

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

**January 19, 2021  
5:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Jim Baldwin  
Cindy Parra

Carlos Bello  
Rueben Pascual

Leasa Engel

**DIRECTOR ABSENT:**

None

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Candra Cheers  
Ricardo Perez  
Amanda Villanueva

Steve Barnes  
Chris James  
Robert Williams  
Sharon Pierce

Deidre Brown  
Jeanie Hill  
Victor Honorato

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Snoddy

Michael Harless

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Roll was taken and all Directors were present.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Pascual moved and Director Bello seconded to adopt the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of December 1, 2021, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Program FY 2020 – Notice of Funding Authorization Resolution), Driver Uniform Purchase, and Transit Bud Passenger Seat Replacement. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Baldwin, Bello, Engel, Para and Pascual

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Harless commented that he felt night service is still needed and that instead of eliminating Route 84 entirely, that route be reworked. He also shared that the bus stop at Brundage Lane and Union Avenue needs repair.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Ms. King stated that according to the District's enabling legislation, election of a chair and a vice-chair is to occur at the first meeting of the Board following the first Monday after the first day of January of each year. To be in compliance with the District's enabling legislation, election of Board officers should occur at the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Director Bello moved and Director Baldwin seconded a motion to elect Director Parra as the Chair for the year 2021. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Director Parra moved and Director Baldwin seconded a motion to elect Director Pascual as the Vice-Chair for the year 2021. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Baldwin, Bello, Engel, Para and Pascual	NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None	ABSTAIN:	None

## **SOLAR PROJECT**

Director Pascual moved and Director Engel seconded a motion to approve funding the solar project and authorized staff to proceed with the project. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Baldwin, Bello, Engel, Para and Pascual	NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None	ABSTAIN:	None

## **2021 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Ms. King reviewed the draft strategic plan with the strategic initiatives suggested at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt the 2021 Strategic Plan. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Baldwin, Bello, Engel, Para and Pascual	NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None	ABSTAIN:	None

## **SECOND QUARTER FY 2020-21 PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR MOTOR BUS AND DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICES**

Mr. Perez updated the Board on second quarter ridership for motor bus and demand response services. Total unlinked passenger trips on fixed routes for the quarter was 692,986, a 59.5% decrease from the previous year. Average weekday unlinked passenger trips decreased by 62.7% from 21,994 to 8,206 per day; Saturday decreased by 45.5% from 12,401 to 6,758 per day, and Sunday decreased 43% from 10,794 to 6,148 per day. GET provided 108,332 rides during the 12 days of Christmas. This was an informational item only.

## **DECEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the December 2020 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

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

Director Engel gave kudos to Ms. Sanders and her team for bringing in revenue. She is awaiting an update on the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA).

Director Baldwin also is looking forward to an update on the CHSRA. He would like to have an agenda/plan on where to go from here. He also asked that there be a formal acknowledgement from the Board to everyone who has worked to make this a successful year.

Director Parra commented that she is looking forward to Ms. King's CHSRA update. She also asked that GET consider partnering again with the City of Bakersfield on street surface projects for bus stops on highly travelled routes and consider shade structures when larger bus shelters do not fit.

Director Bello asked about the status of the Community Advisory Committee and if there are plans to meet virtually. He thanked staff for managing expenses and increasing revenue. He asked that an update on COVID-19 prevention for the public and employees be provided.

Director Pascual thanked Mr. Barnes' staff for getting out payroll and payables even while out with COVID-19. He also is looking forward to a CHSRA update.

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

Ms. King wished everyone a Happy New Year! She shared that a 2021 Board Committee Worksheet has been sent to the Directors. She asked that those worksheets be return quickly so that preferences can be taken into account when new committee assignments for 2021 are determined by the Board Chair. Ms. King stated that a COVID-19 update would be provided at next month's meeting. Regarding the CHSRA, not much to report. Ms. King spoke at the December 2020 CHSRA Board meeting and her remarks were addressed by Brian Kelly, CHSRA CEO; however, no movement has happened.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors