

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

**April 19, 2022
5:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Cindy Parra

Erika Dixon

Leasa Engel

DIRECTOR ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Toddash Kim
Robert Williams

Steve Barnes
Chris James
Melissa Ash

Michele Warren
Ricardo Perez
Sharon Pierce

OTHERS PRESENT:

Temecia Ricks
Steve Wilks

Rob Ball

David Sharfarz

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Roll was taken and all Directors were present.

PRESENTATION FROM KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Rob Ball, Director of Planning with Kern COG, shared a draft of the Development of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, Key Land Use and Planning Assumptions and Public Outreach. He commented that the handouts are available online in English and Spanish. The handouts are available at: –<https://www.kerncog.org/2022-rtp/>.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Attorney Worth stated that one (1) item arose after the posting of agenda which needed immediate attention and that pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2) the Board could

place the item on the consent agenda with a 2/3 vote of the Board. The matter that needs to be added and placed on the agenda: Compliance with AB 361. Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to add Compliance with AB 361 to the consent agenda. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of March 15, 2022 and March 30, 2022, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, Annual Review of Board Policies, 2022 Strategic Plan and AB 361 Remote Meeting Resolution for the Period of April 21, 2022 through May 18, 2022. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Temecia Ricks shared her concerns regarding service reduction/no night service. She is urging the Board to restore night service as quickly as possible, both on weekdays and weekends for several reasons, including the need dialysis patients who work have for later night service times. Not having night service is literally playing with their lives. Students need later times to return home from school in the evening and those riders with jobs need later times in order to get home after work. Ubers and taxis are very expensive and Uber and Lyft require riders to use smart phones and not everyone has a smart phone or iPad. She also commented that GET may need to pay more to get additional drivers. Ms. Ricks remarked that the policy of only allowing two grocery bags makes it difficult for riders to go shopping. Three – four bags seems more reasonable.

SERVICE MIX STUDY UPDATE – OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF SERVICE IDEAS

Mr. Perez introduced Mr. David Sharfarz and Mr. Steve Wilks with IBI Group who presented recommendations from the IBI Build Better Transit Study. Mr. Perez stated that the District has conducted a service study with IBI Group of the existing system to outline the future of transit in our community. This serves as a critical step in COVID-19 recovery that allows for a fresh look at services to determine potential service improvements. A service implementation plan will need to be developed as part of the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP). The SRTP and any recommended service changes are expected to include further staff evaluation, and review from riders and stakeholders.

As GET and transit agencies across the US deal with declining ridership, this operational analysis is critical to addressing poorly performing service and adjusting the network to accommodate a variety of factors affecting mobility demand. This was an informational item only.

THIRD QUARTER FY 2021-22 PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR MOTOR BUS AND DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICES

Mr. Perez shared performance data for the third quarter for fixed route, On Demand (paratransit, NEMT, and microtransit) services. Total boardings for demand response during the third quarter of FY 2021-22 (25,558) increased 61% over the previous fiscal year. On Demand paratransit boardings (8,472) were 33% of the total On-Demand trips; Microtransit trips (1,576) were 45% of the total; and NEMT trips (5,372) were 22% of the total. Total system boardings on fixed routes for the quarter was 740,571, a 14% increase from the previous year. This was an informational item only.

MARCH 2022 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the March 2022 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Engel asked for a brief update on the status of CTSA – Begin operating on July 1, 2022?

Director Dixon commented that we are all two years into the pandemic and she is hopeful that things will return more to normal and that ridership will increase.

Director Bello shared that the custom bus shelters in the Niles Street area look good. He is looking forward to CTSA service being incorporated into GET. He asked if CTSA staff will be transferring to GET.

Director Parra stated that the commercials to encourage ridership are great.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King shared that since the TSA is not going to enforce the federal mask mandate and the California Department of Health has made no decision, GET has pulled the mask mandate for riders and staff at this time. GET's Budget Workshop will be held at the May 17th Board meeting. The Administration and Finance Board Committee will meet prior to the regular Board meeting to consider staff's recommendations. A Public Hearing will be held in June regarding the FY 2022-23 Budget. If no concerns are expressed at the Public Hearing, the budget will be adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 7:34 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 7:38 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 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors