Transit Advisory Board Meeting, March 14, 2013

In Attendance:  Lucy Birbiglia, Bill Richardson, Orville Pratt, Annie JonesFrancis, Warren Smith, Cristen Conley and David Kesner

Public in Attendance:  Susan Richardson, Brendan Miller, Marrieta Miller, Cliff Youngblood, and Bob Tilley

Representative from Transit:  Bruce Rizzieri, Director, Transit Department

Guest Speaker: Richard Weiner, Principle with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting

Meeting was called to order by Lucy Birbiglia, Chairperson, at 1130 hours.

**Public Comment:**

Marrieta: No comment

Brendan: Addressed service to CNM main campus to Montoya campus. He said the Montgomery/Carlisle corridor is slow. He recommended extending service to the 790 Blue Line. The hours are better and it runs more frequently. He recommended extended service to Coal and from Nob Hill to Carlisle to Montgomery to the foothills. Presently it takes approximately one hour to travel by bus from the Main campus to the Montoya campus via the 16/18 and 5. Susan recommended posting a notice on campus and including information in the school newspaper. Lucy will share this information with Mark Cornan (Disability Coordinator) at CNM.

Susan: She spoke with Deleny McKee (Mrs. Woodward) about the new ordinance. She will bring copies to the next meeting. Members of TAB must have a one year hiatus after their term is up. The hiatus begins the date of a member’s resignation. A member is appointed for 6 years. Orville and David are okay. Warren, Bill, Lucy, and Cristen must take a year off.

Cliff: May be interested in joining TAB. He is an avid cyclist and is concerned about the availability of bicycle space. He has two recommendations, 1. Put hooks in the buses to increase the number of bikes a bus can accommodate. He sees an increase in bike use in Albuquerque; and 2. Extending the Green Line to Montgomery and Tramway. This would provide expedited bus service from the foothills to downtown. Cristen stated a coworker of hers has asked for a similar improvement to bus service from Montgomery and Tramway.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Voted to approve

**Minutes from February 2013 meeting:**

Two clarifications from the February minutes:

1. Bob Tilley was overlooked as a member of the public
2. Bruce Rizzieri wanted to clarify the purchase order for the new buses would be completed by June 2013. The new buses will not arrive until next year.

Acceptance of minutes from last meeting was approved (with the above clarifications).

**Chairperson’s Report:**

The Community Transportation Association of America is holding their national transit meeting in Albuquerque from June 2-7, 2013. This is for SunTran buses (30 feet) only. Bruce stated there will be approximately 500-600 in attendance.

**Director’s Report:**

Bruce handed out the Ridership Report. There has been an increase in wheel chair ridership, especially along the San Mateo/Central corridors. Bruce stated ridership is going well. For the FY it is up 1.27%. Bruce is not sure why the downhill trend for January and February, FY13. He stated last year was a record breaking year. Circumstances were good. Many things come into play: Gas prices, unemployment, UNM/CNM enrollment…

Susan talked about a story she heard on NPR. Mass transit is the highest since 1957. It is the highest since the economic collapse in 2008. This is due to gas prices and jobs returning. If not for Hurricane Sandy, last year would have been the highest use of mass transit.

Bruce discussed the review of SunVan services. The department is looking at a person’s eligibility to use SunVan as well as the availability of other transportation (borrowing vehicles).

Richard Weiner has been in the public transportation business for 30 years. He has been hired as a consultant to review qualifications to ride SunVan. He is looking at accurate eligibility…those who have no other options. He stated the SunVan budget is flat, but with increased pressure from the public. He stated the current interview process is not effective. SunVan services have increased 62% over the last five years. It cost 10X as much to transport via SunVan. 15-30% of para-transit riders can ride the bus for other trips. In Albuquerque, all SunVan applicants are found fully eligible. Albuquerque has an in-person process that is not well done. Richard stated he is documenting the current process and the number of registrants. He is looking at how much time the staff spends on this. He said the trend is toward functional assessments and whether to contract or do this work in-house. He will also be assisting Bruce with community outreach. Recertification occurs when a person’s term expires. In Albuquerque, most people are in for life. Things change such as moving closer to a bus stop, change to a motorized wheelchair, and improvements made in fixed route service. All of this would be captured in a functional assessment. The majority of individuals using SunVan have a physical disability. Some have cognitive and mental health issues. Age is not a requirement. About 2/3 of riders are over 65. SunVan has sheltered riders. This is not done in other cities. A signature is needed before the person can be dropped off. This is not mandated by the ADA.

Annie mentioned that KANW is now airing public service announcements for ABQ RIDE and SunVan.

**Advisory Committee on Transit for the Mobility Impaired Report:**

Bill stated the committee is still in the process of electing a chairperson. It will probably occur this week. The committee is discussing whether to meet every month. Quarterly meetings were suggested. Bruce stated this can be done by updating the resolution. He also said the monthly schedule can always change.

Lucy asked whether TAB should meet monthly or every other month. Annie stated there is enough information to meet monthly. If it was decided to cancel a meeting one month, a minimum of a three day notice is required. Susan recommended posting the minutes and agenda on the website and to post a disclaimer stating meetings are subject to change (for members of the public who do not receive notification). The draft minutes should be posted within 10 days. Bob stated TAB meetings should occur every month for predictability and consistency. He used the analogy of a bus running on schedule.

Susan mentioned she will provide information on the Urban Land Institute (ULI) at the next meeting.

**Old Business/New Business:**

Nothing discussed.

**Next Meeting:**

The next TAB meeting is April 11, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 1238 hours