

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Alvarado Transportation Center – 2nd Floor**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2017**

**Board Members In Attendance:**

David Schott, Bob Tilley, Bill Richardson, Orville Pratt, Harris Balkin, Warren Smith David Kesner, Patricia Salisbury, and Brandon Miller

**Members of the Public In Attendance:**

Judy Hatfield, Will Mass

**ABQ Ride In Attendance:**

Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Cindy Sisneros, HR Analyst

**Form of Transportation**

Bob Tilley –Walk

Bill Richardson – Drove

David Kesner – Drove

Patricia Salisbury – Bus

Warren Smith -Bus

Bruce Rizzieri –Drove

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Mr. Tilley called the meeting to order at 11:45 am.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by David Kesner and seconded by David Schott.

**Approval of Minutes from December:**

Mr. Tilley asked for approval of the Minutes. All members of the board agreed. The Meeting Minutes were approved.

Mr. Kesner asked about the status of the Central Avenue Advisory Board. Mr. Rizzieri responded that there are unfilled membership on this board.

Mr. Kesner asked if Mr. Rizzieri had any follow-up information concerning the December presentation and Mr. Kesner’s question about the possibility of a bus to transport people to the various restaurants and bars along Central Avenue. Mr. Rizzieri responded that he would follow-up with the marketing staff.

**Public Comment:**

**Chair Report**

There was no report from the Chair. However, there were questions from the board members.

Mr. Miller asked if construction work on Central Avenue would be extended to 9 pm. Mr. Rizzieri responded that he did not know of any plans from the contractor to work until 9 pm.

Mr. Miller asked about construction barriers on Central Avenue. Mr. Rizzieri responded that the contractor has placed barriers on Central to direct traffic and pedestrians so that people and vehicles can travel in a safe manner.

Mr. Pratt asked why the Rapid service ended at 9:30 pm when restaurants on Central are open beyond this time. Mr. Rizzieri responded that the department evaluating how the ART service could operate past 9:30 pm on weekends and perhaps other days of the week.

Ms. Salisbury inquired why bus service ends at 6:30 pm near 12ths Street. Also, why bus service in this area is different, routing and hours, than on weekdays. Mr. Rizzieri responded that he assumes that many years ago ridership on weekends was lower than ridership on weekdays. The department would need additional funding to increase service on the weekends.

Mr. Balkin stated that it is important that advisory board members attend City Council meetings to express the member’s belief that the transit system needs to be improved.

Mr. Kesner asked about the construction at First St. and Central. Mr. Rizzieri responded that the first phase included a parking structure. Additional phases would include residential units, restaurants, and entertainment activities.

Ms. Salisbury asked about adding Rapid Ride stop locations on the eastern portion of the Uptown loop road. These stops should serve Winrock, Trader Joe’s and the apartments, and Coronado Mall.

Mr. Tilley asked about the pet cat and dog on buses pilot program. Mr. Rizzieri responded that Transit staff has compiled opinions from bus drivers, passengers, and other interested parties. Mr. Rizzieri expressed that the cat/dog pilot program had mixed reviews with passengers and with drivers. Mr. Rizzieri specified that some individuals did enjoy ridding with their pets while on public transportation; however; the following issues did arise: animals not on a leash, passengers allergic to cats or dogs, animals not properly muzzled, animals sitting on passengers seats, and animals growling at service animals. Mr. Rizzieri will be preparing a report and send this report to the City Council.

Mr. Schott questioned if transit would consider income as a factor to reduce the fare for Sun Van service and if Transit could contract out the Sun Van service to other entities. Mr. Schott indicated if transit were to cut fares to a reduced rate it may increase ridership.

Mr. Rizzieri responded that Sun Van ridership is increasing about 3% per year. The Department has not considered a fare structure based on income. About 25-30 years ago the Department contracted with a third party entity to provide a similar service. The Department eventually brought this service in-house.

David Kesner requested that transit look into expanding ART Beat event to Uptown.

Bob Tilley expressed that ART Beat events are not to increase ridership but to promote local business

**Director’s Report**

Mr. Rizzieri reported that the decrease in system-wide is holding steady. However, ridership may decrease above this trend as construction continues on Central.

ART construction is progressing very well. The contractor is working within all areas from Coors to Louisiana. Upcoming work includes the Lomas/Central/Rio Grande Blvd. intersection reconstruction.

The Central and Unser Transit Center expansion should begin this summer.

**Announcements:**

There were no announcements.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business

**New Business**

There was no new business

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.