

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AUGUST 11, 2016
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on August 11, 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 Magsanoc
Sherita McCullers
Tony Pecoraro
Craig Ralph
Debra Rezeli
Michael Stevenson
Jane Thurman
Tolulope Omokaiye
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

Chairman Horne reported the Route Committee report will be moved up on the agenda since Mr. Magsanoc needed to leave early.

Without objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

ACTION ITEMS

MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2016 – APPROVED

Members had received the June 9, 2016 minutes prior to the meeting. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the minutes. His motion was seconded by Mr. McCullers, unanimously passed.

Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

ART ON THE MOVE – APPROVED

Kim Curry-Evans, Public Art Coordinator, reviewed the program partnering with the GoRaleigh to provide public art. It is time to begin moving forward with the next Art On The Move project noting this is a very popular public art project. She reviewed the process for selection of art for 12 busses noting generally 40-70 requests come in. One of the busses will involve working with students to create artwork. Pictures of previous selected artworks were presented. Ms. Curry-Evans indicated staff requests approval to send out the call for artists. Cost of the wraps for all 12 busses totals \$16,000 and the cost is picked up by Raleigh Arts.

Mr. Pecoraro asked if doing more busses would decrease the cost with Mr. Eatman explaining doing more would take more units from advertising rotation. The wraps remain on the busses for approximately 6 months, some longer. Mr. Pecoraro requested that the Finance Committee discuss the number of units to be used for Art On The Move. Ms. Curry-Evans indicated the Arts Office would love to have art on more busses.

Ms. Thurman moved approval of going forward with the Call for Artists for the next Art On The Move project. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph.

Mr. Ralph stated the art at the Poole Road Maintenance Facility are an asset and hoped to continue to get them. Mr. Eatman indicated this project has been well received throughout the City.

In response to Mr. Warden's question relating to how this is made public, Ms. Curry-Evans stated it is marketed aggressively and receives a big profile on social media and some of the comments received from the public could be provided to members. Mr. Eatman noted the busses with the artworks are unveiled at Artsposure with all busses parked Downtown which also receives media coverage.

Ms. Curry-Evans responded to a question from Ms. Omokaiye noting the project is an educational opportunity to show students how art can become large scale and become part of the environment. She indicated it really is something that is more about how we celebrate our artists since they are all from the Raleigh/Wake County area.

A vote on the motion was taken and unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) FEASIBILITY STUDY – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Tony Kellen, Wendel Consulting, was present to review the CNG Study using a Powerpoint Presentation (copy to be made available to members). Mr. Eatman reported this item has received discussion in the Finance Committee including the pros and cons. Mr. Eatman noted he had suggested bringing the report to the full authority so everyone can be brought up to the same level of information on this item. This information can be discussed and discussing exchanged with the full authority. Mr. Eatman indicated the report would be received by the authority as information and sent back to the Finance Committee for refinement and would come back to the authority at a later date. He indicated he would send copies of the presentation to members the following day. Ms. Bailey asked why not discuss electric busses as well. Mr. Eatman stated he did not think there is an answer to “why not” electric except electric is not felt it is not as mature as CNG. Orange County, California has used CNG for many years. Electric technology is evolving on a monthly basis but electric are not rapid charge where it could be used for RLine Downtown. As an example, school busses could use electric easier since they run a few hours in the morning and then again in the evening after charging. Battery technology is approaching electric but we are not there yet. Mr. Eatman noted CNG comes with benefits and drawbacks but is comparable to using diesel.

Mr. Kellen reviewed the presentation in detail. He noted he spent the last 7 years becoming an alternate fuel junkie. He reviewed the environmental benefits of naturally low carbon fuels. Diesel is becoming more difficult and more expensive to run. CNG is a basic gas spark engine like a car and is very clean energy. He stated carbon is the major pollutant of air quality. Mr. Kellen stated conversion of the bus fleet does provide environmental benefit and cost savings. Costs for Maintenance Facility retrofits and upgrades, a new CNG station, 20 year projected fuel savings and increased cost of purchasing CNG busses were reviewed. He indicated there is plenty of space at the current facility to accomplish the change to CNG Further discussion took place regarding comparisons of fuel and CNG station operating costs, measurements of CNG and comparison of cost of CNG and liquid gas. In response to a question from Mr. Ralph, Mr. Kellen stated reviewed typical miles per gallon costs as well as idling efficiency.

Mr. Pecoraro stated it is unlikely the entire fleet will be using one technology in 2037 noting the study looked at converting the entire fleet which is not going to happen. Discussion followed regarding benefits of using electric with Mr. Kellen noting he does see people going toward electric busses but doing that in a small way and there are hidden costs involved in electric busses, i.e., infrastructure cost, environmental impact, etc.

Mr. Eatman stated there are variables in the report that can be extrapolated if there is a certain direction the authority wants to go. The Finance Committee will work on this and determine

what additional information is needed. Mr. Eatman stated he did not think there will be a single solution for GoRaleigh noting public transportation and technology will change and this is one piece of a growing thing. He felt because we have reached the point where current technology is at a place where we are going into our replacement cycle and we have potential for growth over the next 10-15 years this is the time to study possibilities. He felt the replacements will be diverse but what will dictate what is done in the FY18-19 timeframe where we have 20-30 units aging out per year over a 3 year period requires decisions and investment into what is needed to support the decisions made.

Ms. Rezeli asked what initiated this study. Mr. Eatman responded the upcoming fleet replacements and future bus purchases and possible fleet expansion created the need for the study. The existing fleet is 100 busses and we are looking at the possible expansion that would bring in another 50-70 units. This results in the purchase of a large number of vehicles over the next decade. The needed infrastructure would depend on the technology chosen. Mr. Kellen also noted there is concern regarding meeting emission control caps and CNG will assist with that.

Mr. Stevenson indicated the Finance Committee had discussed the possibility of capturing the gas from the landfill and asked if Mr. Kellen had information or experience with that. Mr. Kellen responded less than 15 landfills are capturing methane in the country. Landfill methane is dirty and expensive to clean and get to fuel grade for engine operation.

Ms. Omokaiye asked if staff is studying the feasibility of a mixed fleet with Mr. Eatman indicating that can be done down to the calculated capital cost and that can be provided to the Finance Committee.

This item was received as information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

Chairman Horne opened the floor for public comments. No one asked to be heard.

TRANSIT AMENITIES – ORDINANCE TEXT CHANGE – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Eric Lamb, Transportation Planning Manager, explained the City Council has authorized a text change to the UDO to develop requirements for new private development to install a variety of transit related amenities. The proposal grew out of the increasing number of transit-related requests generated by the Planning Commission on a variety of rezoning and development cases. The text change is intended to develop a predictable and uniform framework of requirements for

new private development to accommodate a variety of transit amenities including easements, pads, benches and shelters for developments based on a variety of thresholds. Mr. Lamb explained a larger development generating greater transit demand would have more substantial requirements. The requirements would also align specifically to corridors and existing or planned transit services. Staff has worked with the Planning Commission to develop a working draft of this text change that should align with the standing policies of the Transit Authority relative to ridership thresholds for facility installations. Staff projected the anticipated transit demand generated by new development using trip generation rates published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers. He reviewed further how the requirements were determined in the proposed text change. The text change would not include subdivisions for single family homes. Exemptions are also proposed for development located within the DX zoning district where easement installations outside the public right-of-way would be disruptive and inconsistent with the City's streetscape goals for this area. Flexibility is also proposed when an existing stop meeting the City's standards is located within a quarter mile of the project. Mr. Lamb reported the draft is being reviewed by the Zoning staff and the City Attorney's office. An updated version will be provided to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council. The Council can then authorize a public hearing. Mr. Lamb requested feedback from the Transit Authority on the proposal. Mr. Lamb reviewed threshold examples included in the proposal.

Mr. Ralph suggested referring the proposal to the Policy Committee. Mr. Lamb suggested a joint meeting between the Policy Committee and the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee.

Without objection, it was agreed to hold a joint meeting with the Finance and Policy Committee and the Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission. Mr. Eatman noted he would provide Mr. Lamb's presentation to members for review.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Magsanoc reported the Route Committee met on August 2, 2016 with the following recommendations made:

Crabtree Valley Mall Holiday Shuttle:

It was reported this item involved the possibility of getting a holiday shuttle going from the parking lot to Belks. The City would provide the busses on Saturday and Sunday only for 4-5 weeks before Christmas. Mr. Eatman reviewed the request made due to challenging parking conditions at the mall during the weeks prior to Christmas. There would be park & ride locations on either the existing mall property or close to the existing route. GoRaleigh would assist and

provide normal boarding fare to Crabtree and riders could purchase day trip or one way fare. There is a need to know how the board feels about this in time to make necessary arrangements. He indicated it is an opportunity to do something different only for 2 weekends (4 days) and he would get clarification on the exact number of weekends. The cost of purchasing the park& ride lots would fall on the mall. Staff is seeking approval to review the feasibility of this and more detailed information and formal approval will come to the authority later.

Mr. Ralph and Chairman Horne stated this is a good opportunity for people who generally don't ride the bus to become familiar with the busses. Without objection, it was agreed for staff to go forward with working this out.

Mr. Ralph reported the Route Committee will meet again on September 3.

WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN GOVERNANCE – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Mr. Eatman reported staff has been working on a number of initiatives, one of which is the Wake County Transit Plan and the multitude of activity going on to prepare for what could occur in the future. He reviewed the stakeholders involved with the plan as well as what has occurred to date. Wake County Commissioners were charged with developing a plan and having it adopted by Wake County, GoTriangle and CAMPO. The plan has been adopted by all three bodies and now the plan is scheduled to move forward in the form of ½ cent sales tax referendum in November, 2016. Mr. Eatman reviewed the Interlocal Agreement structure as it relates to the plan including goals and responsibilities of the 3 entities. What governance should accomplish, TPAC technical oversight and decision making and TPAC roles and responsibilities were reviewed in detail. TPAC will be the body that coordinates planning and implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan and will serve in a structured advisory role to the CAMPO Executive Board and GoTriangle Board of Trustees. There is a Call for Service for a consultant team that will be on call to assist with a number of activities, i.e. planning, major investment planning, programing, determining what happens in what order, etc. Membership of TPAC is a staff level board but has quite a bit of influence. Mr. Eatman reviewed the TPAC membership, voting structure, weighted voting, dispute resolution etc. Local implementation procedures, items to be determined as well as next steps were reviewed at length. Mr. Eatman explained a lot of activities took place in July in development of TPAC and how we continue to move forward. Monthly updates on development of TPAC and other developments within its structure will be made to the authority. Mr. Pecoraro indicated he was surprised there was no representative on the TPAC from RDU with Mr. Eatman noting RTP is represented within that structure. In response to a question from Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Eatman indicated CAMPO is the primary recipient of all federal funds. Mr. Stevenson asked if Bus Rapid Transit be part of GoRaleigh or GoTriangle with Mr. Eatman responding that is yet to be determined and the capacity of each

agency has to be looked at to be sure the capacity to do certain projects and do them well can be met.

Mr. Eatman explained this is the beginning of discussions and there will be more answers over the next several months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Pecoraro reported the Finance and Policy Committee met on August 3, 2016 and made the following recommendations:

State Fair Shuttle – Fare Increase:

Mr. Pecoraro reported the Committee recommended increasing the state fair shuttle prices from \$4.00 to \$5.00, \$2.00 one-way to \$2.50 and seniors from \$3.00 to \$4.00. Last year there was a \$9,500 loss and the change would result in a \$23,836 profit. Mr. Ralph moved approval of the fare increases for the state fair shuttles. Discussion followed with Mr. Warden questioning why in this increase important since advertising revenues are doing so well. Mr. Ralph indicated taxpayers are paying for people to come from outside the City of Raleigh to ride the bus and we are subsidizing that and it's not fair to lose money. Mr. Ralph stated the recommendation is to ask for \$1 more after 10 years and it is not unfair to ask for the City to make a profit. Ms. Thurman questioned the ridership numbers from last year with Mr. Eatman responding last year was the 2nd or 3rd best year due to the weather. We do not budget an annual appropriation for the state fair and have tried to operate as a break even service and also trying not to lose money either. Mr. Eatman indicated staff cannot say the fare increase will not assist in balancing the budget neutral goal. Ms. Rezeli indicated there is no way of knowing where the riders are coming from and that would require an onboard survey. Mr. Ralph noted we got an excellent deal last year on the park and ride lot but that will not be available this year. The park and ride lot cost has been a small percentage of cost. Mr. Eatman noted 70% of costs involved in this service is for labor.

Mr. Pecoraro seconded the motion to increase the fares as outlined. Ms. Thurman stated this should be promoted more in marketing and felt a survey of where the riders come from would be good to do. She further stated transit is for everyone.

A vote on the motion was taken with all members voting in the affirmative with the exception of Ms. Thurman and Ms. Omokaiye. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Ms. Rezeli reported the Marketing Committee met on August 4, 2016 and made the following report:

Ms. Rezeli indicated Sparkcon – Comedy on the RLine will be on September 17. Poetry on the Bus will be in April, 2017 and the authority will see the poetry before it goes on the busses and there will be no expense for GoRaleigh. Groove in the Garden will be this Saturday and GoRaleigh is sponsoring that and it is being marketed on social media. The Bluegrass Festival will be September 30 – October 1 and GoRaleigh will have a staffed booth at that event.

The Committee will meet next on September 8 at noon.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

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

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Ralph thanked the authority for the vote on raising the fare for the NC State Fair noting it is time for this to occur.

Ms. Thurman questioned the status of the bus shelter competition. Mr. Eatman stated the competition is on and they have requested more time for the people to apply. He noted staff should have an update by the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt