

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Wednesday, September 14, 2017 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
Tolulupe Omokaiye
Tony Pecoraro
Debra Rezeli
Karen Rindge

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 PRESENTED

Chairman Horne reported there would be no changes to the agenda. Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

MINUTES – MAY AUGUST 10, 2017 – APPROVED

Members had received copies of the August 10, 2017 minutes in their packets. Ms. Rindge moved approval of the minutes. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Pecoraro, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

INFORMATION ITEMS

WAKE TRANSIT PLAN UPDATE – RECEIVED

Mr. Eatman outlined the budget development process noting to develop the budget, decisions have to be made in context that it can be presented in municipal budgets for all cities and towns receiving funds through the Wake Transit Plan. The City of Raleigh's budget is due in December which makes sure the City Council has the opportunity to review the entire budget plus allow for public participation requirements and the full process involved. That process is going to start at this meeting. This fiscal year we had the Wake Transit Plan but did not define priorities and who was doing what and when. We as a group through TPAC determined what services we could provide in FY 18 with existing buses and staff. We have implemented new Sunday service and new changes on Route 7 and a number of other services changes have been made. In FY 19 we will be able to go through a real budget cycle. We have the Wake Transit Plan but do not have the priorities for all those services and which entity will do each project. Work is progressing on this to be sure by the end of this fiscal year those answers will be available. In FY 20 the priorities and what we will be charged with will be known. Mr. Eatman explained as we approach FY 19 there are a couple of unknowns. In order to provide flexibility staff is providing budget numbers but stressed they should be taken with a grain of salt noting these are projects we could implement once we know available funds in FY 19. This will be done for operating and capital items and 2 elements staff will be coming back with next month. Mr. Eatman noted David Walker will review a series of projects and at a minimum we want to develop a priority list and this report is the beginning of that process.

Mr. Walker reviewed proposed FY 19 route service changes under consideration including Southeast Raleigh (\$5.7 million budget); West/Northwest Raleigh (\$5.1 million budget); East (\$2 million budget) and Central (\$3.6 million budget). Net budget requested is \$11.82 million with a total requirement of 23 buses. Maps outlining the changes were available at the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the purpose of the various changes involved and benefits to be received. In response to a question, Mr. Walker noted there would be some areas that would lose some service. Communicating the changes to the public was reviewed at length with Mr. Walker outlining requirements for major changes. Mr. Eatman outlined the budget timeline noting at the October meeting the authority will make recommendations to go forward to TPAC that will take place in mid October with public participation starting around the new year. Mr. Eatman stressed the schedule doesn't mean changes cannot be made while the general public is reviewing the changes noting any authority suggested changes can be submitted back to TPAC through that process.

Mr. Eatman explained staff is not sure how the projects will be submitted but would like to submit everything seen today and have it prioritized so we understand where we are with

priorities. There are not enough funds available to implement everything but wants to be sure really important projects are identified as well as those that will have an immediate impact on the community as well as ridership. He reported Sunday ridership is now 79% - 80% of Saturday ridership already since the recent addition of Sunday service which is a very good gain on that investment. Staff is taking all this knowledge and service requests we have had over the last several years into consideration. If the authority feels staff should look somewhere else, that is a possibility as well. These are not the only options but are staff's recommendations on feasible options and at a minimum wants to prioritize these recommendations. In response to a question from Mr. Magsanoc, Mr. Eatman explained the list provided is staff's best effort in defining those elements that will provide the best return on the investment in FY 19. Those routes already exist within the Wake Transit Plan. Ms. Rindge indicated a lot of public input has been received for those routes. Mr. Eatman spoke to the need to make good decisions as far in advance as possible and is no different from the 5 Year Transit Plan we have already done. Lengthy discussion took place regarding procedures that would take place in the future if changes are needed.

Ms. Rezeli noted the Route Committee discussed these changes at length at their last meeting. She pointed out ridership numbers were included in the backup to the agenda which were also reviewed in the Route Committee.

Following the presentation relating to route changes, Mr. Walker stated the proposed changes made by staff are based on staff's knowledge of areas where requests for service have been received.

Mr. Walker then reviewed the draft FY 19 Capital Budget recommendations as provided in agenda Attachment B.

The report was received as information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Pecoraro reported the Finance and Policy Committee met on September 6, 2017 and made the following recommendations:

Fare and Fee Policy:

Members received in their agenda packets a copy of the July 21, 2017 draft of Policy 3.22 – Fare and Fee Policy. Mr. Pecoraro noted the student ID was a change that was discussed. Mr.

Eatman explained the ID assists when a student is over the height of the fare box and at an age where drivers may not know the age. The cost for the ID is \$1.50. Ms. Rindge asked if school IDs can be used with Mr. Horne indicating this is another option if the student does not have a school ID. Following review of the proposed fees, Mr. Pecoraro moved approval of the proposed fees as outlined. His motion was seconded by Ms. Bailey, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Fare Free Day:

Mr. Pecoraro reported this item related to holding a fare free day during Try Transit Month which has been a regular event in years past in order to thank riders for choosing to ride GoRaleigh. Current average daily farebox revenue is \$5,355.00. Mr. Pecoraro indicated staff will come back with a way to measure the number of people taking transit on that day and how much ridership increases. Ms. Parker reported in 2011-2013 average weekday ridership was 22,000 and jumped to 25,600 on fare free day. This is an average increase of 15% over those three years. Mr. Pecoraro reported the committee approved this fare free day. Ms. Rezeli indicated the Marketing Committee discussed marketing about plans in place to let the public know about this day. Ms. Rezeli noted it is not just GoRaleigh but also GoTriangle, Durham and Cary that are providing a fare free day. Fare free day will be on September 21.

Mr. Pecoraro moved approval of the fare free day. His motion was seconded by Mr. Magsanoc, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income (July 2017))
2. Variance Analysis (July 2017)
3. Go PASS Ridership Summary (July 2017)
4. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (July 2017)
5. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (July 2017)
6. Operating Statistics (July 2017)
7. Route Statistics (July 2017)
8. Ridership Percentage by Time Period (July 2017)
9. Evaluation by Route (July 2017)
10. Advertising Update (July 2017)
11. On time Performance Report (July 2017)
12. Monthly Talking Points (September 2017)

CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED

Chairman Horne announced the passing of Les Seitz, previous member and chair of the authority. He indicated many current members and staff worked with him and was saddened to learn of his passing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hunt