

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

November 17, 2020  
5:30 PM

1830 GOLDEN STATE AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Carlos Bello  
Leasa Engel

Cindy Parra

Rueben Pascual

**DIRECTOR ABSENT:**

Jim Baldwin

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Candra Cheers  
Ricardo Perez  
Denise Sailes

Melissa Ash  
Chris James  
Robert Williams  
Amanda Villanueva

Deidre Brown  
Jeanie Hill  
Victor Honorato  
Sharon Pierce

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Snoddy

Wayne Kress

Neeraj Datta

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Roll Call was taken and Directors Parra, Pascual, Bello, and Engel were all present for the Board meeting. Director Baldwin was absent.

**GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AWARD**

Ms. Ash introduced Mr. Neeraj Datta from Brown, Armstrong Associates LLC. Ms. Ash stated that this award recognizes the dedication and outstanding work of the Finance Department staff. Mr. Datta commented that the GFOA began the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (CAFR Program) in 1945. This program 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 seventh year in a row that GET has received this

award. Ms. King praised the Finance staff and commented that Ms. Ash has the highest professional standards in her work ethic and that despite all of the circumstances surrounding this year, the FY 2019-20 CAFR will be completed shortly.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Pascual moved and Director Bello seconded to adopt the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of October 20, 2020, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, and Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Program FY 2020 – Notice of Funding Authorization Resolution). The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

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

Ms. Ash discussed with the Board the October 2020 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

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

Director Bello asked for clarification in the decline in ridership for GET-A-Lift during the pandemic as RYDE and NEMT seem to be trending upwards. Director Parra asked that in preparation of the workshop on December 1<sup>st</sup> that everyone start thinking outside of the box about how GET will look in the future and what will transit look like in Bakersfield.

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

Mrs. King also reminded everyone of the December 1, 2020 Board meeting, a strategic planning workshop will be held virtually beginning at noon and will probably last until late afternoon. Mr. Jerry Benson will be the facilitator again this year. The regular meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. We anticipate that there will be two procurements that will be presented for action. Ms. King commented that she has been in contact with the Interim Director for the Central Valley of the CHSRA. A revised Business Plan will be presented at their December meeting. Ms. King will continue to contact the CHSRA until GET receives a response. GET will be rolling out a free ride Marketing campaign in December called the “Twelve Days of Christmas” from December 12-24, 2020 funded by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Happy Thanksgiving!

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel [Government Code Section 54956.8] – Portion of APN 173-200-09 District Negotiator: Karen King; Negotiating with: John Ritchie, ASU & Associates and returned to open session at 6:40 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 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 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors