

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

**November 1, 2022
4:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Erika Dixon

Leasa Engel

Cindy Parra

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Steve Barnes
Janet Sanders
Melanie Silva

Melissa Ash
Toddash Kim
Ricardo Perez

Michele Warren
Robert Williams
Chris James

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susanne Campbell
Sharon Anderson
Emilio Pasamante

Irene Enriquez
Michael Harless

Alexa Kolosky
Leslie Valle

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Roll was taken and all directors are present.

PUBLIC HEARING – FARE CHANGES

Chairperson Parra opens up the public hearing regarding Fare Changes.

Three online comments were made by the public regarding the Fare Changes. The first comment made by Jordaan Bennett states the benefits of public transportation, however, given the troubling financial times, GET Bus should not raise their fares. The second comment by Lateisa White states that prices are already high and their main concern is why there are no discounted children's fares. Lastly, the third comment by Caitlin Davidson states that many individuals cannot afford the changing prices and passes may be farther out of reach for low-income riders.

There was one virtual comment made by Jose Ortiz showing his opposition regarding raising the fares. He also states that on his side of town (north-east) the bus stop areas have no seating or shade. He feels that GET Bus should prioritize his side of town and make the bus stops more appealing and also allowing on-demand services to meet their needs in that area.

Lastly, there were 2 in-person public comments made by Michael Harless and Sharon Anderson. Mr. Harless states that GET Bus should not be raising their fares if they are not operating at full capacity. Ms. Anderson understands that with inflation comes raising fares, however, she feels as though children should ride free or at a significant discount.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Engal moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. (Agenda, Minutes of October 18, 2022, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, AB361 Remote Meeting Resolution). Change Order – Maintenance Building:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Ms. Karen King requested that we take the Board Meeting Dates for 2023 out of the consent agenda to discuss the times for the 2023 Meeting Dates.

Director Dixon moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to approve the new time change from 5:30pm to 4:30pm for the 2023 Board Meeting Dates:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

No comments.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. Karen King shares information regarding the Celebration for the new Hydrogen Fueling Station on November 10, 2022 at 10:00am

There is also an update in the high speed rail authority. They are currently preparing a final appraisal but will be a lengthy process.

Ms. King also informed the board that GET Bus will have a cutaway and regular bus at the annual Christmas parade here in town on December 1.

Beginning January, free fare for students grades kinder-college with student bus pass.

Monthly GET Bus Video overviews what's been going on at GET.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Michael Harless suggests that the sidewalks on Brundage Lane between Union and Chester need to be fixed

Ms. Sharon Anderson also adds that the sidewalks on Airport Dr. need repair

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors