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

January 19, 2021
1830 GOLDEN STATE AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jim Baldwin Carlos Bello Leasa Engel
Cindy Parra Rueben Pascual

DIRECTOR ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY PRESENT: Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King Steve Barnes Deidre Brown
Candra Cheers Chris James Jeanie Hill
Ricardo Perez Robert Williams Victor Honorato
Amanda Villanueva Sharon Pierce

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
ABSENT: None

NOES: 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
ABSENT: None

NOES: 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
ABSENT: None

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

2021 STRATEGIC PLAN
Ms. King reviewed the draft strategic plan with the strategic initiatives suggested at the December 1st 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
ABSENT: None

NOES: 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