

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
JUNE 11, 2015
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street with the following present:

Les Seitz, presiding
Jason Horne
Tony Pecoraro
Craig Ralph
Debra Rezeli
Michael Stevenson
Jane Thurman

Staff present: David Eatman, Mike Kennon, Scott McClellan

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seitz. The following items were discussed with actions taken as shown:

AGENDA – APPROVED

No changes needed to be made to the agenda. Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

5310 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN – APPROVED

Mr. Eatman explained this item was on the agenda to request adoption of the 5310 Program Management Plan noting this plan was approved by FTA. Authority approval is needed. Included is disbursement of the funds noting this was once a state level activity. He provided an overview of how the funding process works noting, through recent transit legislation, urban areas began receiving these funds. The MPO is also a very important part of this process and they are also adopting this program management plan and will ultimately award grant and we have been the dedicated recipient of these fund by the MPO noting the funds flow to the MPO and the elected officials will finally approve funding to the grantees. The process will be refined in the coming months as we proceed with this.

Ann Steely and Greg Sauer were present to provide additional information. Ms. Steely explained Section 5310 funds are grants for projects to meet the needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. MAP-21 consolidated previous FTA New Freedom and Elderly and Disabled grant

programs. 2015 call for projects funding available for the Raleigh-Cary urbanized area is \$650,000 with a required minimum of 55% for traditional capital expenses and up to 45% for other capital and operating expenses. The Call for Projects was made in April and opened on May 5 and closed in early June. At the same time the Program Management Plan was developed and advertised. The plan was submitted to the FTA and approved and needs to be approved by the Transit Authority and CAMPO's Executive Board.

Mr. Pecoraro stated the final plan should be on line and asked if the authority approved the revised. Mr. Eatman responded all the FTA does is indicate the appointed body may approve the plan as submitted to the FTA. Mr. Pecoraro asked shouldn't the plan be approved by the Authority prior to going to the FTA. Mr. Eatman indicated the FTA had provided concurrence and the original plan was provided to members at the last meeting. Mr. Eatman explained we want to be sure the FTA approves the plan before we request approval by the Authority and if changes are required, staff wants the Authority to be aware of those changes prior to adoption. He noted this is true for all compliance documents. Ms. Steely reported there were some slight changes the FTA required that have been made.

Ms. Steely stated this Call for Projects contains funding that should be awarded and obligated by September 30, 2015. A number of applications were received as follows:

- Arc of the Triangle – Travel training program and volunteer transportation to program sites (\$55,000)
- Alliance for Disability Advocates – Travel training program (\$118,380)
- The Center for Volunteer Caregiving – Escorted “door-through-door” volunteer transportation (\$56,198)
- GoRaleigh – Mobility Management program dispatch, data collection and monitoring (\$304,313)
- GoRaleigh – Purchase two replacement paratransit vehicles (\$160,000)

Total amount of projects submitted was \$694,000 with a local match of \$127,000. Recommendations were to fund all grant applications. The CAMPO Executive Board will review for approval on June 17.

Ms. Steely explained the grant recommendations were developed by a CAMPO TCC subcommittee using scoring criteria. She indicated the Total Project Budget is \$693,891; Traditional Federal Share (80%) is \$509,754; Traditional Local Match (20%) is \$127,439; Other Federal Share (50%) \$28,349 and Other Local Match (50%) \$28,349. She indicated grant recommendations are not part of the Program Management Plan. It was noted the numbers provided on the presentation screen were not the same as those provided in the printed document provided to members. Ms. Steely explained the numbers on the screen were correct and had just

been changed (*numbers shown in these minutes are those provided on the screen*) and are the numbers approved by the TCC and will go to the CAMPO Executive Board for approval as well. She noted next year there will be a Call for Projects that will not involve this Program Management Plan.

Mr. Eatman indicated staff as requesting endorsement of the Program Management Plan and the allocation of funds. Transit staff will submit the application on behalf of the MPO and entities and will be responsible for compliance as well. Mr. Eatman indicated staff wants to be sure the Authority is in favor of staff's recommendations to the Executive Board of the MPO.

Mr. Horne moved endorsement of the Program Management Plan as presented. His motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

MINUTES – MAY 21, 2015 – APPROVED AS AMENDED

Members had received a copy of the May 21, 2015 meeting minutes in their packets. Mr. Walker referred to page 6 relating to comments minutes indicated he made relating to Park & Ride. The minutes should have indicated Ms. Rezeli made the comments. Ms. Rezeli moved approval of the Minutes as amended. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT INVESTMENT STRATEGY – UPDATE - RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Tim Gardiner, Wake County, spoke to the desire to keep the Authority engaged in what is being done as it will impact bus services. He indicated there are 4 alternatives being considered at this point and all alternatives are just alternatives but they do show changes to bus routes, etc. He explained one thing staff wants to do is bring everybody that does transit planning together including GoRaleigh, GoTriangle, Cary Transit and Wake County. All of the things in the plan are possible only if there is a positive referendum on the ½ cent sales tax. If approved, this community is looking for ways to change the transit culture. Then there is the question once we have made that decision, what is the best way to start this process. The Wake County Transit Investment Strategy process will establish a vision for the future transit network that reflects the values and priorities of the community. Mr. Gardiner referred to the Advisory Committee made up of 78 members and have helped set the stage to where we are with alternatives. The concepts were presented in January – May and four alternatives were developed from May – September and a final plan will be coming forward. Important concepts were reviewed including a connected network, vehicle frequency and ridership/coverage spectrum. Ridership, coverage goals and survey questions were reviewed. Mr. Gardiner noted our network today is in a lot of cases a coverage network and what is being heard from the community and the public is they are

looking for more ridership in the future. He indicated from the infrastructure side, we are invested in making transit look and feel differently. If you want to go from 30 minute service to 15 minute service, more busses would have to be purchased, more drivers would need to be hired, etc. Further information provided by the survey was reviewed. Infrastructure being looked at for Bus Rapid Transit and Rail Rapid Transit were reviewed.

Chairman Seitz questioned what the stations would look like with Mr. Gardiner responding that involves more detail than is known at this point.

Mr. Gardiner then reviewed the 4 alternatives being considered as well as questions being asked to the public. The schedule for this ongoing process was outlined with Mr. Gardiner noting the public process will be closed in October/November. He noted the survey is on line and the videos provided there will go a long way in helping citizens understand what is being proposed.

Mr. Pecoraro asked if there are jurisdiction issues between Raleigh and Wake County with Mr. Eatman explaining the plan will be discussed in the coming months and certainly Raleigh has existing resources. Wake County will be looking for existing providers and new opportunities but all is being worked out. He noted CAMPO, Wake County and GoTriangle have 3 boards that have to approve the financial plan. Mr. Pecoraro indicated his reading of HB 1224 indicates funds will be used for transportation and/or education. Mr. Gardiner noted HB 1224 has not passed and there is a 2009 bill that was already passed. He explained the effort now is trying to determine what we will do with the funds and these plans are the way to get there and we are trying to create what the service would look like.

Ms. Rezeli asked if lower economic areas are being considered. Mr. Gardiner indicated all areas being studied are in close proximity to 95% of the existing ridership base and providing more and better service to this population.

Mr. Horne questioned which one of the 4 options are getting the most public interest with Mr. Gardiner noting it is too early to predict at this point and there isn't a clear front runner. None of the alternatives were set up as an alternative that no one would ever consider and all are viable but project different values.

The report was received as information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARKETING COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Ms. Rezeli reported the Marketing Committee met on June 4, 2015 and made the following recommendations:

Shopping SPREE! Sponsorship:

Ms. Rezeli reported this event will take place from September 30 – October 2, 2015 and in-kind costs of \$300 for placement of 2 placards on RLine buses is requested. The Committee recommends approval of this request. GoRaleigh is getting the benefit of being listed on the Jr League Website.

Ms. Rezeli moved approval of the \$300 in-kind sponsorship as outlined. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

GoRaleigh Advertising Campaign/Marketing Budget:

Ms. Rezeli reported TV spots are currently being shown on television between 6:45-7:00 a.m. She indicated marketing is operating well within the budgeted funds.

Balloon Fest – Update:

Ms. Rezeli reported there was excellent turn out for this event. GoRaleigh provided transportation from Triangle Towne Center to Spring Forest Park. A wheel chair paratransit bus was also provided. New busses with the new brand were used. She indicated Marketing will continue to look for opportunities next year noting the Balloon Fest representatives did some marketing for GoRaleigh as well.

Advertising Revenue Update:

Ms. Rezeli reported information was included in members' packets noting we are doing well on revenues received for advertising.

July 4 Service Park & Ride:

Ms. Rezeli reported the park & ride locations would be located at Beacon Plaza and Centennial Campus just past Farmers Market. Advertisements can now begin since locations have been secured.

R-Line Display Mobile TVs (New Technology Demo:

Ms. Rezeli reported the purchase order was cut last week for this item. Mr. Eatman indicated he spoke with the maintenance manager and they have worked on one unit and it is underway. He

noted it will be nice to see them up and working again and provide options for information on GoRaleigh and Downtown Raleigh.

Meeting Schedule:

Ms. Rezeli reported the Marketing Committee would not meet on July 2 but will meet at some point in July. This will be a 2 hour meeting to address some of the larger issues including the marketing and ad campaign. They are looking at the week of July 20 for this meeting.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Ralph reported the Route Committee met on June 2 and made the following recommendations:

54L Service Removal:

Mr. Ralph indicated this is a small route and doesn't have high ridership. Mr. Ralph moved removal of Route 54L. His motion was seconded by Mr. Seitz, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted. Mr. Eatman noted this is not like complete elimination of this route and Route 25L changes will pick up on portions of this route. He indicated this is a reallocation of resources.

25L Route Changes:

Members received in their packet a map outlining proposed routing changes to Route 25L. Mr. Ralph reviewed both the current and proposed routes. Mr. Ralph moved approval of changes to Route 25L as shown. His motion was seconded by Mr. Horne, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

Mr. Eatman indicated these changes to meet our threshold for major service change and approval of the change by the authority is step 1. The next step is to do a Title VI evaluation followed by public meetings. This action sets in motion work to be done this summer.

Apollo Heights Community Meeting:

Mr. Ralph reported 8 people made presentations at the meeting.

CAT On-Time Performance (OTP) Review:

Mr. Ralph noted members received in their packets information relating to OTP noting we are having more and more routes in the A category.

Citizen's Request – Wake Tech Service:

Mr. Eatman indicated this would be a fully allocated reimbursement and the requests have been relayed to Wake Tech. Staff is waiting for them to get back to us. He noted this is a private citizen's request and Wake Tech should weigh in on a service change.

Meeting Schedule:

Mr. Ralph reported the next Route Committee meeting would be on July 7 and 9:00 a.m.

STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income (April 2015)
2. Variance Analysis (April 2015)
3. Go PASS Ridership Summary (April 2015)
4. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (April 2015)
5. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (April 2015)
6. Operating Statistics (April 2015)
7. Route Statistics (April 2015)
8. Ridership Percentage by Time Period (April 2015)
9. Evaluation by Route (April 2015)

CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED

No concluding remarks were received.

THE MEETING WAS RECESSED AT 4:40 P.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M. FOR THE HEARING ON ROUTE 19 CHANGES

ROUTE 19 CHANGES – HEARING HELD – ROUTE CHANGE APPROVED

Mr. Eatman reviewed the history of this item as well as the efforts taken to notify the public of the proposed changes. This included placement of signs in busses, signage in the neighborhood, 500 mailings to the entire neighborhood in order to let individuals know of changes being discussed. A community meeting was held at the Ralph Campbell Community Center where people expressed concerns that there are many senior citizens in the proximity of Lunar Drive and moving the route to Peyton Street would provide hardships for these citizens. That information was presented to the board and staff worked on options. At staff level the conclusion was made that these changes are needed. He reviewed the route proposed noting it would result in a much easier left turn. A second public meeting was held last week resulting in 8 citizens attending and did not hear as much concern and heard more of a “we understand the challenges the left turn on Grantland has created”. Mr. Eatman stated there seems to be understanding that this was something was a compromise between the neighborhood and a service planning effort. Staff felt good coming out of the second meeting and the citizens were informed this would be brought before the Transit Authority as a recommendation and there would be a public hearing held.

Chairman Seitz opened the hearing.

Novella Peterson, 636 Grantland, indicated she is a user of this route and was pleased at what is being recommended. She stated the route is currently dangerous due to the left turn. She indicated she is for the change.

Mr. Eatman explained this change will bring the route from McDowell Street into Moore Square and will be using Wilmington Street. This change will also keep Route 19 on time.

Thomas Smith, 1824 Summit Avenue, stated it doesn't make sense for older people who don't drive to have to walk to Peyton Street to catch the bus.

The resident of 311 Stoney Marsh Drive, stated she had no problem with the changes; however, her problem was with the timeframe in the morning. She noted in the morning 19 comes every 30 minutes and after that it comes every hour. She indicated it is a hardship for the elderly in the area and would like a 30 minute headway all day.

No one else asked to be heard, thus the hearing was closed.

Mr. Ralph moved approval of the change to Route 19 and outlined. His motion was seconded by Mr. Horne, unanimously passed. Chairman Seitz ruled the motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt