

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 8, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Mr. Bob Tilley called the meeting to order at 11:47 am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Lucy Birbiglia, Annie JonesFrancis, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Willie Richardson, David Schott, Warren Smith, Bob Tilley, Brendan Miller.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Cheryl Hunt, Judy Hatfield.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Annette Paez, Associate Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

Mr. Tilley 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. Tilley asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Birbiglia moved to accept the minutes. Ms. JonesFrancis seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from August 11, 2016:**

Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes, Mr. Kesner seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Cheryl Hunt, senior advocate who lives in a senior resident with more than one hundred residents, states that there need to be better access to buses and bus stops in the location of the residence, located at 609 Encino Pl NE.

Ms. Hunt spoke about the new market on Silver and stated she has spoken to the manager about the senior population that can get here on the bus to shop and discussed with the manager safety issues with crossing the streets. Ms. Hunt has had meetings with people at her residence to explain that route 50 would be a direct route to this area.

Ms. Hunt stated that on Saturday, there is not as much traffic and it would be an ideal day to shop downtown and having the D Ride operate on Saturday would good.

Ms. Judy Hatfield stated there is an advantage to shopping Downtown on Saturday because there was less traffic and fewer people. Ms. Hatfield stated she remembers when Downtown was very busy on the weekends.

It was suggested that a “C Ride”, a Cultural Ride, should run on weekends to take passengers to the Zoo, the Bio Park and the Museums.

Mr. Schott asked where the ART stop will be Downtown, Ms. Paez answered that the ART will stop at the Alvarado Transit Center.

**Director’s Report:**

Ms. Paez stated that ridership was down. From July to August there was a 6.32 percent drop, this was a decrease from this month last year.

Ms. Paez spoke about a press conference that was held for the ART, “It went well”. It was announced that construction for the ART project will now get started.

Mr. Kesner asked why the board was not notified. Ms. Paez stated that this will be duly noted.

Ms. JonesFrancis and Mr. Tilley stated that they got invited through an advocate.

Mr. Tilley felt that it is very positive that Bradbury and Stamm was awarded the contract. It is also positive because it is a local company who have families who live here and go to school here.

Ms. Paez stated that the web site for ART will continue to provide alerts and outreach for the public.

Mr. Tilley added, “if you like the ART that is good, but it is still necessary to advocate for Transit.”

**Announcements/Vice Chairperson’ report:**

 ●Format for report to Transit, Mayor, City Council and County Commissioners

Mr. Tilley spoke about the report that was discussed in the last meeting, in which a letter will be written to various people who can effect change, regarding ideas and concerns that Mr. Rizzieri deals with and other concerns brought up during the TAB meetings.

Ms. Hatfield asked how the public can talk to the City Council. Mr. Tilley stated that the councilors don’t work just one night a week. They have day jobs aside from City Council but they are available and contacting them to set up meetings is an option, calling them, as well as writing letters to them about concerns.

Several members of the board stated that they are able to contact their councilperson because they make themselves available thru different venues.

Mr. Tilley went back to the subject of reporting. He would like it to have bullet points of issues that keep coming up. This information would be overviewed by the board members and decided on, before it would be sent out.

Ms. JonesFrancis stated it might be an overload if the same item is noted over and over.

Mr. Tilley stated that this is a good point but it would keep transit in the discussion.

Mr. Schott was concerned that it may take time to get all the board members to agree with the points included in the letter. Mr. Schott also asked who this letter will be sent to.

Mr. Tilley stated it will be sent to the Mayor, the City Council, the County Commissioners, Mr. Rizzieri and MRCOG to start with.

Mr. Tilley stated that as an example from this meeting, the bullet points would be about; the contract signing with Bradbury Stamm yesterday for the ART; that there are 32 connections to the ART, in which some are good and some not so good; that route 50 is continuing not to work to connect Downtown and the Airport especially on Sunday.

Mr. Tilley added that hiring someone to revise services could be added to the letters.

Ms. Hatfield stated that it always boils down to how they are going to pay for things.

Ms. Birbiglia added that the attitudes as to what is possible for transit and what issues are important and what plans that can make this happen.

Mr. Tilley also stated that things can be tweeted to do an amazing job with the money that is available.

Mr. Smith noted that the newspaper reported that once the ART is started, it will cost more to operate, Mr. Smith questioned why because it will be same number of drivers.

Ms. Paez stated that her understanding is that the operation of the ART will not be taking from the current budget, but there will be added cost of more drivers, the maintenance cost and additional staff.

Mr. Schott stated that last month it was posted that if the city does not get funding there is a contingency plan to cut out the ART.

Ms. Paez answered this would have to be addressed by Mr. Rizzieri.

Mr. Tilley added that funds are available. Ms. Paez stated that the money that will be needed will be available.

Ms. Birbiglia stated that once the Louisiana ART station is completed, she would like a team of people with disabilities to go and check it out to insure it is ADA compliant. Ms. Paez stated that all the ART stops will be accessible.

**Paratransit Advisory Board Report:**

No Report is available but it was stated that it would be a good idea for this board to go to the PTAB meetings. Mr. Richardson stated that he has acted as a liaison before.

**Unfinished Business: Proposed Central Avenue Business Advisory Board:**

The board asked if Ms. Paez had any information on the CABAB, Ms. Paez stated that she doesn’t know.

Mr. Tilley noted that all seats are still vacant.

Ms. JonesFrancis had a concerned about Mr. Rizzieri, she was stating this as she noticed he was unavailable for that last few TAB meetings.

Ms. Paez stated Mr. Rizzieri was doing well he was taking a personal day.

Next meeting is October 13, 2016 at 11:45, at the Alvarado Transit Center:

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.