

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 13, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Ms. Christen Conley called the meeting to order at 11:51 am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Annie JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Brendan Miller, Orville Pratt, Patricia Salisbary, David Schott, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley, Harris Balkin.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Cheryl Hunt, Judy Hatfield, Peggy Chong.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; 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.

Ms. Conley, introduced Mr. Harris Balkin a new board member.

**Acceptance of Agenda for October 13, 2016:**

Ms. Conley asked if there were any issues with the Agenda, there was none and Ms. Conley moved on.

**Minutes from September 8, 2016:**

Ms. JonesFrancis stated, in regards to her comment about herself and Mr. Tilley she stated they were aware of the ART announcement because of an advocate and did not get directly invited.

Ms. Birbiglia noted that under the acceptance of the agenda, it was incorrectly written as the acceptance of the minutes.

There was a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Tilley seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Conley recognized Ms. Chong to speak, this was not as a complaint about the bus drivers and was not a disability issue but as a passenger issue.

Ms. Chong stated that she is a frequent rider of Routes 66,766, and the 777. It has come to her attention that these routes are having a hard time keeping their schedule.

Ms. Chong has witnessed drivers asking passengers where they needed to get off because he was only doing drop offs to catch up to the time points.

Ms. Chong reported that a driver pulled over to let a passenger in a wheelchair know that he was full and he apologized that he could not pick her up but did let her know another bus would be arriving shortly.

Ms. Chong feels that the drivers need support during the construction on Central, she suggested more drivers or a temporary detour. Ms. Chong feels this needs to be done quickly.

Ms. JonesFrancis and Ms. Salisbury had concerns about this situation. Respectfully they asked if Ms. Chong had gotten a bus number, she did not. There is an issue when the bus is delayed because the public uses this transportation to get to their jobs and appointments and they want to be there on time.

It was agreed that there needs to be a contingency plan.

Ms. Hunt also has experienced buses that are full

Ms. Hunt pointed out that she doesn’t understand why the bus driver cannot get in communication with dispatch to find out when the next bus is coming, so that the passengers are informed.

Mr. Pratt relayed a story form a passenger about the stops at San Mateo and Central. This passenger stated she has been harassed at this intersection and finds that there are intoxicated people that are allowed to ride the buses with children.

Ms. Birbiglia states that harassment is a significant issue on buses these days, and wanted to know if anyone can address this.

Ms. Conley stated that she is not sure that this is a bus issue but more of a society issue.

Mr. Kesner brought up the subject of drunk passengers. He asked if there is someone coming from a bar who cannot drive and instead takes the bus, is this appropriate?

Mr. Rizzieri stated that if the passenger is not behaving inappropriately and is not being a threat to other passengers the driver would have to evaluate this situation and find an appropriate time to speak to the intoxicated passenger.

Ms. Hunt asks about the passengers who are cursing and arguing, what is the driver to do?

Ms. Rizzieri explained that the driver should call dispatch and ask for Transit Security for assistance. Mr. Rizzieri also stated that there are a lot of drivers who can handle these situations themselves whether they are female or male. Ms. Hunt also asked if male drivers and female drivers are trained the same, in which Mr. Rizzieri answered that they are.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri began his report with updates about ART. Construction will start Monday, October 17th. All segments of Central will have construction during the seven weeks prior to Thanksgiving. Then construction in designated areas will stop until the day after New Year’s Day.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that delays are to be expected during the ART construction but we do plan on sending supervisors into those areas that are slowing down so that we keep the buses operating smoothly. Dispatch will also be monitoring the grid and making decisions on whether to have buses doing drop offs only so that they can slowly get back on time points. The other scenario for drop offs only would be if the bus was full. Mr. Rizzieri added that during the times of drop offs only, the driver should never leave a wheelchair bound passenger behind.

Mr. Kesner wanted to know if there was a way that the bus could communicate to the people that the bus is full. Mr. Rizzieri stated that it is possible to change the header to read “Full Bus”. There was more discussion on what should be on the header, and also if more information could be on the header with a crawling line. Mr. Rizzieri stated he would look into this as well as the language of the information.

Ms. Conley asked if it is ever acceptable to pass a passenger when it is running late. Mr. Rizzieri answered no.

Mr. Rizzieri continued with the Director’s report, Mr. Rizzieri stated that ridership was down from this time in FY16.

Mr. Rizzieri stated that the ART will have programs to get people to attend events at different businesses along the Central Corridor. The first event was at Rude Boys Cookies, and there was another event at O’Neil’s. These events increased sales at these businesses. Mr. Rizzieri stated he will send an invite for Ms. Katherine Anzures to speak about these events.

Mr. Rizzieri let the board know about the Wall of Fame event that was held on Tuesday to honor Ms. Helen Fox, who helped homeless children complete school. She was nationally recognized for her work in this area.

Mr. Rizzieri addressed funding the ART, which came up in the last TAB meeting. Mr. Rizzieri described the federal government’s appropriations process. Regarding the construction contract, he stated that the guaranteed maximum cost could change if the City made changes to the project design or unknown conditions were discovered during construction.

**Announcements/Vice Chairperson’ report:**

In regards to the letter that the board intends to compose, Ms. Conley stated this letter will be sent to one or two people at MRCOG, the City Council, Mr. Rizzieri, the Mayor and the County Commissioners. The letter will highlight the biggest issues from the meeting.

Ms. Conley read a portion of a letter to show how she wants the notification to be sent. i.e.; the board would like to inform the recipients of the transit needs of second shift rides, better service on the Route 50 from Downtown to the airport and Sunday service.

Ms. Conley asked the board if they would be willing to list their names and their City Council districts as well as their e-mail addresses in the letter. No board members responded. Ms. Conley stated that she would only put her information in this first letter.

It was stated that everyone here on the board is an advocate.

Ms. JonesFrancis added that we could contact Catherin Cordova and give her all our e-mail addresses.

Ms. Salisbury stated that she met with Mr. Rizzieri, with suggestions about Route 36 and would like to have this included in the letter. Ms. Conley asked Ms. Salisbury if she would be willing to do a presentation about this at the next meeting and at that time this could be added to the next letter. Ms. Salisbury state that she would.

Mr. Rizzieri states the purpose of the letter is fine but the board also has to be involved in solutions.

Next meeting: 11:45 am, November 10, 2016, at the Alvarado Transit Center.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm.