

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
JUNE 21, 2017
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 3:30 p.m in the Council Chamber, Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, with the following present:

Jason Horne, presiding
Sherita McCullers
Tony Pecoraro
Debra Rezeli
Karen Rindge
Michael Stevenson

Staff present: David Eatman, Marie Parker

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horne.

Mr. Eatman indicated Ron Wilson, a GoRaleigh driver, will be retiring after 40 years of service. He presented members with a press release put out earlier in the day noting Mr. Wilson's last run will be tomorrow. There will be a reception at the Poole Road Maintenance Facility on Friday between 11:00 a.m. and noon. He asked that members email Ms. Victor if they would like to attend.

The following items were discussed with actions taken as shown:

AGENDA – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Chairman Horne reported there would be no changes to the agenda as presented.

Without objection, the agenda was approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – RECEIVED

Chairman Horne reported he and Ms. Rezeli went to Minneapolis where they saw public transit. He indicated CRT light rail was an amazing bus service.

ACTION ITEMS

SERVICE EQUITY ANALYSIS – HEARING – ADOPTED

Ann Steedly, Planning Communities, made a presentation prior to the public hearing which was held at 4:00 p.m. The service changes proposed were reviewed as follows:

- Increase in Sunday service levels. Sunday service would be increased to the current Saturday service levels. (Departures would end in the 10PM hour on Sunday instead of 11PM)
- Route 7 South Saunders will receive an additional 10 trips per day Monday through Friday. This will bring the route to full 15 minute frequencies from 7AM to 7PM

Ms. Steedly indicated the Equity Analysis is required per FTA guidelines. The Service Equity policy was adopted by GoRaleigh in 2014. Service equity policies and methods and overall effect on Title VI populations were reviewed. Outreach to the public were outlined. Service equity impact findings were reviewed in detail. Ms. Rindge applauded staff for moving ahead and responding to the public regarding Sunday service and was glad this is moving forward so quickly. This demonstrates we are expanding service that will help more people. She was pleased to see this will not have negative impact and in fact will have positive impact.

Ms. Rindge moved approval of the Service Equity Analysis. Her motion was seconded by Ms. Rezeli, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

GOTRIANGLE PARATRANSIT SERVICES – CONTRACT EXTENSION – APPROVED

Mr. Eatman explained the City is requesting to continue contracting with GoTriangle for the provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit transportation on an as-needed basis to eligible passengers who wish to travel outside of Raleigh's regular paratransit service area, defined as three-fourths of a mile buffer around fixed route transit stops). The agreement eliminates paratransit transfers between GoTriangle and the City, providing reduced travel time and improved convenience for consumers. The amendment is for two years and will end June 30, 2019. Funding is included in the adopted operating budget. Mr. Eatman indicated paratransit is growing in our community. Mr. Stevenson asked if this recommendation is based on evaluating 3 proposals. Mr. Eatman responded the 3 proposals had some high quality proposals and was not an easy decision but was felt MV really treated this new RFP opportunity as a fresh start and identified many opportunities for improvement. Staff felt they were creative and staff is excited to work with them to implement these activities. Funds have been

appropriated in FY18 and approved by the City Council. In response to a question by Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Eatman indicated the intent of the contract is to secure a 5 year commitment.

Mr. Stevenson moved endorsement of the contract and that the item be moved forward to City Council for approval. His motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

SERVICE CHANGES – PUBLIC HEARING HELD

Mr. Walker reviewed the service changes proposed to change August 6, 2017. Mr. Stevenson requested a graphic showing changes. Mr. Walker indicated he could provide one at the next meeting.

Chairman Horne opened the hearing.

Les Seitz, former chair of the Raleigh Transit Authority, 3200 Ridge Mill Run, indicated he was excited to learn about these changes and paratransit customers will be thrilled at the expanded service. He indicated the authority continues to provide a critical, necessary role in Raleigh and Wake County. He indicated this a very good authority and thanked members for all their work.

Julian Frasier, 1420 Wilmington Street, indicated he represented people in the neighborhood and applauded the efforts to increase Sunday service. This makes it easier to get to the hospital, church, shopping and getting out to enjoy Raleigh.

Michael George, 1420 S. Wilmington Street, thanked the authority for the Sunday expanded service especially to S. Wilmington Street. He was aware it is not cheap to hire and train new drivers.

Jeff Lighter, stated he rides the Route 7 bus and the idea of increasing frequency to 7 days is a wonderful idea. He noticed one stop has been eliminated on Route 7 on S. McDowell Street as you enter Downtown between South and Lenoir Streets and hoped this is reinstated at some point. People who want to get to southern point of the Downtown Business District could lose that opportunity. It was agreed to send this to the Route Committee for consideration.

Jeff Mayo, 5547 Hampstead Crossing, was aware of Sunday changes to Route 6 Crabtree Valley and asked if there are any Saturday changes. Mr. Eatman indicated there is no change for Saturday. Mr. Mayo stated it would be nice if some of the buses would run more frequently on Saturday noting Route 6 and Route 4 only come one time per hour on Saturday. It stated it would be nice if they would run one time every half hour on Saturday. He asked that the

authority keep coming up with these more frequent services and was sure every passenger will appreciate it.

Chairman Horne closed the hearing.

Mr. Pecoraro stated there may be a possibility to switch to smaller buses noting if the buses come every 15 minutes it would be possible to switch to right size buses. Mr. Eatman indicated there is an art to not have all right size buses. There is a way to attack that but there are many considerations. He indicated this is a good topic for the Finance Committee to discuss. Mr. Pecoraro asked that this item be included on the next Finance Committee agenda.

Mr. Stevenson indicated increased frequency will get to the point where you just go to the stop and there will be a bus there and that should be something we look toward.

Ms. Rindge indicated the Wake County Transit goal is to quadruple 15 minute service.

Ms. McCullers moved approval of the changes as outlined. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Stevenson, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Pecoraro reported the Committee met on May 3, 2017 and made the following recommendations:

Paratransit Plan Adoption:

Mr. Eatman indicated this plan is on the web and the web link was included on the agenda. He noted some wording changes were suggested and the meeting and those changes will be included on the web. Most changes involve making the terms consistent throughout the plan. It was pointed out staff was asked to come back with details at a future meeting. Mr. Pecoraro indicated the Committee voted to approve the plan.

Mr. Pecoraro moved approval of the plan. His motion was seconded by Mr. Stevenson, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Shared Ride Transportation Services Contract:

Members received a memo in the agenda packet reviewing the history of this contract. Mr. Eatman explained the contract involves \$347 million and the Disabilities Act indicates how to provide the services. There has not been a formalized document indicating how we serve this population. He noted this is a changing document. Mr. Pecoraro noted there was a newspaper article indicated Wolfline provides their service cheaper. He asked staff why theirs is 40% cheaper than GoRaleigh's. He noted staff indicated they will come back and provide a report on that question.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Passenger Amenities Review – Information Received:

Mr. Walker reported members received in their packets a report on Passenger Amenities presented to the Route Committee. The review included an update on Martin Street Shelters, three new construction of bus stop pads, the three step process for installation of these shelters and number of bus shelters. Mr. Walker indicated great progress was made in the last 6 months. As part of the annual budget adopted and TPAC \$500,000 was allocated in implementing the FY 18 which was a great increase in the budget. There is now a healthy amount of funds to continue to develop amenities in City right-of-way. Shelters is one of the top 3 comments received from passengers. Mr. Walker reviewed new sites just completes, those planned, etc. Shelter sites are growing exponentially. A majority of shelters are needed in the Downtown zone. The next site of sites for shelters was reviewed.

In response to a question from Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Eatman indicated staff has been in contact with the shelter design contest winner and they are working on specs and technical writings and an informal quote for engineering drawings to submit to DOT. This is moving forward but will be toward the end of FY 18 and will be time consuming. Mr. Eatman reviewed the shelters currently used. Mr. Stevens indicated with renewed attention on the Wake Transit Plan and major expansion, it would be good to keep building the awareness and excitement among the public.

The report was received as information.

STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income (April 2017)
2. Variance Analysis (December 2016)

3. Go PASS Ridership Summary (April 2017)
4. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (April 2017)
5. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (April 2017)
6. Operating Statistics (April 2017)
7. Route Statistics (December 2016)
8. Ridership Percentage by Time Period (April 2017)
9. Evaluation by Route (April 2017)
10. Advertising Update (April 2017)
11. On time Performance Report (April 2017)
12. Monthly Talking Points (June 2017)

CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED

Mr. Pecoraro stated as we move to 15 minute headways, a few more buses will be needed. He questioned if that is included in the FY 18 Capital Plan. Mr. Eatman indicated the plan for FY18 does not require additional equipment.

Mr. Pecoraro indicated in Baltimore there are free bus rides during a set period of time. He asked staff to think about that. Mr. Eatman indicated it sounds like something to be considered by the Marketing Committee.

Ms. Rindge stated she was happy to be part of the authority and looked forward to implementing the Wake Transit Plan in Raleigh.

Ms. McCullers stated she was excited about the August 6 changes.

Ms. Rindge asked if there are plans to publicize these expansions with Mr. Eatman indicated they would be publicized.

Ms. Rindge indicated CAMPO was to approve the FY 18 budget at their meeting today.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Brenda Hunt