

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 8, 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Annie Jones Francis, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson ,David Schott, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Diane Albert

**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. Birbiglia moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Warren seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from September 10, 2015:**

Mr. Schott moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Smith seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Diane Albert stated the she is at this meeting to observe and she is also considering applying to be a Board member.

Mr. Orville Pratt spoke about his experience using the Route 790; he was trying to figure out the bus route for his grandson who attends school at Bosque Prep, and who lives by UNM Hospital. Mr. Pratt and his wife decided to do a trial run in which she was in the car and he would ride the bus. They had the schedule and he was going to ride the Route 790 (Blue line) going west at 7:15am. When he got on the bus the driver informed him he was only going as far as Yale and Central, so Mr. Pratt waited until the next bus at 7:30am. This one went to the stop by Bosque Prep and the drop off was at 8:01 am. Then with the walk to the school it was then 8:05 am and school starts at 8:00am. Mr. Pratt stated that he would also “test ride” the 6:55 am bus. Mr. Rizzieri stated that he will look at the route schedule.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri stated that ridership was down but over a million boardings. He also announced to the Board that new Sun Vans have started to be delivered. Mr. Rizzieri also spoke about staff going to the Anniston, Alabama New Flyer bus plant for inspection of the new CNG buses that are scheduled to start delivery in late December.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the details of the stations designs for the ART. He stated that a proto type would not be available but he would like to set up the training room with the layout, dimension wise, of the station, with benches and machines, so people would have a chance to come in and provide feedback.

Ms. JonesFrancis pointed out that there are billboards that are negative to the ART, and wanted to know how Transit is combating this campaign. Mr. Rizzieri stated that for every letter received from an individual who may have incorrect project information, staff schedules an appointment to go speak with the individual. Some individuals have incorrect project information. The department is also continuing to provide project presentation at neighborhood association meetings and to other organizations.

Ms. JonesFrancis asked Mr. Rizzieri if he could e-mail information about the perks, promotions and debunking the myths, Mr. Rizzieri stated that he could provide this information. Ms. JonesFrancis stated that when she speaks to people about this, she tries to give them good information. Mr. Rizzieri stated that “there is not just a new bus going down central, it is also widening the sidewalks and upgrading them, it will be uniform lighting, pedestrian lighting that wasn’t there, landscaping, and improving and surfacing the road.

Ms. Birbiglia spoke about the grant application that was submitted on August 3, 2015. Her question to Mr. Rizzieri was how many grants will be awarded and when will we know? How many cities have applied?

Mr. Rizzieri informed the Board that the small starts funding request was submitted on August 3, 2015 and we have received calls and e-mails from some of the reviewers for some information. We don’t know how many other cities have applied. The process is that an agency submits its request package, it is reviewed and rated. Receiving an appropriate rating does not necessarily mean that the agency receives funding.

The department has to wait until February to find out if the ART project is included in the President’s FY 2017 budget. This budget is obviously subject to congressional review and changes.

Mr. Tilley mentioned Scott Bernstein whose company looked at properties along Central and determined that there is two billion dollars of potential development along Central Ave.

Discussion continued. Questions were raised about an Uptown station for ART: ART vehicle will use the current Uptown Transit Center. Will ART buses have ramps: Yes

Mr. Schott discussed that it is difficult to determine the size of the population located east of Louisiana.

Ms. Birbiglia asked if the decline in ridership is system-wide or on certain routes. Mr. Rizzieri stated that it is system-wide.

Mr. Richardson talked about the new Sun Vans and asked if capacity in the vans is larger than the older vans. Mr. Rizzieri stated the new vans are a little longer, they have one level floor, they are able to hold three wheelchairs and the driver’s communication system is improved.

Mr. Schott inquired about the discovery of the deficit in the Transit Department farebox revenue deposits. Mr. Rizzieri explained that the over-sight procedures have been overhauled and that Transit staff is now counting the collected revenue.

Mr. Bob Tilley wanted to know if there was a policy about the folding bikes. Mr. Schott stated he brought this up four months ago in which Mr. Rizzieri stated it was ok to be brought on the bus. Mr. Tilley stated that not all bus drivers seem to know this.

**Para Transit Advisory Board**

The Board discussed that Ms. Frandsen was not present. When the Administrative Assistant heard the morning messages, Ms. Frandsen had left a message with her apologies that she would not be able to attend today’s meeting.

The Board asked if the PTAB is meeting, Mr. Rizzieri stated they are meeting every other month and they met in September. Mr. Rizzieri stated that they spoke about the new Sun Vans. A concern was that some passengers would need to be introduced to the new look of the vans.

Ms. Birbiglia asked if there was a change made about the times for scheduling. Mr. Rizzieri stated there has not been a change since the beginning of the year. The changes at the beginning of the year were; a passenger has two options to schedule: by a requested time, which is the time they request to be picked-up at their home, for example; or by an appointment time.

Ms. Birbiglia stated that she is hearing from the Customer Service Representatives stating that they can give people rides within two hours each way of the requested time, and that’s not what ADA states, it states within one hour before or after the requested pick-up time. Mr. Rizzieri stated they may be giving the total hours, one hour on each side of the scheduled time. Ms. Birbiglia stated that at least two CSR have told her they have been instructed that is ok to offer rides within two hours of requested times. Mr. Rizzieri stated he will look into this.

**New/Old Business:**

Mr. Rizzieri was asked about the driver’s partition that was being tested. There was a small discussion on the different types as well as a request to look at the partitions when they are in the buses for testing. Mr. Rizzieri stated he will let the Board know. When asked what the drivers thought. Mr. Rizzieri stated that not all the drivers liked them so they will be looking into other options.

**Adjournment:**

Next meeting will be on November 12, 2015 at 11:45 on the second floor of the Alvarado Transit Station.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:39.