

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

**MARCH 21, 2017
5:30 PM**

**1830 GOLDEN STATE AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Cindy Parra

James Hunter
Evelyn Young Spath

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Jim Baldwin

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:

Buddy Graham
Tracey Mensch
Juan Guillen
Ethel Weaver

Michael Harless
Bob Snoddy
Ron Ferguson

Jennifer Lopez
Dennis Heffernon
Jasmine Corona

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ron Ferguson led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY 2017-18 SERVICES CHANGES

Director Hunter stated that GET will receive public testimony identifying and commenting on proposed changes to Routes 47 and 84. 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.

Michael Harless made suggestions about the use of Route 84 in connection with the expansion of service on Route 47 on weekends.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Parra moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Buddy Graham stated that more bus shelters are needed to provide protection from the sun, particularly on routes 22 and 44. He asked why the shelters are all black. He also asked that route maps mark every stop on each route. Another concern Mr. Graham shared is that the roof overhangs at both the Downtown Transit Center and Southwest Transit Center don't provide cover where customers are loading.

Ethel Weaver stated that Route 47 provides service to CBCC on the weekends, but an hour is too long to wait for service. Ms. Weaver asked that service after 7 on Route 47 be considered. She suggested that at big bus stops, route maps be available. An example is the parking lot at Walmart on Panama Lane. She also would like to see more bus benches/shelters. A bus bench was damaged in an accident in front of Farmer Boys on California Avenue by Stockdale Highway and needs to be replaced.

Michael Harless asked if there was an update regarding bus stops on Route 21 at East California Avenue and Union Avenue (by the Food Max). He suggested that more bus stops are needed on Route 61 – Rosedale Highway and Coffee Road by Lowe's is one example.

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD BIKE SHARE PROJECT

Ms. King stated that she met with City staff on Friday. The City is looking for GET to be a Partnering Agency for the project. A business model still needs to be determined. Ms. King commented that GET will continue to work with the City as the bike share portion of the project is developed and report back to the Board. This was an informational item only.

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS RESOLUTION 2017-02

The District held a public hearing on February 21, 2017 to receive testimony regarding unmet transit needs that may exist within the Bakersfield metropolitan area. District staff and the Service Review Committee have evaluated the public comments that were received and have no recommendations for changes to the District's service at this time. Therefore, staff has determined that there are no unmet transit needs that exist within the Bakersfield metropolitan area that are reasonable to meet.

Director Hunter moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-02, which carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Bello, Hunter, Parra, Young Spath	NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None	ABSENT:	Baldwin

PRELIMINARY TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) CLAIM

Director Parra moved and Director Young Spath seconded a motion to approve the preliminary FY 2017-18 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

In late 2014, the California legislature passed Senate Bill 862 that includes funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) for transit projects. In order for Golden Empire Transit District to participate, it must agree to comply with all the conditions, regulations and requirements set forth in the Certification and Assurances established by Caltrans. Resolution 2017-04 authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute all documents needed to participate in this fund program and Resolution 2017-03 authorizes the submission of an allocation request in the amount of \$278,644.

Director Parra moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-03 authorizing the execution of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Funding for Purchase of three (3) Electric Buses in the amount of \$278,644.

Resolution 2017-03 carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Bello, Hunter, Parra, Young Spath	NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None	ABSENT:	Baldwin

Director Young Spath moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-04 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute all required documents of the LCTOP program and any Amendments.

Resolution 2017-04 carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Bello, Hunter, Parra, Young Spath	NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None	ABSENT:	Baldwin

CONTRIBUTORY SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST (PENSION PLAN) ADMINISTRATION AND TRUST PROPOSED CHANGES

Director Bello moved and Director Parra seconded to approve the Pension Committee's recommendation to execute an agreement for GET's Pension Plan administration. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

SOLAR PROJECT

Director Young Spath moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to cancel the development of a solar project on GET's existing property. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Director Parra moved and Director Young Spath seconded a motion to appoint Lea Molina to a one-year term on the Community Advisory Council. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

FEBRUARY 2017 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Woods reviewed the February 2017 financial reports. Mr. Woods commented that the federal CNG rebates expired December 31, 2016. This was an informational item only.

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

Ms. King reported that we are waiting for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is scheduled to be released in April.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello commented that he attended the Call to Action for a Healthy Kern Summit – “Enhancing Access to Health” at the DoubleTree. Construction is scheduled to begin in June for the interactive bus stop in funded with a KaBOOM grant.

Director Parra stated that a skate park will be opening in Arvin on Wednesday, March 22nd. Director Parra asked staff if funding that is allocated for the solar project could be used for other projects, i.e. extending platform covers at the Downtown Transit Center and Southwest Transit Centers.

Director Young Spath commented that CSUB will be holding one commencement ceremony this spring on May 19th. 11,000+ attendees are expected. GET will be offering shuttle service from designated areas to the commencement area. Director Young Spath stated that two events will be taking place at CSUB during the April 28th -29th weekend: Jazz Festival and Celebrate CSUB.

Director Hunter stated that he and Ms. King attended APTA's Legislative Conference earlier in March, where they met with staff members of Congressmen McCarthy and Valadao to share transit concerns. Director Hunter commented that he and Ms. King will be collaborating on a Board Governance Development Workshop.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King stated that an Environmental Management System (EMS) surveillance audit was conducted on February 22nd and 23rd. A customer and community survey will be performed the week of March 27th through April 1st. Two new paratransit vehicles have been received to expand GET-A-Lift service. Five new paratransit vehicles are scheduled to be received later this spring to replace older GET-A-Lift vehicles.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 7:14 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] – One (1) Matter – M. Nelson vs. Golden Empire Transit District, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-15-101785 and Conference with Legal Counsel [Government Code Section 54957.6] – Golden Empire Transit District Negotiator: Karen King. The Board returned to open session at 7:59 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel and staff on the items referenced in the executive session on the Agenda. Mr. Worth stated that a five-year agreement with Teamsters Local #517 was ratified by the Board of Directors with an effective date of April 1, 2017. No other action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Hunter moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors