

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
NOVEMBER 14, 2013  
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 3:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 222 West Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC with the following present:

Chairman Les Seitz, presiding  
Jason Horne  
Ray Magsanoc  
Tony Percoraro  
Craig Ralph  
Debra Rezoli  
Uel Whitsett

Staff present: David Eatman, Mike Kennon, Scott McClellan

**AGENDA – APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Chairman Seitz indicated, if time permits, near the end of the meeting there will be a brief overview of the 2040 Plan and how the near term bus plan fits into that. This related to the Wake County Commissioners' meeting regarding the transit system in the county.

Without objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – RECEIVED**

Chairman Seitz reported the Authority's Retreat was great and thanked everyone for their participation. He noted there was a lot of good input and issues coming from the retreat would soon be assigned to various committees.

Chairman Seitz also pointed out that all members were welcome to attend any or all of the committee meetings.

**MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 2013 – APPROVED**

Members received the October 10, 2013 minutes in their agenda packets. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the minutes. His motion was seconded by Ms. Thurman, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

**REGION-WIDE FARE INCREASE – FARE EQUITY ANALYSIS – REPORT RECEIVED – STAFF AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Eatman explained in April, 2013 staff received approval from the RTA to move forward with a Region-Wide Fare Increase Analysis. The regional transit systems continue to work toward this goal. A major component of this effort is the corresponding Fare Equity Analysis. In order to meet Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines, CAT must create, solicit public comment and adopt disparate and disproportionate impact threshold policy. CAT's major service change policy was also reviewed.

Ann Sealey, Planning Communities, LLC, provided a presentation describing the technical evaluation resulting in the recommended thresholds. She explained this analysis is required to implement the fare increase and is required for the largest agencies. Her presentation included the Equity Analysis process, technical activities, public outreach efforts including public meetings and events, etc. Regional demographics and survey data was outlined. Ms. Sealey reviewed proposed increases by fare type and minority status and income status. Other fare categories were outlined including GoPass users (46% minority, 27% low income); 10 Ride Card (44% minority, 26% low income); 3% of riders used free senior fares with the proposed increases raising this to 50% of full fare. Youth were not surveyed. Regional Title VI Programs were reviewed. In regard to proposed fare equity thresholds, Ms. Sealey stated all fare changes require fare equity analysis, disparate impact threshold – minority populations (10% difference and proportion of fare type v. proportion of all riders) and disproportionate burden threshold – low income populations (10% difference for fare type). The presentation also spoke to Application of Threshold, Disparate Impact Review and Proposed service Equity Policies. The schedule of milestones was reviewed with community events scheduled for October and November, public forums scheduled for November, revised and final Title VI Fare Equity Analysis Report available in mid December, public hearings held in early 2014 and agency meetings and approvals ongoing.

Chairman Seitz indicated the Fare Equity Analysis mostly relates to the fixed route service and the para-transit fare may be as much as two times the regular fare noting it doesn't have to be but may be. He stated the basis for determining if the increase is equitable refers mostly to fixed routes. Mr. Eatman indicated demographic data would need to be used in that case and we have not done detailed survey data in the para-transit environment. Mr. Ralph noted so much money is put towards para-transit that we want to be sure we get as much as possible from that.

Discussion followed regarding public participation with Ms. Sealey stating there had been quite a bit of outreach at every level in this process. Mr. Horne indicated the point of the study is to be sure the increase is not disproportionately affecting minority riders and there must be a threshold. Discussion followed relating to why the Spanish group was broken out in the analysis with Ms. Sealey noting the Spanish were well above the guidelines requiring individual data. Mr. Eatman indicated we do meet the minimum

guidance from FTA on Spanish patrons with schedules and vital documents translated into Spanish, etc. He noted everyone could do better probably but CAT does have that.

Following the presentation and discussion, Mr. Horne moved that the report be received and that staff proceed with a coordinated regional public comment period on the proposed threshold and corresponding policies. His motion was seconded by Mr. Whitsett, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – RECEIVED**

Vivian Stanford, 58 Dorothea Drive, spoke regarding the South Saunders route change noting the change would cause great inconvenience for riders. She noted Heritage Park Apartments and Gateway Park Apartments would be adversely affected and would have to catch the bus to Moore Square and transfer. She spoke to the fact many of these residents shop at Wal-Mart in South Raleigh for groceries and would have to catch more than one bus while carrying groceries. All the South Saunders busses are full and many with people standing. The change is not convenient for the elderly. She stressed many people depend on this bus particularly since there is no other store in the area. She also stressed the need for the bus to run on Sunday.

Mr. Eatman reported Route 7 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most predominant route and part of the improvements in 2014 will be reducing the route to 15 minute intervals and adding service on Sunday. This would improve the on time performance for this route.

Mr. Miles, P. O. Box 26621, Raleigh, NC 27611, referred to Route 18 and questioned if CAT has anything to do with TTA. Mr. Eatman explained CAT works cooperatively with TTA but this board does not provide oversight to them. Mr. Miles indicated the CAT bus does not get him to the TTA bus early enough for him to be at work at 6:00 a.m. He reviewed the difficulties in trying to catch the necessary busses to get him to work and felt this problem creates a lot of unemployment. Chairman Seitz indicated these comments would be taken into consideration. Mr. Miles also expressed concern that he has to pay full fare for transfers. Chairman Seitz noted the authority is in the midst of restructuring fares.

## **RTA ANNUAL RETREAT – PRIORITIZATION – SUMMARY REPORT OF PRIORITIES APPROVED**

Mr. Eatman explained the board held their strategic planning retreat on October 24, 2013 to agree on top strategic priorities for FY 2015 and to clarify roles and responsibilities of the board. RTA board members attended as well as Councilor Mary-Ann Baldwin. Mr. Eatman provided a presentation outlining the priorities and responsibilities developed during the retreat. He noted staff was seeking confirmation of the priorities and responsibilities presented. Members received a copy of the report at the meeting. Mr. Eatman indicated there were some corrections made to the draft report and would like to receive comments on this and get this amended as a final report next month. He reviewed the Roles and Responsibilities Summary as well as the actual priority items. He

explained some of the highest priorities are easy to implement and some are more difficult. Staff can prepare a chart and provide their input on their view of how easy these items can be implemented, etc and this could be provided in December. He stated some items will take longer than others and felt the logical step would be to assign the items to appropriate committees and reaffirm roles and responsibilities and create a format that can be shared with new members.

Chairman Seitz indicated he and Mr. Horne will review these items and assign them to appropriate committees.

Mr. Horne moved approval of the Summary Draft Report with a final report provided at the December meeting. His motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

Later in the meeting Chairman Seitz questioned how soon staff would need recommendations on the various items. Mr. Eatman noted staff will review the priorities between now and budget transmission and determine if there are items requiring additional funding. Chairman Seitz indicated the items will possibly be assigned to committees before the December meeting.

#### **MARKETING COMMITTEE – REPORT**

Ms. Thurman reported the Marketing Committee is working on revising the Bus Advertising policy and the item will remain pending in committee.

Ms. Thurman reported the next meeting of the Marketing Committee will be December 5, 2013 at noon.

#### **2040 TRANSIT PLAN – REPORT RECEIVED**

Mr. Eatman provided an overview of how the 2040 Plan relates to current bus changes being implemented. He reviewed the 2040 Bus Transit Plan study team that included representatives from all municipalities, CAMPO, NCSU, transit providers, TJCOG and RTA. This group met every Tuesday for 18 months. He reviewed the purpose of the plan. Funds would come from the ½ cent sales tax noting that within 18 months of implementation you can start to see transit improvements.

Service guidelines were reviewed that included simplifying routes for new riders, providing attractive frequencies, identifying major corridors for emphasis and complimenting the rail system. He explained everyone should be worried about the first and last mile of a rail trip noting buses will provide this service. The 2040 service concepts were reviewed including items such as more local routes, minimizing headways, late night/weekend service based upon demand, etc. Priority transit corridors and 2040 service concepts were reviewed. Mr. Eatman reviewed capital improvements required by the plan including new transit centers, new park and ride lots, premium transit corridors, additional shelters, etc. 2040 service levels were reviewed including number of routes

and busses and bus hours. Priority transit corridors include US 1, New Bern Avenue, Rock Quarry Road, S. Saunders Street, Highway 70, Avnet Ferry Road, Glenwood Avenue, Falls of Neuse Road, Six Forks Road and Hillsborough Street. He noted there is a good grasp of short range transportation but has been a long time since the 2040 plan was discussed. He reviewed how the plan was developed.

The report was received as information.

### **STAFF REPORT – RECEIVED**

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income (September 2013)
2. Variance Analysis (September 2013)
3. Go PASS Ridership Summary (September 2013)
4. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (September 2013)
5. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (September 2013)
6. Operating Statistics (September 2013)
7. Route Statistics (September 2013)
8. Ridership Percentage by Time Period (September 2013)
9. Evaluation by Route (September 2013)

The reports were received as information.

Mr. Eatman reported there are 21 new buses on order and will be delivered in approximately 1 year.

He reported this would be Sharon Coleman-Bullock's last meeting as she is going to the Arts Department. He thanked her for her efforts in working for the board.

### **CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED**

Ms. Thurman referred to Attachment B to the agenda relating to Public Workshops for transit fare increases. Mr. Eatman indicated there would be one workshop this evening at One Exchange Plaza and one on November 21 at the CAT Operations Facility, both from 3:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Information will be available on service changes and people can ask questions about the changes. Staff will continue to attend CAC meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt

