

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
JUNE 9, 2016
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on June 9, 2016 at 3:30 p.m in the Council Chamber, Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, with the following present:

Jason Horne, presiding
Yvonne Bailey
Ray Magsonic
Sherita McCullers
Tony Pecoraro
Craig Ralph
Michael Stevenson
Jane Thurman
Tolulupe Omohaiye
Billy Warden

Staff present: David Eatman, Marie Parker

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horne.

The following items were discussed with actions taken as shown:

AGENDA – APPROVED AS AMENDED

Mr. Eatman reported Item 5 under information items would be moved to the Action Agenda section of the agenda since a vote was required.

Without objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – RECEIVED

Chairman Horne reported there will be a ½ cent sales tax referendum in November that will benefit transit quite a bit in Wake County.

Chairman Horne announced there will be no Transit Authority meeting in July.

Chairman Horne announced the newest member, Ms. Omohaiye, will be a member of the Marketing Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

SECTION 5310 GRANT AWARD – ACCEPTED – BUDGET AMENDMENT AUTHORIZED

Mr. Eatman reported the City anticipates receiving a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant to complete projects for GoRaleigh and subrecipients. Grant funded projects were selected by CAMPO. Anticipated awarded projects include mobility management, travel training programs to educate participants and services designed to increase transportation options for seniors and persons with disabilities. Subrecipients include The Arc of the Triangle (\$162,751) Federal Award; The Center for Volunteer Caregiving, (\$43,758) Federal award; Alliance of Disability Advocates (\$110,004) Federal award; and GoRaleigh (\$212,212 Federal award. Included in the grant are administrative funds (\$52,872) for project management oversight , planning and technical assistance. The anticipated grant award was approved by the City's Grants Committee on June 9, 2016. Total amount of the grant is \$634,650 with 80% FTA funding and 20% Local City Match. A budget amendment is also required. Mr. Eatman reviewed the process for the awards and how these grants are monitored noting there were no new grantees from the previous year.

In response to a question from Ms. Bailey, Mr. Eatman explained each grantee must be named and any grant over \$25,000 must be entered into the Federal Clearing House. He requested authority action to accept the funds and distribute them and allow us to move forward and set up the ordinance to go through the Council at the first meeting in July.

In response to a question from Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Eatman indicated the subrecipients are responsible for their local match.

Ms. Thurman moved acceptance of the anticipated grant award as presented. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Stevenson, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

MINUTES – MAY 12, 2016 – APPROVED

Members received the May 12, 2016 minutes prior to the meeting. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ALL SERVICES SURVEY REPORT – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Ann Steedly provided the report on the All Services Survey including the background of the survey, survey partners and the overall approach to the survey. She noted the survey results exceeded the sampling target of 10%. Her review included trip characteristics such as origins and destinations/trip purpose, mode of access to/from transit, total transfers and fare and pass types. Trip purpose highlights were noted. Mode of access to transit had 90% walking to bus stops. More than half of GoRaleigh riders will transfer and 80% are paying full fare. Pass types for GoRaleigh included daily, weekly, monthly and local/regional/express trips. Rider and household characteristics, tenure, race and ethnicity results were reviewed as included in the report. Ms. Steedly's review further included age & gender, licenses drivers and household vehicle availability, employment status and household income results. A majority of riders are employed full or part time, 1/3 of GoRaleigh riders live in households with earned annual income less than \$15,000. Ms. Steedly then reviewed in detail results for customer satisfaction noting overall, the transit service in Wake County were doing well and customers satisfied. Various categories of customer satisfaction were reviewed. At this point Ms. Steedly passed out the GoRaleigh Snapshot relating to the survey that included information relating to the results of the survey. In response to a question from Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Eatman explained at the Transit Authority level, a set of measurable metrics has not been chosen. The City Council presented a strategic plan that includes several metrics. Staff does not have those developed in a format to share at this point but this will come to the authority soon. He noted if there is desire to set goals, this can be done as well. Mr. Eatman indicated the objectives could go through a committee if the authority would like to set goals.

In response to a question from Ms. Omohaiye, Mr. Eatman indicated Wake County's Transit Plan calls for 7 day weekly service noting Saturday and Sunday service will be just as important as weekday.

Ms. Steedly continued the review by reviewing questions and results for overall perception and the GoRaleigh brand awareness. She noted the appendices to the report are helpful in understanding the results. Due to the length of the report, Mr. Eatman asked members to email staff if they desire a hard copy of the report. The report will be on the City's website.

Mr. Pecoraro emphasized the drivers should be complimented noting 75%-80% of riders are satisfied/very satisfied with the drivers. He suggested sending the drivers a note advising them of this degree of satisfaction from the customers.

The report was received as information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – RECEIVED

Les Seitz, 3200 Ridge Mill Road, indicated he was on the Transit Authority from 2008 through June, 2015 and served as chair. He complimented the Authority on its continued high level of good work noting one goal during his tenure was to raise the bar high to be as productive as possible. The Authority has gone beyond his expectations in its work. He referred to the upcoming ½ cent sales tax for transit noting everyone will have the opportunity to vote in November for or against this county wide sales tax. Approval will provide more jobs and boost the economy county wide. He noted those living in the county do not have transit available. He stressed anyone can become reliant on transit. Mr. Seitz stated he is blind and this will give him more opportunity to attend events, etc. He spoke about his father who was a salesperson from a small town in the western part of the state. He had macular degeneration and could no longer visit his friends and felt trapped. His life became less satisfying because of that. He again emphasized this could happen to anyone noting everyone will not benefit equally from the beginning but over time as the county grows it will be used more and more. He encouraged people to vote in favor of the sales tax stating it may not appear to benefit you today but it could at some point in your life. Chairman Horne thanked Mr. Seitz for his service on the Authority.

Craig Ralph, 2417 Clark Avenue, indicated it is time to raise the fare to ride the bus to the NC State Fair and suggested sending this to the Finance Committee so they can bring it to the full board and recommend raising the fare to \$5. Mr. Pecoraro indicated the Authority will have a technology demo on August 2 and questioned the possibility of the Finance Committee meeting the same day. Mr. Eatman indicated this could be worked out. Mr. Eatman stated, as he understood it, the item being referred to the Finance Committee for discussion on August 2 or 3 is looking at raising the fare for the Park & Ride service and downtown service provided to the NC State Fair in October.

Without objection, the item was referred to the Finance Committee.

GORALEIGH STATION RENOVATION – UPDATE RECEIVED

Gil Johnson, Project Manager for GoRaleigh Station Renovation, provided an update of progress noting this is week 16 of active construction. One of the most visible things thus far is removal of the street wall on Hargett Street on May 14. Pictures were presented of before and after the removal. He provided updates relating to the new ticket office/driver's lounge area, restroom floor slab, new tower connection at parking deck, etc. He reported progress on the project continues, is on schedule and there have been no accidents. In response to a question from Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Johnson indicated there have been a few additions to the budget regarding soil removal but the project is staying within the contingency with no increase in contract cost. Mr.

Eatman indicated they have been pouring concrete on Martin Street side for the last couple of days. Mr. Ralph complimented staff on the work being done.

The report was received as information.

JULY 4 SHUTTLE – UPDATE RECEIVED

Mr. Eatman reported staff was able to secure parking areas of Centennial Parkway and Cary Drive. Staff is working on getting the word out to the public.

GORALEIGH BUS TECHNOLOGY DEMO – UPDATE RECEIVED

Mr. Eatman reported a demo will be held at the Poole Road facility on August 2 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Elected officials will also be invited. This will provide an opportunity to see the types of technology available including an electric bus, a articulated compressed natural gas bus that boards on both sides, etc. There will be an opportunity to ride an electric bus and check out other technology as well as an opportunity to ride the articulated compressed natural gas bus.

In response to questioning from Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Eatman reported we are at the point where the fleet has been replaced with kneeler buses and about to replace 100 bus fleet in the next 24 months. Adding that to the expansion of service, there is a large number that will be purchased over the next decade which is the purpose for showing the different types of available technology. This will provide an opportunity for people to ask the manufacturer questions. He noted we could be purchasing up to 200 buses over the next decade. He referred to the electric bus technology which has a 150 mile range before needing to be charged. Staff will be looking at input from the board as we move forward and will be bringing things for board consideration out of the Finance Committee in the next few weeks.

The report was received as information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Pecoraro reported the Finance and Policy Committee met on June 1, 2016 and made the following report:

AIA Shelter Competition – Stipend:

Mr. Pecoraro reported the committee discussed the competition for bus shelters and whether there should be a stipend. The shelters will be owned by the City and can be moved to a permanent location. Current shelters cost in the \$4,000-\$5,000 range and suggested a stipend not to exceed \$5,000.

In response to a question from Chairman Horne, Mr. Stevenson explained the competition brief indicates the shelter is to be to the quality and design standards that will be referenced for the City of Raleigh. It is being written specifically so the City will end up with 3 shelters that can be used. He indicated it is being written at a stipend of \$4,000 but allocating \$5,000 if it goes over the \$4,000 but in no case will they receive more than \$5,000. Mr. Eatman explained this will be a 2 step process. The first step involves a conceptual sketch design of the shelter with multiple views, materials to be used, etc. and the selection committee will choose 3 finalists from that. The next step involves the City working with the 3 finalists as they build the replicas noting they will be advised of what is required for the shelters to be used in the City and DOT right-of-way. He explained the City currently spends \$4,000 per unit for our shelters. Mr. Stevenson noted the City's cost is less than building individual shelters since the City purchases the shelters in quantity. Mr. Eatman stated the City generally does not purchase less than 10-15 shelters at one time.

Mr. Ralph indicated he would like the stipend to be within the \$4,000. Mr. Eatman explained the basic functions of a shelter and beyond that you are looking at aesthetics and functionality. There may be a design out there that makes waiting experiences better than currently. This also represents an agency's level of effort for infrastructure for the transit user stressing we have to wait and see what comes from this project. Mr. Warden pointed out the survey indicated bus stop amenities are the 2nd area where we need improvement. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the number of shelters needed, cost for maintenance for shelters versus benches, etc.

Mr. Ralph moved accepting the AIA competition as outlined with the stipend not to exceed \$4,000.

Ms. Thurman spoke relating the importance of this competition noting NCSU School of Design is known as being one of 3 major cities for modern architects and this would be great public relations and a positive opportunity. Mr. Stevenson stated he recommended \$4,000 originally but realized the current shelters bought in bulk are \$4,000 and felt it was reasonable to increase the stipend to not exceed \$5,000.

Mr. Eatman, in response to a question from Ms. Bailey, explained non-federal dollars will be used for this process and CIP funds or marketing funds would be used.

Mr. Ralph's motion died for the lack of a second.

Ms. Bailey moved approval of the recommendation of the Finance Committee with a cap of \$5,000 for the stipend. Her motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers with all members voting in the affirmative with the exception of Mr. Ralph who voted in opposition. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – NO REPORT

The Marketing Committee met on June 2, 2016 and had no report to make at this meeting.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Ralph reported the Route Committee met on June 7, 2016 and made the following recommendations:

Route 10 Longview Stop Consolidation:

Members received in their agenda packets route maps outlining changes to Route 10 Longview stops. Brandon reviewed the changes on the 3 segment maps in detail.

Mr. Ralph moved approval of the changes as recommended by the Route Committee. His motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Route 5 Biltmore Hills Stop Consolidation:

Members received in their agenda packets route maps outlining changes to Route 5 Biltmore Hills stops. Brandon reviewed these changes on the 4 segment maps in detail.

Mr. Pecoraro moved approval of the changes as recommended by the Route Committee. His motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Route 11 Proposed Changes:

Mr. Eatman reviewed the proposed changes to Route 11 that are proposed to improve the on time performance of this route. He explained going back to the old routing will save 4-5 minutes on the route time. Mr. Walker reviewed the changes in detail. Mr. Ralph explained this was for information as the changes are within the allowed threshold for administrative changes.

STAFF REPORT – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income (April 2016)
2. Variance Analysis (April 2016)
3. Go PASS Ridership Summary (April 2016)
4. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (April 2016)
5. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (April 2016)
6. Operating Statistics (April 2016)
7. Route Statistics (April 2016)
8. Ridership Percentage by Time Period (April 2016)
9. Evaluation by Route (April 2016)
10. Advertising Update (May 2016)
11. On time Performance Report (May 2016)
12. Monthly Talking Points (May 2016)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ms. Bailey thanked Mr. Stevenson for putting the shelter competition together noting she was thrilled to be a part of it. Mr. Stevenson stated everyone he has talked to had the same reaction and there is a lot of excitement.

Mr. Pecoraro referred to the Ridership Comparative by Route Report that shows change in ridership year to year noting it doesn't show the whole story. Mr. Eatman explained Trawick Drive doesn't serve WakeMed and a lot of the ridership loss is due to convenience. He referred to Routes 8 and 8L loss that is due to required transfer but now riders have service from Six Forks. He further noted the lower fuel costs is also a reality in changes in ridership.

Mr. Ralph thanked Mr. Stevenson for his work on the shelter competition and felt it is worthwhile and looked forward to it.

Mr. Ralph indicated he would like to echo comments regarding the ½ cent sales tax referendum made by Mr. Seitz.

Chairman Horne stated there would be no July meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the authority, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt