

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

**DECEMBER 5, 2018  
5:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Jim Baldwin  
Cindy Parra

Carlos Bello

James Hunter

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Evelyn Young Spath, Ed.D.

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Jeanie Hill  
Emery Rendes  
Melissa Ash  
Amanda Villanueva

Steve Barnes  
Deekay Fox  
Robert Williams  
Victor Honorato  
Sharon Pierce

Candra Cheers  
Chris James  
Ricardo Perez  
Crystal Hamlet

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Robin Cody  
Kyle Finger

Michael Harless  
Ryan Nielsen

Bob Snoddy  
Michael Horne

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AWARD**

Mr. Barnes introduced Mr. Ryan Nielsen from Brown, Armstrong Associates LLC and Melissa Ash, Accounting Supervisor. Mr. Barnes stated that this award recognizes the dedication and

outstanding work of the Finance Department staff: Melissa Ash, Debbie Ockerman, and Sally Martin. Mr. Nielsen commented that the GFOA encourages better, more thorough financial reporting beyond annual audit reporting with the preparation and use of a more comprehensive format and in-depth analysis known as a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR. The District was notified by GFOA earlier this fall that the report merited their highest honor, Excellence in Financial Reporting, and a certificate and plaque commemorating this achievement. This is the fifth year in a row that GET has received this award.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Edward Davila, Mr. Michael Williams, and Mr. Michael Harless submitted written comments (see Attachment A).

#### **APPOINTMENT OF AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER**

Director Parra moved and Director Baldwin seconded a motion to appoint Ms. Leasa Engel as the At-Large Board Member. The motion carried with three (3) ayes, one (1) absent (Young Spath) and one (1) abstention (Hunter).

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. Barnes shared that IT Strategic Plans were implemented in 2009 and 2016. It was determined that an update was necessary and Sunrise Communications was selected to review GET's needs. Mr. Cody concluded his review and made recommendations in the following areas: Video Storage/Retention and Bus/Vehicle Communications. The Administration and Finance Committee met on November 19, 2018 and Mr. Cody presented his report and recommendations. The Committee concurred with staff regarding accepting Mr. Cody's recommendations subject to a demonstration of funding sources.

Director Baldwin moved and Director Hunter seconded a motion to approve the recommendations made in the IT five Year Strategic Plan. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

#### **PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS AND ADMINISTRATION OF LCFS/RIN CREDITS**

Mr. Barnes stated that the District released a Request for Proposals (RFP #G099) for the purchase of Renewable Natural Gas and LCFS/RIN Credits Sale on October 4, 2018. The contract would reduce the District's net annual cost in its natural gas by approximately \$658,832, representing new incentive credits earned, which will be recognized as auxiliary revenue in the

District's Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets.

Director Baldwin moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to award a contract to GHI Energy for the purchase of renewable natural gas and the administration of LCFS/RIN credits based on being the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

## **OCTOBER 2018 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Barnes reviewed the October 2018 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

## **SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN (SRTP) REVISION**

Mr. Barnes shared that staff has determined that capital projects adopted by the Board as part of the original SRTP require modification and amendment. Adoption of this amended capital improvement program will allow the submission of the amended SRTP by the District to Kern COG for inclusion in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

Director Hunter moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt the amendment to the FY 2018-19 to FY 2022-23 Short Range Transit Plan and authorized staff to submit the amendment to Kern COG. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

## **SOLAR COVERED PARKING**

Mr. James shared that a Facilities and Equipment Committee meeting was held on November 15, 2018 to discuss the project and procurement details for solar covered parking in the administration parking lot to reduce GET's operational costs. The Committee Chair authorized staff to present the project to the Board for consideration contingent upon the vendor submitting the Buy America documentation. AC Electric submitted a price proposal for the solar covered parking in the amount of \$762,801. The District intends to use FTA funding for this project.

Director Bello moved and Director Baldwin seconded a motion to award a contract to AC Electric to provide solar covered parking for \$762,801 based on being the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

## **CSUB TRANSIT PROJECT**

Mr. James stated that the District is in the process of designing a transit facility on the CSUB campus. The facility includes six bus bays on Don Hart Drive with passenger amenities.

Director Parra moved and Director Hunter seconded a motion to authorize staff to submit the project to DSA for an official review and comment. The motion carried with three (3) ayes, one (1) no (Baldwin), and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

## **UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MICROTRANSIT PROJECT**

Ms. Cheers and Ms. Fox provided an update on GET's MicroTransit project. Microtransit is a form of demand-respond service that offers door-to-door service with a flexible on-call schedule. Effective April 7, 2019, consistent with our quarterly service bids, the Golden Empire Transit District will roll out MicroTransit service in a zone that encompasses the area of the route 47 and southern portion of route 61. Service will run from 6:00A-11:00P Monday through Friday and from 6:00A-7:00P Saturday and Sunday, and they will run simultaneously with the current bus service on both of those routes. The service will run with refurbished GAL buses with a new brand wrap. Golden Empire Transit District's new MicroTransit service will be called RYDE. It will carry passengers from door to door anywhere within the area of those two routes. The service will be premium same day service, and passengers will be charged a premium fare. All vehicles will be equipped to transport passengers with disabilities, including passengers in wheelchairs. Extensive community outreach and an aggressive marketing campaign will take place to inform the community about the new service. This was an informational item only.

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

Director Parra asked about the bad air day data. Director Parra stated that the City of Bakersfield is moving ahead with their bike share/scooter project. She was excited that both the Microtransit and bike share/scooter project are scheduled to begin in April. Director Parra commended Director Hunter on his service to GET and the community and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition honoring that service.

Director Bello stated that it has been a pleasure working with Director Hunter and wished him well. Director Bello was impressed with the Marketing Plan that was reviewed at the recent meeting and appreciated the updates.

Director Hunter shared that he was very thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Board for GET. Serving as a Board member allowed him the opportunity to become more educated about how transit affects thousands of lives every day and strive to provide the tools necessary for improved service. Director Hunter commented that he was very appreciative of President George H. W. Bush's implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990.

Director Baldwin also stated that Director Hunter will be missed. He thanked him for his wisdom, hard work, and leadership on the Board and wished him well with his company. He thanked Director Hunter for acknowledging President Bush and the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA has opened doors for the disabled to more fully participate in their communities all over the nation.

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

Ms. King thanked Director Hunter for his service as the At-Large Board Member. Director Hunter provided leadership and support to the Board and staff as well as being a strong advocate for GET within the community. She also thanked him for working with Director Parra and the other Board members to nominate her for the Distinguished Service Award from California

Transit Association, which she received at the Annual Meeting this past October. A grant from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District allowed GET to provide free rides for customers on November 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> when the AQI in Bakersfield was projected to register over 150 from the wildfires in Southern and Northern California. The number of riders was 18% over the typical number of riders. A 40' fixed route bus and a GET-A Lift vehicle have been painted by Al Mendez with assistance from GET employees and their children for the Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Starting on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> for the remainder of December, the two buses will be in service on various routes. Rides will be free for customers when boarding the Christmas buses. There will be no bus service on Christmas Day. GET will provide free rides from 6 pm – 11 pm on New Year's Eve. Ms. King had a conversation with Diana Gomez with the CHSRA today and was advised that the right-of-way people will be contacting GET within the next 30 days. Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Secretary of the Board of Directors



Edward Davila  
661 706-1389  
4451 California Ave.

Can you please be so kind  
to post where the bus stop  
is during construction by a  
fixed bus stop.

I waited for a bus  
The bus driver signaled me  
to walk down the street  
By the time I got to the

We need Longer hours on the  
week ends

Michael Williams  
661-472-6376

We need longer earlier Hours on both  
the weekdays and the weekends

~~Between 4:00 and 5:00~~ ~~get bus mile @ gmail.com~~  
P.S. Between 4:50 and 5:10 weekdays  
and between 5:50 and 6:10 on weekends  
Daytime Hours Seven nights a week  
SHOULD end at between 8:30 and 9:00  
Night time Hours SHOULD end between  
1:00 and 1:30 on the weeknights