



Foothill Transit

**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FOOTHILL TRANSIT GOVERNING BOARD
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**

**FOOTHILL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
2ND FLOOR BOARD ROOM
100 S. VINCENT AVENUE
WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA 91790**

**Friday, January 29, 2021
7:45 a.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sternquist at 7:45 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Sternquist.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Christina Lopez, Board Secretary.

Present: Member Corey Calaycay, Member Rick Crosby, Member Victor Preciado, Member Emmett Badar, Member Linda Freedman, Member Edward Alvarez, Member Daniel Damien, Member Jorge Marquez, Member Gary Boyer, Member Albert Ambriz, Member Dario Castellanos, Member Roger Chandler, Member Richard Barakat, Member Tzeitel Paras-Caracci, Member Becky Shevlin, Member Felicia Williams, Member Fernando Vizcarra, Member Steve Tye, Member Jessica Ancona, Member Cory Moss, Member Hector Delgado, Member Sam Pedroza, Member Jimmy Lin, Member Cynthia Sternquist

Absent: Member Valerie Munoz

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Member Marquez, second by Member Ancona, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.



5. REMARKS BY METRO BOARD MEMBER NOMINEE TIM SANDOVAL

Chair Sternquist introduced newly elected Metro Board Member Tim Sandoval. Mr. Sandoval stated that he looks forward to representing the San Gabriel Valley on the Metro board. He shared his transit experience and also stated that some of the areas he plans to focus on are the environment and project cost overruns. He stated that the Metro board met yesterday and the board approved requiring riders wear face masks and the board approved an increase in bus service. He thanked the Governing Board and stated that he looked forward to working on their behalf.

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHIEF OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, announced that John Curley has accepted the position of Chief of Safety and Security. Mr. Curley is currently still the Chief of Police for the City of Covina. He has over 30 years of law enforcement experience and he is also committed to community involvement. Mr. Curley stated that looks forward to becoming a member of the Foothill Transit team.

7. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes for the Governing Board Meeting of December 18, 2020.

Motion by Member Moss, second by Member Shevlin, the minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2020 were approved. Motion carried 20-0. Members Damian, Freedman, Preciado, and Williams abstained.

8. INTRODUCTION OF Foothill TRANSIT BUSINESS PARTNERS

Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, announced the passing of Bill Jackson, Transdev General Manager, for the Foothill Transit Arcadia/Irwindale Operations and Maintenance Facility. Mr. Barnes stated that Mr. Jackson was a people person and it showed in his work. A slide show featuring Mr. Jackson was played.

Ibrahima Toure, Transdev Vice President Southwest Region, stated that Mr. Jackson was genuinely loved and appreciated by the Foothill Transit and Transdev family. Mr. Toure thanked Mr. Barnes and the Foothill Transit team for their support. Denise Murphy, Assistant General Manager, stated that Mr. Jackson was a mentor and he was committed to the development of his team and it can be seen throughout the Arcadia/Irwindale facility. Member



Barakat stated that Mr. Jackson did way more than people realized, Mr. Jackson hired several special education students and gave them the opportunity to enter the workforce, and made a positive impact in the lives of those students.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lupe Carranza, ATU, stated that Mr. Jackson will be missed. He stated that that he hopes that the new Chief of Safety and Security John Curley will work with them on major areas, such as abuse of drivers, passengers refusing to wear masks, and potential reinstatement of rear-door boarding.

Lorence Bradford, ATU, stated that the loss of Mr. Jackson has been difficult. Mr. Bradford stated that they look forward to the opportunity to work with Mr. John Curley. He also announced that since the implementation of front door boarding that there has been a spike in positive COVID-19 cases.

Chris Constantin, San Dimas City Manager, announced that he is the new City Manager for the City of San Dimas. He wanted to take the opportunity to introduce himself and thanked Mr. Barnes for the warm welcome.

9.1. Chief Executive Officer Response to Public Comment

In response to Public Comment Mr. Barnes stated that there would be a presentation on the driver barriers at the meeting. He congratulated Lorence Bradford on being elected President of the ATU, and he thanked Chris Constantin for attending the meeting.

10. DOUBLE DECK ELECTRIC BUS UPDATE

Recommendation: Receive and file the update on the double deck electric bus project.

Roland Cordero, Director of Maintenance and Vehicle Technology, presented this item.

Mr. Cordero presented an update on the double deck electric bus project. He reported that the two electric double deck buses had been delivered. He stated that no other agency in the country utilizes this technology. The Foothill Transit Maintenance and Vehicle Technology team will be performing road testing and acceptance testing. Full service deployment is expected in mid-February.



Mr. Cordero responded to questions from Member Barakat, Member Lin, and Member Preciado. There was no public comment on this item.

The presentation was received and filed.

11. **DRIVER BARRIER UPDATE**

Recommendation: Receive and file the Driver Barrier Update.

Roland Cordero, Director of Maintenance and Vehicle Technology, presented this item.

Mr. Cordero reported that Foothill Transit began to install driver barriers with the buses that were procured in 2016. At that time the buses were outfitted with ArowGuard driver barriers. With the urgency to outfit the entire fleet with driver barriers to protect operators from COVID-19 and assaults, Foothill Transit purchased the Vapor VShield barriers, since ArowGuard was unable to provide a quote. As of October 2020, 180 coaches have been retrofitted with the VShield barrier. The only buses not outfitted with barriers are the 32 Proterra battery electric buses. Installing the barriers on the Proterra buses has proven to be infeasible due to an inability to properly secure the heavy barriers, staff continues to work on a solution.

Mr. Cordero and Mr. Barnes responded to questions and comments from Member Barakat, Member Preciado, Vice Chair Calaycay, Member Delgado, Member Chandler, and Member Lin. Under Public Comment, Lupe Carranza, Andre Walker, Lorrence Bradford, Jesus Medina, and Deborah McCullah commented on the need for clear signage on buses regarding passenger etiquette, input by drivers on design of equipment purchased for buses, and hazard pay.

The presentation was received and filed

12. **COVID-19 TRANSIT OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Recommendation: Receive and file an update on Foothill Transit operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and Los Angeles County Safer-At-Home order.

LaShawn King Gillespie, Director of Operations and Customer Service and Felicia Friesema, Director of Marketing and Communications, presented this item.



Ms. Gillespie provided an operational update on the initiatives taken on in response to COVID-19. She reported on service suspensions due to COVID-19 related issues at both facilities in late November and early December and the implementation of revised bus schedules. Service levels are 94 percent of pre-COVID-19, average daily ridership is 54 percent of pre-COVID-19, and express service ridership is 22 percent of pre-COVID-19. She also reported on enhanced facility and fleet cleaning and safety protocols and reported on the openings of the El Monte Station, Puente Hills Mall, and West Covina Transit Stores. The Pomona Transit Store is the only store that has not reopened. Staff continues to work with staff from the City of Pomona to establish safety protocols to open the store.

Ms. Friesema reiterated the comments of Mr. Barnes, that on-board and online communications have been entirely focused on pandemic safety and has been reworked and refreshed to keep the message fresh. The COVID-19 related issues at the facilities, required a rapid turn-around on service adjustments and communications to Foothill Transit customers. The goal was to be transparent about the reasons for the adjustments and to provide reassurance to Foothill Transit's customers. Signage with updated schedule information was posted at all affected bus stops as soon as the schedules were finalized. Ms. Friesema also reported that Foothill Transit has a dedicated public web page that tracks agency COVID-19 cases.

There were no comments or questions on this presentation by members of the Governing Board. Under Public Comment, Lupe Carranza expressed concern in regards to front door boarding and Santiago Gomez suggested the use of the headsign and ADA announcer to enforce the wearing of masks by customers.

The presentation was received and filed.

13. **FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUSINESS PLAN INITIATIVES UPDATE**

Recommended Action: Receive and file an update on Foothill Transit's FY2021 Business Plan Initiatives.

Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer suggested that at the Chair's discretion that the next two agenda items could be deferred to a future meeting or received without presentation. Chair Sternquist requested that a brief presentation be made on the Fiscal Year 2021 initiatives.

Kevin Parks McDonald, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, presented this item.



Mr. McDonald reported that each year the Governing Board adopts key initiatives with the adoption of the agency's annual Business Plan. Mr. McDonald provided updates on the following key projects: Mt. SAC Transit Center, Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA), ExpressLanes Operations, Zero Emissions Fleet, Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Procurement, Fare Technology, Mobility as a Service (MaaS), and Website Redesign.

There were no comments or questions by members of the Governing Board. There was no Public Comment on this presentation.

The presentation was received and filed.

14. **FOOTHILL TRANSIT'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN BUS BENCHMARKING GROUP (ABBG)**

Recommended Action: Receive and file a report on Foothill Transit's membership in the American Bus Benchmarking Group (ABBG).

The Governing Board received and file this agenda item without a presentation. Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, recommended bringing back this item to a future meeting.

15. **CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was not reopened as the Public Comment period was concluded earlier in the agenda (Item 9).

16. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT**

Comments by Mr. Doran J. Barnes, Executive Director, Foothill Transit.

Mr. Barnes reported the following:

- Thanked the Governing Board for attending today's meeting and thanked them for their continued support.

17. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

There were no comments by members of the Governing Board.



18. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment for the January 29, 2021 Foothill Transit Governing Board Meeting.

There being no further business, the Foothill Transit Governing Board meeting adjourned in the memory of Bill Jackson at 9:47 a.m.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the word "Lopez".

Christina Lopez, Board Secretary

Approved on: 03/26/2021