

PUEBLO TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.
Mayor's Conference Room, 1 City Hall Place

Present: Nicholas A. Gradisar, Mayor – Vice-President
Andrew Hayes, Director of Public Works - President
Ben Valdez, Transit Director
Chuck Lopez, Operations Supervisor
Bob Jagger, Assistant City Attorney
Alexandria Romero, Director of Finance
Marisa Pacheco, Director of Human Resources
Tracey Sample, Recording Secretary

Mayor Gradisar opened the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Board reviewed minutes of April 7, 2023. Transit Board meeting. Ms. Romero motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Gradisar seconded motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Pacheco presented a request from Pueblo Transit Administrative Technician, Connie Abeyta, for a review of her salary schedule in comparison to that of the City of Pueblo. Upon review by the board, it was determined that she will receive an accelerated step increase from Step 4 – Step 6 effective upon her 2023 anniversary which was in June 2023. Pueblo Transit will also investigate Admin Tech salary scales at comparable transit agencies and bring recommendations to the Transit Board for further consideration.

Mr. Valdez informed the board that Free Fare for Better Air has garnered an approximate 39% increase in ridership for Pueblo Transit. Many are new riders and out of town riders. Mr. Valdez mentioned he's heard the parameters may change with the passing of the next senate bill for this funding. He will keep the board informed of changes.

Mr. Valdez discussed a request from GROOME Transportation that provides airport shuttle service in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Denver. GROOME currently has a pickup location at the Clarion Inn, 4001 N. Elizabeth St, and would like to relocate to the Pueblo Transit Station. They would also like to discuss a parking agreement for use of the Weisbrod Parking Garage for customers to park. Mr. Valdez will connect GROOME representatives to meet with Mr. Hayes to discuss parking options. The board is open to Mr. Valdez continuing conversations with GROOME to establish an agreement.

Mr. Valdez discussed Pueblo Transit's recent FTA audit under Title VI (ADA, disability, accessibility, etc.). There were three deficient findings. 1) Website accessibility (links), 2) Purchasing contracts/clauses didn't reflect the steps of discipline in a conflict-of-interest situation, and 3) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – require meetings with DBE vendors to

attempt to recruit businesses. All deficiencies will be corrected. No duplicate findings from previous FTA audits.

Mr. Valdez has been contacted by CDOT to discuss funding of \$2.18 million as match for Transit A&M Facility. Mr. Valdez will arrange a meeting with CDOT, Mr. Jagger, and Mr. Hayes to discuss details of wanting to use funding for land acquisition and pre-design work. More information provided to board following meeting.

Mr. Valdez added discussion of the proposed Van Pool to the agenda. He and Mr. Hayes have worked on the funding for the service that will extend the time to expend funds to 2027. The grant agreement is at the State level now. Once complete it will be processed for approval by the City of Pueblo. Service could potentially start in 3-5 months.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

By: 
Tracey Sample
Recording Secretary