



Foothill Transit

**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FOOTHILL TRANSIT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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

**Friday, August 17, 2020
8:00 a.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sternquist at 8:10 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Calaycay.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Christina Lopez, Board Secretary.

Present: Member Gary Boyer, Member Cory Moss, Member Becky Shevlin,
Vice Chair Corey Calaycay, Chair Cynthia Sternquist

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA BY CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

After discussion, by Common Consent, the Chair and Chief Executive Officer confirmed the agenda as presented.

5. PROPOSED PILOT FOR LINE 270 EXTENSION

Recommendation: Recommend that the Governing Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to: 1. Operate a one-year pilot to extend Line 270 to the Arcadia Gold Line Station at the October 24, 2021 service change. 2. Seek public comment and conduct a public hearing during the one-year pilot of the Line 270 extension to the Arcadia Gold Line Station.

Josh Landis, Planning Manager, presented this item.

Mr. Landis reported that Foothill Transit began operations of Line 270 in 2016 after Metro transferred Line 270 along with Lines 190 and 194. Line 270 operates every hour between the El Monte Transit Center and the City of



Monrovia.

In response to feedback from the community, Foothill Transit is proposing a one-year pilot to extend Line 270 to start and end at the Arcadia Gold Line Station. The proposed extension would impact more than 25 percent of the existing line and would require a Public Hearing. Mr. Landis provided an overview of the outreach schedule, with adoption of the changes by the Governing Board in summer 2022.

Motion by Vice Chair Calaycay, second by Member Shevlin, to approve.
Motion carried 5-0.

6. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC: ZERO EMISSION BUS PROGRAM STRATEGY**

Recommendation: Provide direction to staff.

Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, introduced this topic and stated that they would be discussing questions and options related to the zero emission bus program and the 14 first generation electric buses. At the last Executive Board meeting, staff was directed to look at various options to start retiring the 14 first generation electric buses. If retired, the buses will need to be replaced.

Staff is looking at the possibility of requesting relief of the grant from the Federal Transit Administration; this would allow the 14 buses to be retired. The remaining life value of the 14 first generation electric buses could be possibly transferred to the 14 new buses.

Options include to continue operating the first generation electric buses and continue to do the best to keep them in service; purchase 14 Proterra electric buses and charging infrastructure at \$10.9 million, Proterra is offering an early adopter credit of \$167,000 per bus; purchase 14 hydrogen fuel cell buses at \$11.4 million; or purchase 14 double deck electric buses at \$16.15 million. Mr. Barnes indicated that staff preference is that the first generation Proterra buses be retired.

The Executive Board asked questions regarding infrastructure, delivery times of new buses, performance of CNG versus hydrogen fuel cell buses. Member Shevlin asked about possible legislation to reduce the life expectancy of battery electric buses. Vice Calaycay stated that CTA should lead a legislation effort. Roland Cordero, Director of Maintenance and Vehicle Technology, reviewed each potential bus replacement, which included the



Proterra electric buses, New Flyer hydrogen fuel buses, and the Alexander Dennis double deck bus

The Executive Board suggested that either the Proterra battery electric buses or New Flyer hydrogen fuel cell buses be pursued, and to pursue an incentive from New Flyer. They also requested that staff get feedback from other agencies that have purchased the newer Proterra buses. Staff was also asked to follow-up with Sunline Transit in regards to their experience with hydrogen fuel cell buses. Member Shevlin requested that staff bring back an item on what board members can do to pursue legislation that changes the life expectancy of battery electric buses.

7. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC: COVID-19 OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Recommendation: Provide direction to staff.

LaShawn King Gillespie, Director of Operations and Customer Service, presented this item.

Ms. Gillespie, Director of Customer Service and Operations, provided an update on operations activities related to COVID-19. She stated that the team continues to focus on safety practices, the mask mandate, customer communications, and monitor ridership.

She reported specifically on the impacts on the operations contractors and how it affects service. Recently, the contractors have experienced high level absences, which has affected the delivery of service. Absences have been related to COVID-19, FMLA, call-offs, and vacation accrual. The contractors are seeing approximately 30 call-offs a day, which is approximately five percent of total operators. She reported on the number of missed trips and the percentage of service that was able to be delivered. Kevin Parks McDonald, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, reported that operator availability pre-COVID was consistently above 99 percent.

Missed trips have impacted customers and staff is looking at ways to best communicate information to customers. Keolis and Transdev have been looking at daily attendance and anticipating when they may have shortages, operators that are not scheduled are being encourage to work when shortages are anticipated. The contractors are incentivizing operators to take on additional work. Operator recruitment and retention is an industry challenge. The contractors have increased training classes and incentives in an effort to hire new operators. Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, reported that the vaccination rate at the operations and maintenance



facilities is at the mid-60 percent range. Mr. Barnes stated that the that staff will work to keep everyone on updated.

8. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC: OCTOBER 1, 2021 BOARD MEETING FORMAT DISCUSSION**

Recommendation: Provide direction to staff.

Doran Barnes, Chief Executive Officer, presented this item.

Mr. Barnes stated that the August Executive Board and Governing Board meetings will take virtually. The September meetings will take place on October 1, 2021. Staff was seeking feedback on the October 1, 2021 meetings as far as if they should be held virtually, in-person, or have the Executive Board in-person and have the Governing Board meet virtually. There are also a few bills currently moving through the legislature that may affect how public meetings are held. The Executive Board discussed logistics and determined that the Executive Board and Governing Board would meet virtually in October until more clarity is provided.

9. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENT**

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

Mr. Barnes reported the following:

- Staff continues to work virtually. It is anticipated that in the fall staff will transition to a hybrid schedule.
- Peter Stark will reach out to Executive Board member to gather data for his performance evaluation.

10. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

There were no comments by Members of the Foothill Transit Executive Board.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment for the August 17, 2021 Foothill Transit Executive Board Meeting.

There being no further business, the Foothill Transit Executive Board meeting adjourned 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 loop at the end of the last name.

Christina Lopez, Board Secretary

Approved on: 10/01/2021