

MEETING MINUTES

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA

Board of Supervisors Chambers

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

10:00 AM

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Kern County Supervisor, Leticia Perez at 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Roll Call
Present – Supervisors: Perez, Maggard; Bakersfield City Councilmembers: Johnson, Rivera
Others present: Theresa Goldner, County Counsel; Golden Empire Transit (GET) Staff and Board representative and approximately 25 members of the public in attendance.
- 3) Minutes from the March 5, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion/second by Councilmember Johnson/Supervisor Maggard.
- 4) Update on Golden Empire Transit Possible Service and Infrastructure Changes Costs and Options –
Heard presentation by Karen King, CEO, GET, who provided background on process and progress on changes in service made in the past year.

Jim Baldwin, BARC; Louis Gill, Bakersfield Homeless Center; Shawn Kennemer, N.A.P.D.; and Steve Schilling, Clinica Sierra Vista, heard regarding interactions with GET. All indicated improved responsiveness and desire to see the new options to be presented. Mr. Kennemer also asked that the issues regarding ADA compliance on signage above seats reserved for handicapped riders and training for bus operators be addressed in future meetings. Other future topics and concerns included health and safety as a priority at bus stops by requiring no curbside parking at any stops and ensuring accessibility.

Heard presentation by GET Staff Gina Hayden and Emery Rendes that included several options or proposals for route changes or stop enhancement for service to clients of BARC, Bakersfield Homeless Center, Clinica Sierra Vista and others. Discussion and further feedback provided for GET staff to consider. Proposals will go to GET Board for action.

- 5) Board Member Announcements or Reports –
Supervisor Maggard expressed appreciation for the solutions being offered and applauded the spirit of cooperation between GET staff and other stakeholders. Cautioned that further follow up is needed to ensure that concerns addressed are resolved but noted good progress has been made. Future meetings of this committee should address ADA compliance on public transportation and pedestrian and bicycle safety. During public comments, Supervisor Maggard asked Troy Hightower of Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) to provide solutions for funding of projects in proposals presented at this meeting and/or any other resources to help with the challenges GET will have in responding to and correcting issues raised by the riders and public. He also requested that Kern COG make a presentation to this committee regarding their transportation programs.

Councilmember Rivera stated that the City of Bakersfield has curb, gutter and side walk improvement projects totaling \$2.3 million in Ward 1, and nearly \$1 million in Ward 2 to be completed by summer of 2015. These will be good enhancements to health and safety for both public transportation riders and general public.

Councilmember Johnson thanked GET staff and public for the progress being made. He also requested KGOV to provide copy of meeting to board members so they could review public comments.

- 6) Public Comment –
Bonnie Davis; Zac Griffin, I Bike Bakersfield; Jason (no last name given); Richard Rodriguez; Erika Dickson on behalf of Plaza Towers residents; Anna Vigil; Brittany Bates; and Troy Hightower, Kern Council of Governments, heard.
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.