

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Alvarado Transportation Center – 2nd Floor**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 11, 2018**

**Board Members**

In Attendance:

Lucy Birbiglia, Nancy JonesFrancis, Brendan Miller, Harris Balkin, Israel Chavez, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, Geoff Zehnder, Bob Tilly

**Members of the Public**

In Attendance:

Richard Steiner, Kishan Seepaul, JW Madison

**ABQ RIDE**

In Attendance:

Yvette Garcia, Administrative Assistant

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 11:51 AM. He then took roll and asked everyone who was in attendance what their mode of transportation to the meeting was: Brendan Miller-Walked, Lucy Birbiglia-Sun Van, Nancy JonesFrancis-Drove, Davis Kesner-Drove, Harris Balkin-Drove, Bob Tilley-Biked, Orville Pratt-Drove, Geoffrey Zehnder-Drove, Israel Chavez-Drove, Yvette Garcia-Drove, Richard Steiner- Drove, Kishan Seepaul-Bus and JW Madison-Drove.

**Acceptance of Agenda:** All members of the board approved agenda.

**Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2018:**

All members of the board will wait to dispense the meeting minutes for September 12, 2018 until next meeting.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Steiner told the meeting he had returned to Albuquerque after three years. He said while he was driving down Central Avenue, he noticed the ART shelters in the middle of the road and wanted to see how much they cost. He called 311 to try to get an answer, but has yet to find out how much they cost. Mr. Miller responded that he will find out and pass the message along. Mr. Chavez added that you can talk to your City Councilor’s office. Each has a fulltime policy analyst and they will probably already have a breakdown of the cost. Mr. JW Madison asked what is the life span, years and mileages of the ART buses? Ms. Seepaul started off by saying that she has not ridden the bus in a few years, but recently started and wants to let Transit know how wonderful the drivers have been. Secondly, the bus stop signs are faded, so it makes it really difficult to see what bus stops are where. Thirdly, some of the bus stops’ overhead lighting is out, so it feels unsafe for anyone who has to wait for the bus at that stop. She has called 311, but has gotten no response. So she called PNM to get some answers. They said it would be a couple of months before they could have someone come out to replace the blub. Mr. Kesner commented to Ms. Seepaul about the lighting poles at Summit Park. He stated that she could contact the president of the park and let him know about her concerns. Mr. Tilley stated that all of the buses are equipped with security camera and the late night buses do have security guards.

**Presentations:** None

**Chairpersons’ report**

Mr. Miller (Chair) and the Transit Advisory Board will be asking for approval of a letter that will be sent to our Mayor, Commissioners, Councilors and civic leaders regarding concerned raised by the Citizens of Albuquerque riders and Transit Advisory Board (TAB) members. Additionally, the Board would like to extend an invitation to Mayor Keller to attend one of our meetings in the near future so we may hear his perspective and vision for public transportation in Albuquerque, and have a dialogue with him. All board members approved the letter with some changes.

**TAB Members Comments:**

Mr. Chavez raised concerns about the late night bus services. He said because in a city like ours were we encounter DWI’s so frequently, that having late night bus services would be a big benefit for the Albuquerque’s citizens to use if that service was offered. Mr. Balkin wanted to add the possibility of integrating between the transit authority and the ride sharing; to provide maybe free shuttle or a discounted bus pass to transport outside of the city limits where the bus routes don’t run. Mr. Miller mentioned the reason why he has pushed so hard to extend more fixed route service in areas like the South Valley and lower income areas because ride share is great. But if you can afford pay to get home, it does not help. Mr. Tilley stated that money could come from the County Commissioners and Councilors and we all should writes letters and voices those concerns to those leaders. Mr. Zehnder asked if Transit has a schedule set for bus stop maintenance to come around and replace signage and cracked windows. Ms. Nancy JonesFrancis replied by stating, yes, Transit has what is known as the Adopt a Stop program, in which the citizen of Albuquerque can adopt a stop and pledge to maintain an individual stop. Mr. Miller wanted to see changes happen to #12-Constitution route to convert to an all-day bus route. Or, if not the full route, then at least the portion to operate between the ATC and the Uptown Transit Center. Mr. Tilley commented that Albuquerque has doubled it metro population since people were coming in for Balloon Fiesta and there were zero changes made to the bus routes. He said we should accommodate our visitors. In past years, the Rail Runner provided special train service. He said If Transit would have provided special service, it would have prevented a lot of people from being stranded at the Park and Rides this year. He added that he really would like to see Transit integrate with other transit agencies in the area to provide better commuting from all over Albuquerque to get these visitor to Balloon Fiesta. Mr. Balkin mention that in the past and this year, he has seen a booth set up by Rio Metro and was wondering if ABQ RIDE set one up as well and if so, they should have an ART bus open for display.

**Director’s report**

None

**Unfinished business**

Mr. Miller suggested a re-routing of Route #8-Menaul on weekends to better serve 12th St., and ensure consistent routing 7 days a week.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:19pm**