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**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 10, 2015**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance; Lucy Birbiglia, Cristen Conley, Annie JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, David Schott, Warren Smith.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Julia Luna, J.W. Madison, Alicia Dekle.

**ABQ Ride:**

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

Ms. JonesFrancis, took a poll regarding the transportation used by the board members, the public in attendance, and ABQ RIDE staff to get to the TAB meeting.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Conley moved to accept the agenda. Ms. Birbiglia seconded and the agenda was approved.

**Approval of the Minutes from August 13, 2015:**

There were corrections to the minutes. Ms. JonesFrancis stated that she did not say that people do not use the bus stop at Lomas and the American Legion and wants that line stricken from the minutes.

Ms. Conley would like to add to the minutes the statement that she made that a shelter at Lomas and Legion would be for safety reasons not just for comfort, it might make traffic aware that they need to slow down.

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the minutes with changes. Mr. Smith moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Pratt seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Visitor Presentation:**

Ms. Julie Luna from MRCOG invited the Board to the “Implementing Complete Streets Workshop” which MRCOG is hosting. Ms. Luna stated that the Complete Streets Ordinance was passed by the Albuquerque City Council. The purpose of the Ordinance is to address multimobile issues. Ms. Luna passed-out an informational flyer indicating the date of the workshop and how to proceed to sign-up for the workshop.

Ms. JonesFrancis inquired about the Paseo Del Norte high capacity project. Ms. Luna provided information and described the general route.

Ms. Luna announced that in April the Metropolitan Transportation Board passed the Long-Range Transportation Plan, called the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2040 MTP). This plan identifies a high capacity transit network. This network includes the Central Avenue Albuquerque Rapid Transit project, the Paseo Del Norte project and the University Boulevard (UNM/CNM) bus rapid transit project. A goal was set to have 20 percent of river crossing trips to be by transit by 2040.

Ms. Luna spoke about the pedestrian road safety assessment that was performed by MRCOG. Participants included Bob Tilley and Annie JonesFrancis. The road safety assessment was done at Central and San Mateo. Ms. Luna explained that Albuquerque is a being focused on by the Federal Highway Administration due to the number of pedestrian injuries per capita.

The study took into account a suggestion from Ms. Birbiglia to have a concern for the challenges faced by people with disabilities when they cross streets.

A camera was used to film individuals crossing this intersection. What was observed was that wheelchair riders made the crossing fairly easy, while pedestrians that walked with canes or walkers had difficulty crossing the street.

Study team members spoke with people crossing this intersection. They discovered that there are minimal facilities for pedestrians.

Another observation was that there is a significant amount of loitering, as well as an element of substance abuse that need to be addressed as well.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Conley introduced Ms. Alicia Dekle, who has applied to be on the Board.

Mr. J.W. Madison had a couple of inquiries: who operates the Greyhound/Amtrak depot? Mr. Rizzieri answered that Greyhound is the master tenant for this facility.

How much do the bus shelters cost? Mr. Rizzieri answered that bus shelters cost between $12,000 to $20,000 dollars.

Ms. Conley asked if the cost included land acquisition. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the shelters are placed within public right-of-way or on land easements from property owners.

**Chair Person:**

Ms. JonesFrancis inquired about posting information regarding the TAB meetings, in which Mr. Rizzieri stated the department will be making posters noting the time and dates of the meetings.

**Directors Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about ridership going slightly downward but it still above one million boardings for the month.

Mr. Rizzieri spoke about the service that Transit will be providing for the State Fair, including operating hours, additional security, the shuttle service, as well as Transit personnel present to provide information.

Ms. JonesFrancis asked about Transits plan for the upcoming Balloon Fiesta. Mr. Rizzieri stated that there will be no additional service.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Rizzieri about the newspaper reports stating that funding was still in the works for the BRT project. Mr. Rizzieri explained that the Small Starts request was submitted on August 3, 2015.

**New Business/Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Pratt wanted to acknowledge and congratulate Ms. Birbiglia on her retirement.

Mr. Smith inquired about the possibility of adding additional buses for the Route 66, eastward from the ATC to Wyoming due to standing room only on the current buses. Mr. Rizzieri stated that would be an additional cost and at this time the answer would be, “no”.

Mr. Smith stated that twice he has ridden a 600 series bus on Route 766. He did recognize that these buses were for Route 766. However, other riders may not have known that a different bus was being used for this route. Mr. Rizzieri stated that the header sign would read 766 or 777. There was a suggestion to place a sign near the front door of the bus that would state the route number.

Ms. Schott suggested that maybe spacing out the Route 66 bus stop locations would help to ease the standing room conditions on the buses or having the buses stop at different bus stop locations.

Mr. Kesner wanted to be updated on the status of the suggestion by Mr. Tilley to extend the D Ride so that it would stop closer to the Social Security office. Mr. Rizzieri stated they have looked into this but there is a right hand turn at Lead and Fourth St that is too tight for the bus. Mr. Rizzieri added that they are looking into this so that a plan will be in place by next year.

Next meeting will be October 8, 2015 at the Alvarado Transit Center.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm