

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

**AUGUST 17, 2021  
5:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Carlos Bello  
Cindy Parra

Erika Dixon  
Rueben Pascual

Leasa Engel

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

None

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Robert Williams  
Jeanie Hill  
Sharon Pierce

Steve Barnes  
Janet Sanders  
Victor Honorato

Deidre Brown  
Candra Cheers  
Melissa Ash

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Wayne Kress  
Jim Baldwin

Yolanda Hamen

Suzanne Campbell

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to approve consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of July 20, 2021, Accounts Payable Check Disbursements, Chief Executive Officer Authorization Resolution for DBE Overall Goal, and FY 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Grants under the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Authorization Resolution). The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Dixon, Engel, Parra, Pascual  
ABSENT: None

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Yolanda Hamen shared a suggestion from passengers that limited night service (6:30 pm – 10:30 pm) on routes 21 and 22 be revised to run only every hour and that the extra buses be used to operate limited night service on routes 41, 45, and 62. These three routes are transit dependent areas. (See Exhibit 1)

Jim Baldwin thanked staff for all their hard work during his tenure as a Board Member over the last 7 years. He also told the Board members that he appreciated the time he served with them on the Board. He shared that he had three goals he wanted to keep in mind while he served: (1) Keep the elderly and disabled a part of every discussion; (2) Repair the black eye that hindered public confidence in GET; and (3) Make sure community leaders were supportive of GET's service. He was happy to have been a part of this organization.

## **ON DEMAND PROJECT: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Mr. Williams shared information on where On Demand has been and where GET envisions what the service will be and where it will extend in the near future. This was an informational item only.

## **JULY 2021 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Barnes reviewed July 2021 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

This item was deferred until after the executive session portion of the Board meeting.

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

Director Dixon asked that background information be provided to various committee members prior to committee meetings. She shared that GET's social media footprint is impressive. Director Dixon is also interested to see if the number of applications increase next month.

Director Pascual commented that he is excited to see where On-Demand is going. He would like to receive an update on hiring with positions and numbers.

Director Bello asked if the bus shelters for the Niles Street/Mt. Vernon Avenue area are an off the shelf product. He also thanked staff for the recent survey of residents in the northeast area of Bakersfield regarding transit service. He would also like a hiring update.

Director Engel commended the Marketing Department. She would be interested in a tour of the Customer Service Call Center once it is in full operation.

Director Parra commented that GET's social media presence (Instagram and Facebook) looks informative. She liked the call center and asked if there is enough staff.

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

Ms. King commented that on July 19<sup>th</sup> limited night service was restored on routes 21, 22, 44, and 61. Average ridership is 220 riders per weeknight. There had been no new positive Covid-19 cases for three months until the recently. We now have seven new positive cases and are waiting for test results for five employees. A total of 80 employees have tested positive since March 2020 with 152 now vaccinated. Multiple organizations statewide are now mandating vaccines, but there has not been a recommendation to institute mandated vaccinations or weekly testing here. A bus shelter product has been identified for eight locations in the Niles Street/Mt. Vernon Avenue area where conventional bus stop styles do not meet ADA requirements. Grant funding is available for the bus shelters. An LCTOP Grant will allow GET to provide free rides on fixed route and paratransit vehicles. Currently, September has been selected, but we are keeping a watchful eye on COVID numbers. Director Parra will provide an update of GET's activities to the Bakersfield City Council under Public Comments at tomorrow night's Council meeting. Absenteeism continues to be high.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel – [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]– One Matter; 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 Conference with Legal Counsel – [Government Code Sections 54957(b)(1) and 54957.6] – Discuss Performance Evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board returned to open session at 7:40 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. Mr. Worth stated that no action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act. Attorney Worth also stated that there would be no discussion regarding Agenda Item No. 5 at tonight's meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Aug 17, 2021

My name is Yplada Harner  
I'm here on behalf of concerns  
of our passengers. I was  
hoping to bring this to your  
attention last month but  
was unable to attend. A  
suggestion to the limited night  
service - from 6:30-10:30 pm  
run Rts 21 + 22 every hour  
and use the extra buses on  
Rts 41, 45, 42, three  
transit dependent areas.  
These passengers have no way  
to get to their destination if  
they miss the last bus -  
6:00 or 6:30 pm. How are we

"connecting people to places one ride at a time" with no bus service? They have no alternative but to find other means of transportation.

Please consider the needs of the community.