

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
DECEMBER 12, 2013
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Thursday, December 12, 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
Corey Branch
Jason Horne
Ray Magsanoc
Sherita McCullers
Tony Percoraro
Craig Ralph
Debra Rezoli
Jane Thurman

Staff present: David Eatman, Mike Kennon, Scott McClellan

AGENDA – APPROVED AS AMENDED

Without objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2013 – APPROVED

Members received the November 14, 2013 minutes in their agenda packets. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the minutes. His motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

REGION-WIDE FARE INCREASE – FARE EQUITY ANALYSIS – REPORT RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Ann Steedly, Planning Communities, provided an update regarding the Region-Wide Fare Increase Equity Analysis. Members received in their agenda packets the following documents that were reviewed in detail:

- Title VI Summary Handout (Attachment A)
- Public Outreach Summary (Attachment B)
- Triangle Region Title VI Policies (Attachment C)

Ms. Steedly reviewed key steps of the analysis and Title VI Fare and Service Change Policy thresholds. She reported when evaluating ridership demographics by fare type, the disparate impact and disproportionate burden policy thresholds several were exceeded with a few that identified potential impacts as follows:

- Local 5-day Pass – exceeds both thresholds; 7-day Pass will replace 5-day Pass reducing costs for 7 day a week riders, while costs may increase for weekday commuters.
- Local 31-day Pass – slightly exceeds disparate impact threshold, percentage increase is consistent across fares.
- Go Pass – exceeds disproportionate burden threshold; there is the potential for disproportionate burden since no fare increase affects these riders and Go Pass has lower percentages of low-income and minority riders.

Ms. Steedly reviewed Mitigation Measures and Alternatives noting there are measures and alternative options in place or that can be expanded to off-set impact. She reviewed possible measures. She explained tables provided relating to proposed increases by fare type and minority status and proposed increases by fare type and income status for CAT. Ms. Steedly indicated the last fare increase for CAT was in 2007. The proposed fare increases are needed in order to address increases in operating costs, reductions in federal funding, relatively low firebox recovery levels and the need to continue to improve current services and coverage to meet the needs of riders in this region. The increases have been developed based on reviewing regional costs and operations and comparison with peer systems. Ms. Steedly stated staff, in January, will continue evaluation of proposed fare increases and potential alternatives and mitigation measures that are needed to ensure that potential impacts to Title VI populations are addressed. The proposed policy thresholds were reviewed comparing CAT and Triangle Transit. Major Service changes policy thresholds were reviewed.

Mr. Ralph referred to Response Highlights – Fare increases will impact budgets for riders- that noted “Many commenters stated that the cost of travel is already too expensive...” and requested the number being referred to in “many”. Ms. Steedly indicated she could provide that information. Mr. Eatman noted included in the agenda email for this meeting, there was a link to the full draft document.

Mr. Eatman indicated as this moved forward, we will be working with regional partners in January to come up with strategies for the January Authority meeting. The Authority will have an opportunity to review the proposed strategies and felt that information could be provided to the Authority in January or February. If the Authority decides to move forward, a hearing will be held in February or March. The fare increase would then be eligible for implementation sometime in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

Mr. Eatman indicated there is an 11 ride pass traditionally provided to non-profits that involves many low income populations and by stabilizing the price of the non-profit base, this may mitigate some issues that arise from the fare increase.

The report was received as information.

FORTIFY PROJECT UPDATE – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Mr. Eatman provided an update regarding the implementation of Transit Services to eastern and southeastern Wake County. The increased transit services will be provided in order to mitigate traffic congestion resulting from the I-440 mitigation project. He reported the contracts had been signed and hoped to be able to start services on Monday, December 16 which would be a soft start period noting everything will not be perfect on that date. He reviewed the expanded services that would be provided including service every 30 minutes to Wendell and Zebulon. There will also be a new Johnston County route starting at Clayton Walmart and I-42/I-40. It will take a couple of weeks to get all the bugs out. He indicated efforts would be taken to nail this down and have quality services that will feel comfortable to users in the near future. A picture was provided of the bus wrap for the busses serving this project. The schedule will be online noting these are new services. Service will be free as it gets underway through the 1st of February, 2014. Ms. Thurman requested that "CAT" be added to the design for the wrap noting the service is being provided by Triangle Transit but CAT is providing the buses. Chairman Seitz noted CAT is not funding this and this is something staff may want to look at and report back to the Authority. Ms. Thurman suggested that this be requested and spoke to the need to have some unified logo for this service. Mr. Ralph noted this would let people know the City of Raleigh CAT system is just as good as TTA.

Mr. Eatman explained initially there will be a combination of CAT and TTA buses and soliciting to have 18 additional 40' busses leased for this project that will come in all white from some leasing agency. He indicated CAT could probably be added. Ms. Rezoli agreed the CAT logo should be included on the busses.

In response to a question relating to the route from Johnston County, Mr. Eatman noted originally I-40 will be used and as the project ramps up did not know which route would be used. The routing has been left vague on the schedules noting the fastest route would be used and could even depend on time of day. Mr. Horne noted the BOS program will be used with Mr. Eatman explaining busses could use the shoulders all the way from Johnston County to the Beltline. Mr. Branch agreed that the CAT logo should be included on these buses. Mr. Ralph indicated there would be CAT drivers on these routes. Mr. Kennon noted ideally I-40 would be used but at times this may not be the best route and we are leaving ourselves to change routes if necessary.

Chairman Seitz asked if CAT is being reimbursed by TTA or some other entity for expenses with Mr. Eatman responding all expenses are considered a part of the project cost relating to the rebuild project. He noted there is \$12 million for transportation demand management that includes bus services, van pools, outreach, car pooling, etc.

This report was received as information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – RECEIVED

Michael Watkins noted he lives in the Capital Boulevard/Old Wake Forest Road/Triangle Towne Center area and used the Capital Boulevard bus or 25L. He expressed concern relating to the need for more frequent times for the Capital Boulevard bus. He stated it is loaded all the time and cannot get a seat no matter when he rides. He noted the frequency of 25L should be equal to the Capital Boulevard bus. Chairman Seitz advised Mr. Watkins that service in that area will be expanded soon and the busses will run every 15 minutes. Mr. Eatman explained the headways will be lowered on Route 1 between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. to 15 minutes. The plan is to break 25C into 2 routes that would serve from Triangle Towne Center to Wake Tech North. He noted headways should be down to 15 minutes all day in the next few months and we are working on 25C as we move forward. Mr. Watkins indicated Sunday service should also be considered. Mr. Eatman noted 25 is not slated for Sunday service on this round of changes but recognized Sunday service is important and recognized that as a need.

STAFF REPORTS – REVIEW RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Mr. Eatman noted staff provides a wealth of information in the monthly RTA agenda regarding the budget, passenger trips and other performance data. Ms. Molin was present to provide a presentation in order to outline the purpose and need of the data provided. This presentation targeted the activities and associated reports related to the Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program.

Kathy Molin indicated her job for 25 years has been to get people out of cars and riding the bus. She noted she rides the bus every day and gets to experience what the riders experience. She reviewed the various programs relating to TDM including talking to various employers/employees, TDM on a Dime program, ZIP Car (with 110 members) and the Occasional Parking Program that involves purchasing a booklet with 10 passes at a cost of \$55 that is much cheaper than daily parking fees. She referred to the GoPass program noting Redhat is signing up for this program. She spoke to RLine office door hangers, etc. making more people aware of this benefit. Ms. Molin reviewed Bike Month events noting the busses have advertisements of these events. Other projects TDM has worked on include Try Transit Week, Stuff the Bus with Chic-Fil-A, Bicycle Map development, Lighten Up Raleigh and worked with DOT and their media staff on the Fortify Raleigh project.

Ms. Molin explained GoPass program which involves an employer agreement between employers and CAT which encourages employees to ride the bus. She stated it is hoped this program will continue to grow in the future. Discussion followed relating to ways to get private employers to be more active in these efforts.

Mr. Horne noted the GoPass numbers are trending downward with Mr. Eatman explaining State Government pulled out this fiscal year which impacted the numbers.

This item was received as information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT – RECEIVED

Chairman Seitz noted Mr. Whitsett was not present and reported the Finance Committee discussed both pending items:

- FY 2015 Transit Budgets
- Accessible Raleigh Transportation Mobility Management Services

He explained these items are being held in the committee for additional discussions.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – REPORT – BUS ADVERTISING POLICY REFERRED TO CITY ATTORNEY

Ms. Thurman reported the Marketing Committee met on December 5, 2013. She noted members received in their packets a copy of the Bus Advertising Policy Draft with changes made shown in red. She indicated Mr. Ralph had requested copies of the contract; however, this is policy and is not a contract. Mr. Eatman indicated policies from other peer systems were reviewed as it relates to bus advertising and the proposal is what was considered to be the best of the best. Guidance was also received from the City Attorney's office. Mr. Eatman explained at this point it is requested that the Authority refer this to the City Attorney for their interpretation on if this proposal would be appropriate and give any changes or amendments they may have.

In response to a question from Mr. Ralph, Mr. Eatman explained approvals would remain an administrative function and staff will provide detailed information on those approved on a monthly basis. If a request is denied or it is felt anything needs interpretation, staff would seek the City Attorney's interpretation. A report on any denials would also be provided to the Authority on a monthly basis.

Mr. Ralph moved that the Authority approve the policy for submittal to the City Attorney for comment with any edits brought back to the Authority for final approval. His motion was seconded by Mr. Branch, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT – RECEIVED

Mr. Ralph reported the Route Committee did not meet. He referred to Attachment E included in the agenda packet regarding the proposed route changes and the upcoming public information sessions. Public Information Sessions were included in the attachment. Mr. Ralph urged members to attend these sessions to show their support. He reported a request had been received from Benson Kirkman to moving a bus stop on Method Road and provided members with a copy of the email. He noted the bus stop where it is currently located is creating traffic delays. This item will be reviewed by the Route Committee.

STAFF REPORT – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

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

Mr. Eatman noted there are 2 changes to the reports and would provide corrected copies to members electronically

The reports were received as information.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ms. McCullers wished everyone a happy holiday season

Mr. Ralph referred to the request from Mr. Watkins for additional service noting is hard work realigning routes. He thanked the staff for their hard work on the upcoming route changes. Mr. Ralph also wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Horne thanked staff for their hard work this year.

Ms. Thurman indicated the Authority had a great year and she looked forward to next year.

Mr. Branch wished everyone happy holidays and indicated the Authority did great work and had a great year.

Mr. Eatman indicated 21 busses are on order and will be delivered in 12 months. The first batch of 10 went out 60 days ago and the 2nd batch was just released.

Chairman Seitz indicated the Authority had a great year with many accomplishments. He noted the need for new resources to expand services next year. He wished everyone happy holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt