

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

**DECEMBER 6, 2016  
5:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Jim Baldwin  
Evelyn Young Spath

James Hunter

Cindy Parra

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

None

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

James Worth

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**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Bruce Seibel  
Emery Rendes

Steven Woods  
Gina Hayden  
Judi Daunell

Candra Cheers  
Sharon Pierce

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Snoddy  
Karen Bowman

Raquel Pacheco  
James D. McMannus

Bethany Simmons  
Jacob Shaw

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Attorney Worth stated that an item arose after the posting of agenda which needed immediate attention and that pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2) the Board could place the item on the agenda with a 2/3 vote of the Board. The matter that needed to be added and placed on the agenda: Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) – One (1) Matter – Jose Torres and Milagros De

Jesus Avila vs. Golden Empire Transit District, Kern County Superior Court Case No. S-1500-CV-284828. Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was noted that the minutes stated that no quorum was present at the November 1, 2016 board meeting which is incorrect and needed to be deleted. Director Hunter moved and Director Parra seconded to approve the amended minutes of November 1, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK DISBURSEMENTS**

Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded to approve the accounts payable check disbursements. The motion carried unanimously.

### **BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2017**

After some discussion, Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to approve the 2017 Board meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VIDEOTAPING OF BOARD MEETINGS**

Following some discussion among Board members, Director Young Spath moved and Director Baldwin seconded a motion to discontinue videotaping Board meetings except on an as needed basis. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CSUB TRANSIT CENTER ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CONTRACT**

Mr. Woods reviewed the background on this project. Director Hunter moved and Director Young Spath seconded a motion to award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$225,063.00 to RNL for architectural and engineering design services for the CSUB transit transfer site. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REPLACEMENT OF NETWORK CABLING AND SWITCHES**

Director Baldwin moved and Director Young Spath seconded a motion finding Sentinel Engineering as the most responsible and responsive bidder and awarded a contract to Sentinel Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$157,284.38 as well as an ongoing support agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

## **GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT CONTRIBUTORY SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST**

Mr. Woods provided copies of GET's Contributory Savings Plan and Trust and commented that annually the GET sponsored pension plan is reviewed during our annual financial audit. Information about the plan is provided by GET's investment provider, record keeper and trustee, Prudential Retirement, Inc. This was an informational item only.

## **ANALYSIS OF ROUTE 61 HEADWAY IMPROVEMENT**

Mr. Rendes presented information on the improved Route 61 headways (sixty minutes to thirty minutes), commenting that the first five months of headway improvements has generated over 200 boardings per day (see Attachment 1). Although it is lower than the 273 required for the 20% ratio, the increase is encouraging. Three additional work runs were added to provide the improved headways. This was an informational item only.

## **OCTOBER 2016 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Woods reviewed the October 2016 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

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## **KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT**

Director Parra stated that the November meeting of KernCOG was held during the California Transit Association Fall Conference. Both Director Parra and Director Hunter (the KernCOG alternate) were attending the CA conference. Mr. Snoddy shared that during the workshop, a presentation was given on the development of downtown residences in the Mill Creek area.

## **HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE**

Ms. King stated that she has received correspondence from the CHSRA. The draft schedule and terms have not changed and are contingent upon the issuance of the supplemental EIR in January 2017. At the CHSRA December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board is expected to take action to approve a funding plan for the Central Valley usable section of the HSR.

Director Young Spath shared that the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at CSUB has a high speed rail simulator which is now operational and will be used to train conductors in the high speed rail industry. Director Young Spath will explore the opportunity to visit the simulator at a future date.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS:**

Director Parra asked staff to provide information on bike racks and shelters as well as possible locations, stating that the City of Bakersfield has set aside TDA funds to assist with the costs of this project. Director Parra also thanked staff for working with the City of Bakersfield on their Amtrak Station solar project.



Director Baldwin expressed gratitude to be back.

Director Hunter referenced a handout (Attachment 2) on an upcoming California Transit Association (CTA) webinar on 'walkable communities' on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS:**

Ms. King commented that active duty military and veterans were recognized for their service by riding free on fixed route buses during the month of November. About 10,000 boardings by veterans and active duty military personnel were recorded for the month. The Maintenance Department has continued its excellent work and GET has been recertified as a Blue Shield Shop. On the afternoon of December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Foothill High School choir will be performing at both the Downtown Transit Center and Southwest Transit Center. The CTA sent out notification that the newly selected chairmen of the State Assembly and Senate transportation committees have introduced comprehensive transportation bills which include additional funding for transit.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(e)(3)] – One (1) Tort Claim; and Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) – One (1) Matter – Jose Torres and Milagros De Jesus Avila vs. Golden Empire Transit District, Kern County Superior Court Case No. S-1500-CV-284828 and returned to open session at 7:33 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. No 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 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors

## ANALYSIS OF ROUTE 61 HEADWAY IMPROVEMENT

On July 5, 2016 weekday headways on Route 61 were improved from 60 minutes to thirty minutes from approximately 9:30AM to 5:30PM. The service change data are shown below.

Number of buses added: 3

Additional vehicle hours per day: 25.58

Additional cost per day: \$1,201

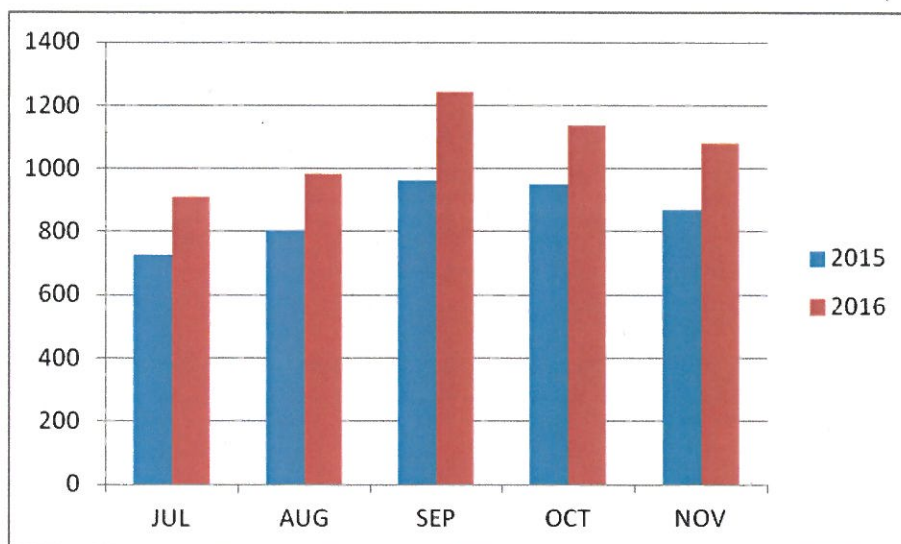
Changes in ridership levels are shown below for the first five months of service:

- ♦ July: 911 boardings per weekday, an increase of 185 per day from July 2015
- ♦ August: 983 boardings per day, an increase of 180 per day from August 2015
- ♦ September: 1,244 boardings per day, an increase of 280 per day from September 2015
- ♦ October: 1,138 boardings per day, an increase of 188 per day from October 2015
- ♦ November: 1,078 boardings per day, an increase of 209 per day from November 2015

% increase in boardings: 25%

In order to meet the 20% operating ratio for the additional cost of service, \$240 in revenue must be generated. Based on an average fare of \$.88 per passenger, 273 additional boardings per day are necessary. The route is averaging 216 additional passengers per day (\$190 in revenue) for the first five months. Therefore, ridership growth in response to the headway improvement is encouraging and 57 additional boardings per day would meet the 273 required for meeting the 20% ratio for the trips that were added.

### BOARDINGS PER WEEKDAY





# Who's On Board: Why Frequent, Fast, Walkable Transit Matters, and How to Get More of it in California

**A webinar for California Transit Association members**

**Thursday, December 8  
10:00–11:00 a.m. PST**

What matters to transit riders? Frequent, fast service that connects walkable destinations, according to TransitCenter's recently released report, *Who's On Board 2016: What Today's Riders Tell Us About Transit That Works*. Based on 3,000 survey responses and focus group discussions in multiple cities, *Who's On Board* underscores the importance of designing networks to emphasize frequency, using transit operations and street design to speed up service, and partnering with city agencies to promote walkability. It explains them in clear ways that have resonated deeply with the press, members of the public, and transit decisionmakers.

The report's primary author, Steven Higashide, will discuss key findings, relate them to transit reform efforts in California, and explain how TransitCenter (a national foundation) supports campaigns to improve transit based on these principles.



**Steven Higashide** is Senior Program Analyst for TransitCenter, a foundation dedicated to improving urban mobility. His work focuses on transportation opinion research and advancing parking reform, demand management, and congestion pricing. Steven's research has been widely cited in mainstream and transportation media, and in 2016 he was named to the Association for Commuter Transportation's "40 Under 40." He previously worked at the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, where he ran successful campaigns to pass laws protecting transportation funding and vulnerable road users. In 2013, he received the "Friend of Public Transportation" award from the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation. Steven holds a master's degree in urban planning from New York University.

