

**PUEBLO TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 21, 2023 – 2:30 p.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  
Bob Jagger, Assistant City Attorney  
Alexandria Romero, Director of Finance  
Marisa Pacheco, Director of Human Resources  
Alyssa Parga, Recording Secretary  
Chuck Lopez, Operations Supervisor  
Joel Camp, Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor, Pueblo Transit

Andrew Hayes called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm.

Board reviewed the Transit Board meeting minutes of August 21, 2023. Mayor Gradisar moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pacheco began discourse of non-union Transit employee raises for 2024. There are five non-union employees of the transit department who will receive a salary increase in line with the approved class-b City employee raises for 2024, which is 5.3%. The classifications of these employees are as follows: Transit Director, Transit Operations Supervisor, Transit Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, Transit Administrative Technician, and Transit Transportation Planning Technician. There was agreement that these employees should get the typical increase in line with the rest of the City. Further discussion was around a merit increase for Transit Director Ben Valdez. There were considerations of job performance, market rate, and the lack of any merit increase since Ben has held the title.

Mayor Gradisar moved to approve a 10% total raise for Mr. Valdez – 5.3% plus a 4.8% merit increase. Ms. Romero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Gradisar moved to approve the 5.3% salary increase for the four positions of Transit Operations Supervisor, Transit Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, Transit Administrative Technician, and Transit Transportation Planning Technician. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chuck and Joel entered the meeting to give a presentation about Trolley acquisitions and routes. The presentation is attached to these minutes. The discussion was about a Gillig vs. BYD vehicle and the pros/cons. Mayor gave direction to move forward with the BYD Electric Trolleys which come with a 12-year battery warranty, and Ben agreed to make finding funding

for this a priority for 2024. It was noted that if funding is received in 2024, they could be operational in 2025.

Operations and routes of the trolleys were discussed. The board accepted the proposed route and asked to see a version that included a stop at Parkview Hospital. Mayor gave direction to not charge fares if grants made it financially feasible to do so. Mayor also asked the Transit representative to explore pick up and drop offs outside of planned stops.

Mr. Valdez, Mr. Camp, and Mr. Lopez reviewed a proposal to add a new system transfer route for 2024. The plan is to repurpose trailer routes in the opposite direction to aid riders with their connections. It should reduce passenger headways throughout the City from 60 minutes to 15 minutes. For many riders, it will eliminate the need to visit the Transit Center. Stops will not require extra benches but will instead be marked with a pole and light. It may also require extra ticketing. The rollout will include public engagement. Mr. Valdez estimates this will require approximately a \$60,000 investment in the first year. Mr. Jagger recommended that the change of routes be approved by Council by resolution.

Mayor Gradisar asked for an update about mobile ticketing and real-time bus routes and arrivals. Mr. Valdez explained that the existing mobile software they planned to use does not meet Finance's requirements, and Transit may have to put out an RFI to explore other vendors.

Mr. Valdez shared that discussions have begun with Jeff Guthrie regarding the CDOT \$2.8 million Transit A&M Facility. Mr. Valdez and Mr. Hayes will schedule a meeting with the FTA about this sometime in December.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Alyssa Parga

Recording Secretary