

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

**MAY 17, 2022  
4:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Carlos Bello  
Cindy Parra

Erika Dixon

Leasa Engel

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

None

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Christian Howland

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Steve Barnes  
Robert Williams  
Victor Honorato  
Sharon Pierce

Deidre Brown  
Toddash Kim  
Janet Sanders  
Alexis Lyster

Michele Warren  
Chris James  
Ricardo Perez  
Dustin Molieri

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael Harless  
Enrique Martinez

Steven Kemp  
Susanne Campbell

Jose Rosales  
Temecia Ricks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Roll was taken and all Directors were present.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2022 PROPOSED WEEKDAY TRANSIT SERVICE IN  
RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Director Parra opened the public hearing on the 2022 Proposed Weekday Transit Service in Response to Covid-19 at 5:40 p.m. and stated that the Golden Empire Transit District would now receive public testimony. Any person wishing to present testimony related to the 2022 Proposed Weekday Transit Service in Response to Covid-19 may do so at this time. Persons were asked to

state their name and address for the record. If they wished their statements to be verbatim, they must be in writing for inclusion in the official record of this hearing. Notice of the hearing was placed in *The Bakersfield Californian*, *The Bakersfield News Observer* and *El Popular* newspapers, on the GET website, and on GET's Facebook page. Director Parra asked for public testimony.

Comments from four community members were received and one person submitted written comments via email on the 2022 Proposed Weekday Transit Service in Response to Covid-19. Director Parra closed the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

Ms. Nicole Drewiega submitted written comments via email. (See Attachment A).

Mr. Michael Harless commented that people need to get to work, school and back home. Eliminating Routes 62, 82, and 84 are not fair. There are no services to Bolthouse Farms except several blocks away from Valley Bible Church.

Mr. Jose Rosales agreed with Mr. Harless. He asked why GET would add On-Demand service instead of continuing regular service with the shortage of drivers. Mr. Rosales commented that Bolthouse Farms has no service that is located close. The closest drop off area is several blocks away from Valley Bible Church. Some night service is needed because too many people are getting stranded.

Ms. Temecia Ricks stated that she is disgusted with service. Everything is now open and GET can't use Covid as an excuse. People need to get to the doctor, dialysis appointments, work and school. Maybe use Lyft service for riders since GET doesn't have enough drivers.

Mr. Enrique Martinez stated that he agreed with the comments that have been made by the other speakers. Riders need service later into the evening, i.e. to 8:30 pm; people are getting stranded as there are no connections.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Engel moved and Director Dixon seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. (Agenda, Minutes of April 19, 2022, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, AB361 Remote Meeting Resolution). The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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

Mr. Williams gave a presentation regarding On-Demand and the transition of the CTSA Program to On-Demand Assist. This was an informational item only.

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

Mr. Barnes reviewed the April 2022 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

## **FY 2022-23 DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PROPOSALS**

Mr. Barnes stated that the Administration and Finance Committee met to review the proposed FY 2022-23 budget and capital program. Mr. Barnes presented a PowerPoint slideshow for the proposed FY 2022-23 budget and capital program. The proposed budget with any recommended changes will be brought back to the Board for a public hearing on June 21, 2022. This was an informational item only.

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

Director Bello thanked staff for a well done Employee Recognition Luncheon and Service Awards.

Director Dixon commented that she understands that limiting service is a big deal for both the community and GET. The decision was made out of necessity for drivers concerns and their health. There has been an employee shortage for the last two years. Staffing issues are widespread throughout not only our community, but nationwide.

Director Engle thanked Mr. Barnes for his budget presentation.

Director Parra asked if GET does Exit Interviews. If so, she asked that a summary for the most recent months be compiled and shared with the Board. Director Parra commented that May is Bike Month in Bakersfield. Bike Bakersfield will be reaching out to the community with drinks and breakfast pastries on Friday at the Downtown Transit Center and Bakersfield College Transit Center. The Ride of Silence is on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Governor's May Revise Budget has quite a bit of additional money set aside for transit. Free fares is a hot topic among the Governor and legislators. The hydrogen fueling station and solar projects are moving ahead with the kit for now gone. June 1<sup>st</sup> new uniforms will be required. In June, there will be another Public Hearing. The start time for the Board meeting will be 4:30 pm again.

Ms. King commented that she attended the CTA Executive Committee meeting this afternoon and tomorrow is the CTA Legislative Conference. There is frustration all around the table regarding not enough staff, and bus operators in particular.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 7:05 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. The Board returned to open session at 7:16 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 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors

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**From:** Nicole Drewiega <nicoledrewiega@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022 5:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Get bus hours.

I see that you are trying to reduce the hours for the buses. And that simply isn't fair. I had to already change my hours at work so they could work with your now reduced schedule. If you cut the hours even shorter that will make getting and coming from work even harder for me. I also do not understand why only some of the buses come every 30 mins and not all of them, that also would help out a lot more people. We really need later hours. Or maybe buses that can run at night. It was so easier when the buses were running as late as 11pm. Because I didn't have to rush to get the last one at 6. Which btw it is really inconvenient that the buses are supposed to run 7-7pm. But the 61 only runs from 7-6pm. If it's supposed to run 7 am-7pm. It should be running till 7pm. Not at 6pm and is done. There should at least be on that runs at 6:30pm. You should be at least considering running a little later in the night here soon. It's getting into the summer time and the sun isn't going to go down until much later at night. Like keeping the buses running till 8/9pm. That would actually be pretty helpful. I get it maybe you don't want your drivers, driving late at night, because it's harder to see. But if you started increasing the times, with when the sun goes down in the summer, even that would be a bit more helpful. Like if the sun is going to start setting at 9pm. Then maybe you can have the buses running till at least 9pm. I am just trying to get home and to work without going into debt.

I know I am only one person. And I am hoping I don't come off rude. That isn't my intention. I just want my concerns heard. Thank you and I hope you have a good day.

Sent from my iPhone