

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

**MAY 19, 2020
5:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jim Baldwin
Cindy Parra

Carlos Bello
Rueben Pascual

Leasa Engel

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Candra Cheers
Victor Honorato
Amanda Villanueva

Deidre Brown
Jeanie Hill
Ricardo Perez

Steve Barnes
Chris James
Robert Williams

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Baldwin moved and Director Pascual seconded a motion to adopt consent agenda items A-J. The consent agenda included the following items in addition to the May 19, 2020 Agenda, April 21, 2020 Minutes, and Accounts Payable Disbursements: Federal Transit Administration Authorization Formula Program 5339 Resolution, Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Authorization Resolution, Federal Transit Administration Authorization Formula Program for all Federal Grants Resolution, Purchase of Driver Partitions, Third Quarter FY 2019-20 Performance Motor Bus and Demand Response Services, April 2020 Financial Position and Results of Operations, and 2020 Strategic Plan Update.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Baldwin, Bello, Engel, Parra, and Pascual
ABSENT: None

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FY 2020-21 DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Mr. Barnes stated that the Administration and Finance Committee met on May 12, 2020 to review the proposed FY 2020-21 budget and capital program. The proposed budget with recommended changes will be brought back to the Board for a public hearing on June 16, 2020. This was an informational item only.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello asked when service would resume to normal. Ms. King responded by stating that reduced service would be in place through at least the end of July due to COVID-19. Director Bello also inquired about personal protection equipment for operators and staff. Ms. King went on to share that operators have been called back from being furloughed and are responding to the calls. During the period of service reduction, GET will be reassessing the reduction in ridership and in which direction the company needs to go with guidance from Board members.

Director Bello also asked about the viability of the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) purchasing GET's property at some future date. Ms. King commented that in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CHSRA has postponed action on the business plan, but that it is still possible that the property may be acquired at a later date. Director Bello thanked all GET transit staff for advocating for financial relief and the care everyone takes to look after staff.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King expressed there has been good interaction with employees. There has also been a slight increase in ridership to about 50% now. CTA and the State Health Department issued Golden Empire Transit 1500 masks. Of those masks GET has issued three (3) masks per employee. The masks are washable and reusable. Employees are being checked for temperatures prior to beginning work, videos are being produced, daily updates are being posted, appreciation notices are posted, Kern County numbers are posted, shadow buses to help eliminate overflow of passengers and allow social distancing (limited to 15 passengers), transit app sells bus passes, face shields have been made available to operators and route supervisors, driver partitions will be installed in the buses for operators which will take some time, disinfectant bottles and clothes have been made available for cleaning the buses, and zoom meetings are taking place. The District has called back furloughed employees with a drug screen and COVID-19 test. We have written to the congressional delegation thanking them for the CARES Act. We quarantine buses if they have been exposed to someone until it has been

disinfected, the bus head sign says “Be safe, social distance” The Maintenance Department has been looking into acquiring a fogging machine to go the buses for cleaning purposes; however, we may use a cleaning service for that purpose. This time of year we typically have our Health and Wellness Faire. Due to COVID-19, it has been cancelled. As of yet, the company picnic is still going to be in place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel Pending Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)] – Two Matters.

The Board returned to open session at 7:44 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 Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors