



Bernard Toon, Transit Director



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

March 4, 2019

Julie Kidder, UHA President
Joseph Aguirre, UHA Vice President
Don Hancock, UHA Secretary/Treasurer
105 Stanford, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Ms. Kidder, Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Hancock,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) Project. We appreciate your association's commitment to establishing an open dialogue between the City, neighborhood associations, residents, and business owners. We are committed to keeping the community informed as the ART project progresses.

As the Mayor noted in his press conference of November 13 last year, the best estimate of a timeline for ART is roughly a year and a half from that date, which would put achievement of full service at May of 2020. The service itself will not differ in design from previous plans, but, on the operations side, we will not be running electric buses on the ART corridor. As announced, the City has ordered "Clean Diesel" buses from New Flyer Corporation to provide service on the ART line.

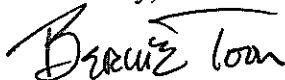
While we were disappointed that the BYD buses were not suitable for use on the ART project, the clean diesel buses being purchased from New Flyer are reliable and proven technology that can hopefully provide a bridge to eventual use of electric buses in the future. Our plan moving forward for the city's overall bus system includes conducting a comprehensive analysis of Albuquerque's bus route structure and capacity later this year. This analysis will include a review of other routes in the City that could potentially operate with electric buses. The City is committed to the integration of electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles within the City's fleet, and we are enthusiastic about embarking on this study to improve ABQ Ride's future service.

ART Operational costs will be adjusted to reflect the change from electric to clean diesel buses; configuration of the infrastructure will remain unchanged from previous estimates, as will the funding streams. The Federal Transit Administration will continue to assist in bringing the project to fruition by providing funding for the operational costs over the first four years of operation, and will support all transit service into the longer term as we look to augment our service in the years to come.

As to interim utilization of the ART infrastructure, the Mayor has noted that ART stations may be available to groups for event purposes, provided that public safety is protected. The City has created a permitting process for such events, and this process will be run by the Department of Municipal Development. No applications have been received to date. None of these activities will impact the use of dedicated bus lanes by emergency vehicles, as these vehicles have been given top priority for lane use in emergency scenarios.

I invite you to share your impacts of concern and possible mitigation strategies with the Administration in writing. As the build schedule for the new buses advances and the precise timing of full delivery becomes more clear, there will certainly be an opportunity to hear public comment again on the project and update the neighborhoods involved on the precise start date for service, and the public service education effort for pedestrians and the driving public to be conducted before service begins.

Sincerely,



Bernie Toon
Transit Director

Folks -
I would be happy to bring a team
from the city to your next Association meeting
to address questions that your members might
have. My city cell is 505-238-3435. If someone
would like to give me a call I would be glad to
start planning for a time to be with you.
Bernie