

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

**February 15, 2022  
5:30 PM**

**FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON  
5101 CALIFORNIA AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93309**

**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  
Michael Flowers  
Sharon Pierce

Steve Barnes  
Chris James  
Victor Honorato  
Melissa Ash

Deidre Brown  
Ricardo Perez  
Crystal Jenkins  
Amanda Villanueva

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Susanne Campbell

Veronica Martin

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Steve Barnes led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**     None

**STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The meeting was adjourned to the Strategic Planning Workshop at 12:21 p.m. The Board participated in a strategic planning workshop facilitated by Mr. Brian Beamish. The workshop adjourned at 5:03 p.m. and recessed to the regular Board meeting.

The Board meeting reconvened at 5:32 p.m with all Board members present.

Roll was taken and all Directors were present (Bello, Dixon, Engel, and Parra).

## **PUBLIC HEARING - UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS**

Director Parra, Chair, opened the hearing at 5:32 pm and stated that GET will receive public testimony identifying and commenting on Unmet Transit Needs that may exist in the Bakersfield Metropolitan Area. Notices of the hearing were placed in *The Bakersfield Californian* and *El Popular* newspapers as well as posted at the Bakersfield College Transit Center, Downtown Transit Center, Southwest Transit Center, and Administration Office, the GET website, Facebook and twitter pages. The following is the definition of unmet transit needs:

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code 99401.5, “An unmet transit needs exists if an individual of any age or physical condition is unable to transport himself or herself due to deficiencies in the existing transportation system.

Excluded are: 1) Those requests for minor operational improvements, and 2) Those improvements funded and scheduled for implementation in the following year.

The term “reasonable to meet” is defined:

- A) Operational Feasibility. The requested improvement must be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways for transit vehicles;
- B) Duplication of Service. The proposed service shall not duplicate other transit services;
- C) Timing. The proposed service shall be in response to an existing, rather than a future need; and
- D) Service must meet the legally required farebox ratio with fares close to fares of similar service.”

Any person wishing to present testimony related to unmet transit needs may do so at this time. Please state your name and address for the record. If you wish your statements to be verbatim, they must be in writing for inclusion in the official record of this hearing. The following members of the public spoke and/or submitted written comments.

An email was received from Ms. Jean Varner asking that GET consider additional services into the Greenfield area. They could use On Demand south of McKee Road or at least starting at the Park and Ride. (See Attachment A.)

Receiving no further testimony, Director Parra closed the hearing at 5:35 pm.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded to adopt the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of January 18, 2022, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, AB361 Remote Meeting

Resolution, Board of Directors' Standing Committee Assignments, Memorandum of Understanding between Kern Council of Governments and Golden Empire Transit District defining the relationship between the agencies, and Driver Uniform Purchase. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Via email, Mr. Mike Clegg asked about a toilet seat at the Valley Plaza men's restroom. He commented that it does not stay up when trying to use and it has been like that for years. (See Attachment B.)

### **APPOINTMENT TO KERN COG TPPC AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director Bello moved and Director Dixon seconded a motion to appoint Director Parra as GET's TPPC and Board of Directors' representative to Kern Council of Governments. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Director Bello moved and Director Dixon seconded a motion to appoint Director Dixon as GET's TPPC and Board of Directors' alternate representative to Kern Council of Governments. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **FEBRUARY 2022 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the February 2021 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

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

Director Engel stated that scooters are coming through the bus lane and could cause an accident. She asked that the scooter company be contacted to see if there can be some kind of zone control placed on the scooters.

Director Bello asked for an update on the custom bus shelters for the east side of town. He also inquired about recruitment and hiring. He asked what routes are being used for the hydrogen fuel cell buses.

Director Parra thanked employees for continuing to show up and working overtime when needed. She commented that there may be a way for the scooter company to use geo fencing to block dangerous areas by the Downtown Transit Center. She asked about the Extra Board. She also mentioned that we may want to use social media to inform riders that masks are still required on buses even with the new State guidelines about not having to mask up.

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

Ms. King commented that it is a delight to see everyone in person. A job offer has been made to Ms. Michele Warren for the Human Resources Director position. She will begin on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The March 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be virtual. The FTA mask mandate is still in effect until March 18<sup>th</sup>. There has been no contact in the last month with the California High Speed Rail Authority.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 6:17 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation [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 returned to open session at 6:30 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 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors

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**From:** Jean Varner <jeanvarner8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 8:20 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** route request

Please consider additional services into the Greenfield area. We could use On Demand south of McKee Rd. Or at least starting at the Park and Ride. Thank you, Jean Varner

**From:** Mike Clegg <mikeclegg67@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2022 2:06 PM  
**To:** Public Comment

Please fix the toilet seat at the valley plaza men's restroom. It does not stay up when you try to urinate. It has been like that for years.