

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 10, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

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

**Board Members:**

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

**Public:**

In Attendance: Cheryl Hunt, Judy Hatfield, Will Maus.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Andrew de Garmo, Principal Planner; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

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

**Acceptance of Agenda for November 10, 2016:**

Ms. Conley asked if there were any issues with the Agenda, Mr. Miller pointed out that Ms. Saiz’ named is not spelled “Sykes”. Ms. Conley asked for approval by acclamation and it was approved

**Minutes from October 13, 2016:**

Ms. Conley pointed out that there was a mistake in the spelling of her name, it should be Christen. Ms. Conley stated Ms. Birbiglia had changes that were needed, the first was in the Director’s Report it should read “seven” weeks and not seventeen weeks, also in the Director’s Report technically it should read “will start” and not “started” and in the acceptance of agenda, it should be October 13th and not 12th. Mr. Miller pointed out that Mr. Tilley’s name was misspelled. Ms. Conley asked for approval by acclamation and it was approved.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Judy Hatfield commented that about the item on the ballot regarding public awareness and approval of the ART project, but since the ART project has already begun, why was the item on the ballot and wondered what the Board thought.

Mr. Rizzieri answered that this was placed on the ballot by the County Commission, it is non-binding. It was asking, do you want a vote in a future election.

Mr. Rizzieri stated, “That a “yes” vote doesn’t necessarily mean the person is against the project.”

Mr. Tilley asked if the county was contributing any money to the ART project. Mr. Rizzieri answered that the County is providing state funds for pedestrian safety for intersection improvements at Central and San Mateo.

Mr. Schott asked if a new presidential administration coming in would cause a problem for ART federal funding. Ms. Conley asked if the funding was secured.

Mr. Rizzieri stated there are all sorts of possibilities. He pointed out that both presidential candidates talked about the need to improve transportation infrastructure and that the federal fiscal year 2017 congressional budget process is still underway.

Ms. Birbiglia stated that the ART project information implies that there will be future route improvements. What are the plans for other routes?

Mr. Rizzieri stated that ABQ RIDE would be evaluating its route structure once some vacancies are filled. Also, Councilor Gibson, who is the vice-chair of the Rio Metro Board of Directors, wants ABQ RIDE and Rio Metro to jointly develop a three-county transit service plan.

 There was discussion concerning the current use of Route 66 service to travel to a Rapid Ride station for continuance of an individual’s trip. Mr. Rizzieri stated that with the ART project the stations, on average, are located closer to each other than the current Rapid Ride stations. The intent is to attract Route 66 riders to the ART service. This change in travel pattern would provide a more timely trip and reduce the passenger load on the Route 66 buses.

Ms. Conley asked, regarding the ART updates, if there was a way to do a poster on the buses for those who do not have electronic devices to get these messages.

Mr. Rizzieri stated he will look into this, but also stated that the construction updates would be a challenge because they change so often.

Mr. Schott mentioned placing signs in the area, in which Mr. Rizzieri stated that this is done, but they often get torn down.

Mr. Rizzieri responded to Ms. Chong who had an issue waiting for the Red Line at the Uptown Transit Center. Mr. Rizzieri stated that road supervisors are monitoring bus placement along Central Avenue. ABQ RIDE staff are monitoring the locations of construction so that we know when and where to relocate bus stops. We also have staff riding the buses once a day. Supervisors are monitoring the Uptown Transit Center to help keep buses from bunching up.

Ms. Hunt asked if all dogs need muzzles. Mr. Rizzieri stated that there are two different types of animals, a pet and a service animal. The City Council created a pilot cats and dogs on buses program and stated that cats and dogs, except for service animals, need to be in a hand held container, or larger dogs need to be on a leash and muzzled. A bus driver may ask two questions of the passengers: Is this a service animal? If the passenger says “yes”, the driver can then ask, “What function does the animal provides for you?” The driver cannot ask the passenger the nature of their disability. “Comfort animals” are not “service animals”. Mr. Rizzieri stated that all new drivers go through a training program and service animals are addressed and every year we have training for current employees. Ms. Hunt stated the drivers are saying they received little information on this subject.

**Presentation by Patricia Salisbury:**

Ms. Salisbury is a longtime patron of ABQ Ride. She recently met with City Councilor Benton and Mr. Rizzieri to present some recommendations for transit improvements in the North Valley.

* Recommends that Route 36 operate in both directions, that it run every 30 minutes, and that it operate on weekends.
* Recommends that the Route 8 weekend schedule be the same as its weekday schedule
* Recommends that every other Route 8 bus when it gets to 5th and Mountain go west on Mountain, past the museums and Old Town, to Rio Grande Blvd. and turn right on Rio Grande Blvd. to Indian School and continue east on Indian School back to 12th
* Recommends that a total of two Rapid Ride stops, one in each direction, be placed on Rio Grande Blvd. between I-40 and Central Ave.

**Director’s Report:**

Cumulative ridership, year-over-year, continues to be below that of FY 2016.

Mr. Rizzieri has been asked by several Board members the source of capital funds and operating funds. There are two major sources of capital funds: Federal Transit Administration funds and General Obligation (GO) bond funds, the city’s CIP bond funding.

The CIP process and the General Obligation bond election occur every other year. The city’s process for determining projects and requested funding amounts starts about 18 months before the election. This process includes a hearing before the Environmental Planning Commission, with public comment, and several city council meetings, with public comment, before the city council approves a GO bond package to send to the voters.

The city’s operating budget process starts in February with internal meetings. The mayor is required to send a budget to the city council by April 1. The city council conducts meetings and receives public comment on the recommended budget. In May the council votes on approving the fiscal year budget. The budget goes into effect on July 1st

**Visitor Presentation:**

Mr. Andrew de Garmo, Principal Planner gave a power point presentation on “How Do We Route Plan”.

Ms. Conley asked if this was a power point that can be shared. Mr. De Garmo answered “yes”.

**Next meeting: 11:45am, December 8, 2016, at the Alvarado Transit Center.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:17pm**