

**GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2017
11:30 AM**

**FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON
5101 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93309**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jim Baldwin
Cindy Parra

Carlos Bello
Evelyn Young Spath

Jim Hunter

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Chris James
Bruce Seibel
Emery Rendes

Steven Woods
Candra Cheers
Jeanie Hill
Ricardo Perez

Gina Hayden
Sharon Pierce
Judi Daunell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Andrae Gonzalez
Dennis Heffernon

Bob Snoddy
Gary Winters

Michael Harless

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Hunter led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Andrae Gonzales, Ward 2 Councilman for the City of Bakersfield stated that he is looking forward to a partnership with GET.

A letter was received from a current customer listing stops on routes 21, 22, 41, 44, and 47 she would like to be continued (Attachment A).

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

The meeting was adjourned to the Strategic Planning Workshop at 11:57 am. The Board participated in a strategic planning workshop facilitated by Mr. Gary Winters. The workshop adjourned at 5:16 p.m. and recessed to the regular Board meeting.

The Board meeting reconvened at 5:36 p.m with all Board members present.

PUBLIC HEARING - UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Director Hunter stated that GET will receive public testimony identifying and commenting on Unmet Transit Needs that may exist in the Bakersfield Metropolitan Area. Notices of the hearing were placed in *The Bakersfield Californian* and *El Popular* newspapers as well as posted on the buses, the GET website, Facebook and twitter pages. The following is the definition of unmet transit needs:

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code 99401.5, "An unmet transit needs exists if an individual of any age or physical condition is unable to transport himself or herself due to deficiencies in the existing transportation system.

Excluded are: 1) Those requests for minor operational improvements, and 2) Those improvements funded and scheduled for implementation in the following year.

The term "reasonable to meet" is defined:

- A) Operational Feasibility. The requested improvement must be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways for transit vehicles;
- B) Duplication of Service. The proposed service shall not duplicate other transit services;
- C) Timing. The proposed service shall be in response to an existing, rather than a future need; and
- D) Service must meet the legally required farebox ratio with fares close to fares of similar service."

Any person wishing to present testimony related to unmet transit needs may do so at this time. Please state your name and address for the record. If you wish your statements to be verbatim, they must be in writing for inclusion in the official record of this hearing.

A letter from Ms. Ethel Weaver was received regarding expanding service on various routes including 46, 47, and 61 (Attachment B).

Mr. Michael Harless stated that there is a safety issue at the bus stop at East California and Union as there is no sidewalk for disabled customers. He suggested that moving the time point to in front of Food Max be considered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Director Young Spath moved and Director Parra seconded to approve the Board Chair's standing committee assignments for 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello shared information he received when attending a KaBOOM Workshop. The workshop shared information about innovative bus stops which incorporate activities for young children and better lighting. Director Bello commented how GET staff didn't let the rainy conditions stop their participation in the GET food distribution event and how events like this provide a connection with the community.

Director Parra stated that the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) has received a \$1.3 million grant to establish a Bike Share Program within the City of Bakersfield. The initial program is scheduled to start with 100 bikes at 20 stations around Bakersfield. Director Parra also commented about the need to address the Downtown Transit Center's appearance.

Director Baldwin stated that he appreciated the participation of all managers today at the Strategic Planning Workshop.

Director Hunter stated that he had received a notice from APTA regarding their Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) and asked if GET participates in this program. Director Hunter also stated that he would be meeting with federal representatives' staff prior to attending the APTA Legislative Conference in March. Director Hunter's abstract has been accepted and approved for presentation at the Bus and Paratransit Conference in May.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King stated that she had attended the APTA CEO Seminar last week and one of the topics discussed was zero emission buses. Transit agencies who have begun the process of converting to zero emission buses commented that it is easier to buy the equipment. Implementing is very complex. From information received from participants at the seminar, the majority of transit agencies are seeing declines in ridership. Several possibilities have been shared about possible reasons for declines including Uber and Lift, and low gasoline prices. GET's website has been redesigned to be more informative and easier to navigate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(e)(3)] – Two Matters and

Conference with Legal Counsel [Government Code Section 54957.6] – Golden Empire Transit District Negotiator: Karen King. The Board returned to open session at 6:26 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that no action was taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Hunter moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors

To Whom it may concern. 02/21/2017

Hi, I have been a loyal Get Bus patron for many years. I am also disabled and the Get Bus is my only transportation. I use it for all my appointments, grocery shopping and to visit my daughter etc. That's why I'm asking you to keep these routes and stops.

21. Stockdale and California

22. ^{Downtown Transit Center} Southwest Transit Center, CSUB

41. South Union and Price (Home)!!!
Walmart and Panama Lane

~~43~~ White Lane and Acres

44. White Lane and Stine

47. ^{Walmart Panama Lane} Stine and White Lane, Stine and

Plan 2, California and Mohawk,

Panama Ln and Wible

Sincerely your
loyal Get Bus Patron
Candace

I want #47 to run nights
and weekends.

#61 should run 30 minutes each
morning and night.

need bus to go down
brundage lane every 15 minutes.

need bus to go down
martin L. king Ave through
cotton road to panama. every
30 minutes.

Ethel Weaver
Ethel Weaver