

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 9, 2014
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Thursday, October 9, 2014 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
Sherita McCullers
Ray Magsanoc
Tony Pecoraro
Craig Ralph
Debra Rezeli
Corey Branch

Staff present: David Eatman, Mike Kennon, Marie Parker

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Seitz. The following items were discussed with discussion and actions taken as follows:

AGENDA – APPROVED AS AMENDED

Chairman Seitz reported Mr. Eatman had two changes to the agenda and would provide those changes when reached on the agenda.

Without objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – RECEIVED

Chairman Seitz reported the Regional Branding recommendations were presented to the City Council by Mr. Eatman and Ms. Thurman. He noted the Council seemed to be enthusiastic about the changes and gave their stamp of approval. He noted both Mr. Eatman and Ms. Thurman did an excellent job and it is nice to be able to move onto the next level.

Chairman Seitz spoke regarding Parliamentary Procedures noting the proper time to make a motion is after you are sure the chair is ready for the motion. Whether it is a topic of discussion or not, the member cannot just pop up and make the motion as a way of introducing a new topic nor while it is being discussed. Chairman Seitz explained if the chair doesn’t ask if there is a motion, the motion cannot be made and that motion will be ruled out of order because the Chair does not have the luxury of multitasking during the meeting. He stated the chair must keep

things orderly and the way to do that is to follow Parliamentary Procedures to the best of our ability. Chairman Seitz announced motions will be ruled out of order unless it is made clear that a motion is in order.

ACTION ITEMS

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 – APPROVED

Members received a copy of the September 11, 2014 meeting prior to the meeting. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

INFORMATION ITEMS

DOWNTOWN PLAN/R-LINE – PRESENTATION – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION & REFERRED TO ROUTE COMMITTEE

Mr. Eatman explained this item was discussed during the Route Committee meeting and noted a decision will need to be made regarding the R-Line but staff wanted to receive the information gathered to date. There is a lot of data that will be available for the Route Committee that came from on line and on board surveys that can be used to help as we move forward with this project.

Richard Adams, Kimley-Horn, provided the presentation on this item noting this is part of the Downtown Plan on the R-Line. He reviewed the R-Line's current route, existing ridership, etc. and comes up with recommendations to improve the service. He reviewed the history of this project, how the project was done, survey questions and responses, R-Line wish list and considerations, high and low ridership sites and potential future Routes 1, 2 and the Integrated System.

In response to questioning Mr. Eatman indicated there were 200-300 on board surveys taken and 900 on line surveys provided. Mr. Eatman reviewed next steps and requested referral of this item to the Route Committee in order to review survey data in order to determine where passengers are going and how to make the service more efficient. Chairman Seitz referred the item to the Route Committee.

In regard to possibly charging for the R-Line service, Mr. Adams noted a majority of the existing riders would be willing to pay some level of fare. He indicated Kimley-Horn will provide a letter report of recommendations and information to staff.

The report was received as information.

NCSU TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Mr. Eatman introduced Michael Ousdahl, Assistant Director of Planning and Operations at NCSU. He indicated Mr. Ousdahl helped develop Raleigh's 24th Plan in 2009. CAT overlaps very closely with their service and we coordinate with planning and capital activities.

Mr. Ousdahl explained he met with Jason Horne who invited him to provide a rundown of the Wolfline service and indications on what they are doing in the future. He provided a presentation outlining the boundaries of NCSU Campus noting there are 43,000 people on campus generating a lot of transit trips. The campus has grown tremendously with most of the new growth concentrated at Centennial Campus. He reviewed facilities that have recently opened on Centennial Campus. A map of Wolfline routes were reviewed with Mr. Ousdahl noting Wolfline is open to the public. There are 17,500 passengers per day during the peak Fall semester with a total of 2.9 million total trips per year. The service runs from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m. on 10 minute intervals. Winter/Fall 2014 changes were reviewed including increased frequency, new busses, Sunday daytime service and a new route. Mr. Ousdahl indicated there has been increased growth in ridership with not much growth in the student body. FY 15 and FY 16 proposed improvements, future initiatives (Campus Mobility Plan of 2012), etc. were reviewed in detail.

Chairman Seitz thanked Mr. Ousdahl for the report. Mr. Ralph indicated it was good to hear that Park & Ride has been added. Mr. Ralph also pointed Wolfline provides late night service that we can't provide with Mr. Ousdahl indicating night service is important to Wolfline from a security standpoint and the students do take advantage of night service. Discussion followed regarding the fact Wolfline does not own the busses but when new busses are purchased, they see a rise in their per bus and per service hour costs. Wolfline's overall budget is \$5 million per year.

The report was received as information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – RECEIVED

Tom Cavendar, WakeMed North, was present. Chairman Seitz noted members received in their agenda packets Attachment C relating to this request. Mr. Cavendar reported MakeMed is opening a new hospital specializing in women's healthcare at the intersection of Falls of Neuse and Durant Roads. He reviewed the history of the current hospital and facilities owned by WakeMed at this location noting the emergency room currently sees 100 patients per day. There is also an 80,000 sf office building on that campus that is 100% occupied. The full service facility for women will open in 2015. He reviewed how hospitals impact favorably upon

economic growth of an area. He outlined the demographics for this hospital consisting of 10 zip codes with a population growth of 2.6% in these areas. There is also a growth of minorities and 15% of households are low income in these ten zip codes. WakeMed has 2200 employees living in this ten zip code area which is a good indicator of strong bus ridership in the future. He explained the extension of bus service to this area will provide transportation options to patients, patients' families, staff and others. The extension of a route to serve this campus is in the short range plan and asked the Authority to consider making this a priority in the 2015 budget year. He believed there will be increased demand for ridership in this area.

Chairman Seitz referred this request to the Route Committee for consideration.

Shariffe Jones, 731 Gateway Road, 27601, asked if there is anything that can be done to restore the Tier 1 passes. Chairman Seitz explained this pass was eliminated for budgetary reasons and it may be in the cards for some time in the future but could not guarantee that at this point. He noted the Authority is always looking for ways to make CAT services better. Mr. Jones asked if it is possible to extend the bus timing on his Route with Chairman Seitz reporting there are service improvements coming in January and that Mr. Jones should contact staff regarding any services to benefit him. Mr. Jones referred to the cancellation of Tier 1 services and the fact there is no charge for R-Line. Chairman Seitz indicated the Authority tries to balance everything and understood Mr. Jones' concern but there are hard choices that must be made. He indicated the Authority tries to do the best it can all the time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Seitz reported the Finance and Marketing Committees did not meet. Mr. Pecoraro asked why the Finance Committee did not meet. Mr. Eatman indicated the Committee did not have any items for discussion and in the future would indicate to members why meetings are being cancelled.

Mr. Pecoraro questioned the 1 month delay in staff reports going out in the packets. Mr. Eatman indicated Marie Parker prepares these reports and had been doing double duty as Operations Director. Mr. Pecoraro noted there are still errors in the report.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

The Route Committee met on October 7. Mr. Ralph reported discussion took place regarding a review of routes. He referred to Route 3, Glascock, noting the Committee reviewed stops and elimination of stops. Changes were relating to stops with none being eliminated. Mr. Ralph moved acceptance of changes as outlined. His motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

Mr. Ralph reported the Committee reviewed the First Night services and agreed to provide north services and “southish” service to get as many riders on the E busses as possible. Park & Ride lots would have to be located. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the First Night service with north and south services to Park & Ride facilities. Chairman Seitz noted this item should stay in committee until the Park & Ride lots are located to bring out the full item. Mr. Eatman explained the need to Park & Ride service versus service wide extended service for First Night noting the demand could be greater that CAT can provide since everyone would be leaving following the fireworks. He spoke to the importance to find Park & Ride lots quickly. Mr. Branch referred to the September minutes where the Authority voted on doing something different. He suggested striking that vote from the minutes to avoid problems in the future. Mr. Ralph read the section of the September minutes relating to this item. Mr. Branch moved that the motion on First Night made at the September meeting be voted down. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Mr. Ralph indicated he will be late for the November 4 Route Committee meeting unless it could begin at 9:30 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m. Chairman Seitz indicated there would be no problem with this change after staff checks the availability of a meeting place, etc.

CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED

Ms. McCullers reported Ms. Parker has done an excellent job noting it is difficult to do 2 jobs.

Mr. Pecoraro indicated Mr. Eatman and Ms. Thurman did an excellent job making the presentation at the last Council Meeting relating to rebranding.

Mr. Ralph questioned the difference in higher floor buses as used by NCSU with staff noting there are seats lost due to the tire wells.

Mr. Kennon invited members to the CAT Maintenance Facility the following Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. to view a prototype bus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt

