mr. Rizzieri informed them that all of these cost money but what is happening is Ms. Dayna Crawford the Associate Director and Project Manager for the ART is providing presentations to neighborhood association and which-ever group would like to hear more about the project. Mr. Rizzieri invited the Board to ask any group who might want a presentation.

**Advisory Committee on Transit for the Mobility Impaired:**

Mr. Rizzieri gave apologizes on behalf of Ms. Frandsen for not being present in today’s meeting, she also sent her best wishes for all to have a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Rizzieri stated they will meet on November 17, 2015 at the Alvarado Transit Center at 10:30am.

**Unfinished Business:**

Ms. Conley still has a concern that citizens with a second shift, do not have a way to get home from work. Ms. Conley stated this also includes those citizens who depend on Transit who do not have the service on Holidays. Mr. Rizzieri stated the answer is in speaking with the City Councilors and Bernalillo Count Councilors, so that more money can go to Transit for those routes that do not have second shift hours.

Ms. Bribiglia stated that herself and Ms. Conley had coffee with Representative Diane Gibson and suggested that others invite theirs to a sit down of some sort.

**Adjournment:**

Next meeting will be on December 10, 2015 on the second floor at the Alvarado Transit Center at 11:45am to 1:15pm.

Meeting was moved to adjourn my Ms. Bribiglia and seconded by Mr. Tilley.