

RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
APRIL 12, 2018
MINUTES

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, with the following present:

Jason Horne, presiding
Christopher Jones
Sheritta McCullers
Ray Magsanoc
Tony Pecoraro
Karen Rindge
Nathan Spencer
Michael Stevenson
Linda Wire

Staff present: David Eatman, Marie Parker, David Walker

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horne.

The following items were discussed with actions taken as shown:

AGENDA – APPROVED

No changes to the agenda were requested. Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

Mr. Walker announced Carmalee Scarpitti will be retiring on May 1 after 30 years of service to the City of Raleigh. There will be a party in her honor on April 20 at the Poole Road Maintenance Facility.

Chairman Horne indicated she has been a great asset to the department and will be missed.

MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2018 – APPROVED

Members received the minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting prior to the meeting. Mr. Stevenson moved approval of the minutes. His motion was seconded by Mr. Spencer, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

INFORMATION ITEMS

WAKE TRANSIT UPDATE – RECEIVED

Mr. Walker provided an update on activities that have taken place regarding the Wake Transit Bus Plan (BRT) using a slide presentation. Maps were reviewed with Mr. Walker stressing they are in draft form at this point. The goals of the plan were outlined including frequent reliable urban mobility. A detailed map of the bus network now and then was presented with Mr. Walker noting TPAC had met and reviewed the maps. A map was shown indicating where we are today connecting Wake County communities which does not currently include Rolesville and Holly Springs with a priority to be sure we reach out to all communities early in the program. Additional maps reviewed included where we are today and where we will be in 2027, additional Park and Ride locations, Community Transit Centers, additional service route extending to Wake Forest, where the BRT line starts showing up with additional services, routes that will be added to provide frequent reliable urban mobility, etc. Phase 2 of the plan increases operations and will have the frequency network worked out in years 2022-2024 with complete build out in 2025-2027. Public engagement was discussed with Mr. Walker noting this will start on April 19 with a 90-minute session in the morning and afternoon at the CAMPO office. TPAC is setting these sessions up and there will be more information provided to the authority members once the times are established. Mr. Spencer suggested that meeting invitations be sent out to authority members noting all members should attend. Mr. Eatman pointed out staff is encouraging TPAC to have a registration process. The invitations will probably go out tomorrow (April 13).

Mr. Stevens asked what were the factors leading to BRT being so far out. Mr. Eatman explained when you see BRT showing up in Tier 3, a lot of that is to be determined. The bus component is based on cash flow, bonding authority and being sure everything moves forward for the financial model. When you see BRT showing up in the 3 years of that scenario, that may or may not occur and was not sure if there may be some things that can be accelerated and there are a lot of variables involved. It is shown this way being conservative and he would be comfortable saying this is early in the process and exact implementation has not been nailed down yet.

Next steps were reviewed including public engagement beginning April 28, the first formal meeting in Garner on April 30 and pop up meetings and other meetings to be set soon. The second round of public engagement will be in July to review changes and updates. The 10year bus plan will end this summer and the short-range plans begin over the summer. Ms. Rindge asked if there will be public input in May on the 10year plan and short-range plans. She stated she understands in May we would be looking at options for BRT routes and questioned what about particular roads and streets. Mr. Walker stated all routes are for the entire network within Wake County and GoRaleigh will not be operating all of them. The consultant is looking at who it makes the most

sense logistically to run particular routes. Mr. Eatman indicated the Tax District would be providing funding for routes. The 2019 work plans were based on fully allocated cost recovery. In response to questioning from Mr. Pecoraro, Mr. Eatman stated there will be new buses to serve FY 19 obligations in January, 2019 and will not start those services until mid-year. He spoke to the 17 new buses that will be coming, vehicle replacement, etc.

This item was received as information.

DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION PLAN – UPDATE RECEIVED

Mr. Eatman introduced Mila Vega, staff lead for the BRT corridor. Ms. Vega indicated it is projected the Downtown Transportation Plan will be completed in 12-15 months and will be complete by winter of 2019. The project is at the kick off stage now involving data gathering and analysis. This is a very complex study and a lot of work may come from the recommendations. After the information is gathered public engagement will begin. The public engagement strategy and what will make up stakeholders were reviewed. She indicated everyone using Downtown will be part of this process and everyone who will be impacted or interested will be included. Chairman Horne stressed the need to reach out to people who are not coming Downtown yet and understand why they are not coming Downtown. Mr. Eatman explained the board will be part of the process and will receive updates regularly noting the board's input will be important. He indicated there will be a 3 tiered public engagement approach which he reviewed briefly. Mr. Eatman stressed this study is important and will determine how BRT corridors and all other services for transit are integrated into a defined Downtown area. There are going to be challenges and decisions to be made and tradeoffs that will have to be thought about. He spoke to the need for this to be flexible. Mr. Eatman stated we are working with the Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau that will be on the advisory committee and Downtown Raleigh Alliance noting both deal with visitors. Ms. Vega pointed out they do have visitor stakeholder groups. Mr. Pecoraro stated he hopes the input from visitors is received directly and not all on internet surveys. Mr. Stevens asked if the north end of Downtown would be included in the public engagement, i.e., State Government, Peace College, Shaw University, etc. Ms. Vega indicated Shaw is included at this point. Mr. Stevens also asked if developers of the area would be included. Mr. Eatman explained we don't want to reinvent everything done but will provide information to those mentioned. Mr. Eatman asked that members advise staff if they feel there is a void noting people could be added to the group. Mr. Eatman indicated he feels good about the methodology so far. Mr. Spencer referred to a session at the Urban Design Conference noting there might be value in a report from Charlotte. Mr. Stevenson stated he attended the same session and one take away was their experience in Charlotte for doing temporary streetscape and public space intervention and it is an interesting tool to be considered. Chairman Horne asked what type of transit related issues will be considered as part of this plan. Mr. Eatman responded route level, stop level and urban grid. It will get down to street level and make stop level recommendations for BRT and regular fixed route services. The

challenge is that we have building face to building face to the right-of-way Downtown. That is a small amount of space to fit all mobility modes that will be competing in that right-of-way and have to remember every corridor may not be able to have every mode. Which performs at what level best has to be considered.

The report was received as information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

No one was present to make public comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARKETING COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Spencer reported the Marketing Committee met on April 10, 2018 and made the following recommendations:

Bike Placard Pending Marketing Meeting Approval

Mr. Spencer reported members received in their packets an example of the placards going into buses for Bike Month in May. It was noted the signs are recycled. Mr. Spencer moved approval of placing the placards in the buses for Bike Month. His motion was seconded by Ms. Rindge, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Authority Name

Mr. Spencer reported the committee also had a discussion about the name of the board due to confusion because GoRaleigh has a brand and the Regional Transit Authority is also referred to as RTA. He indicated the committee was informed the attorneys are not concerned with what the board is called; however, a name change will have to be approved by the City Council. This item will be discussed again at the next Marketing Committee meeting.

Together Raleigh

Mr. Spencer reported there was lengthy discussion at the meeting regarding Together Raleigh noting 11 shelters are being discussed and 10 artists will be assigned to a shelter and 1 shelter would be up for community input probably from the Salvation Army that will be kid focused. Submissions from artists are still coming in. This is being handled by the Raleigh Arts Commission and not GoRaleigh noting the RTA doesn't have a lot of input into the process as of now. Mr. Stevens indicated so far they have not received enough submissions. Mr. Eatman indicated the time has been extended to receive submissions from artists.

Shelter Competition Winner

Mr. Spencer referred to the competition winning shelter noting the engineering company is moving the plans to DOT for approval which can take 2 weeks to 2 months. Mr. Eatman stated as long as the plans meet structural load demand it should be approved by DOT. Mr. Walker indicated he met with the engineering firm and they anticipate getting drawings and engineering stats to DOT no later than May 8 and are reaching out to DOT to determine a time line for their turn around. Mr. Stevenson stated the Route Committee discussed if there is a way to impress upon the engineering firm and DOT that we would like to see these implemented with New Bern Avenue improvements which would be a great time to roll this out. Mr. Eatman indicated staff is working toward this goal and did not think Engineering or DOT will hold this up. When this goes out for fabrication, staff will get an idea of when we can get this in stock. The cost is not known yet.

GoForwardnc.org

Mr. Spencer announced there will be a new transit website going live on Monday which is a one stop shop so people can see changes, etc. Ms. Rindge indicated it is a good idea to have a one stop place for all things transit in the region. She noted if you go to the current website, you are directed to this new site.

ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Magsanoc reported the Route Committee met on April 3, 2018 and the following recommendations were made:

Service Guidelines/Performance Measures

Mr. Magsanoc reported the committee reviewed the Service Guidelines noting they are not set in stone. The committee wants to get this endorsed by the authority. This is not something that will direct what we are doing here right now but it is overlying general guidelines for the region. Mr. Eatman stated staff will be bringing back an analysis of existing policies against this new policy that will be a tool for TPAC so that body can look at standard unification with all systems. There are no requirements to say this is exactly what we are going to adopt but felt it is a good piece of work.

Mr. Spencer moved endorsement as something that can be used. His motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Route 13 Service to Raleigh Union Station

Mr. Magsanoc reviewed the proposed route change for service to Raleigh Union Station which will be at a 30 minute headway. Mr. Spencer indicated this is a temporary plan and he is

comfortable with it and this makes sure we have something to start with. Ms. Wire moved approval of the route change as presented. Her motion was seconded by Ms. McCullers, unanimously passed. Chairman Horne ruled the motion adopted.

Route Names & Numbers

Mr. Magsanoc reported the committee reviewed this item and will look at it again at the next meeting.

Louisburg Road Stop:

Mr. Magsanoc indicated there is a stop serving this neighborhood and the old stop had only one rider. The old stop will not be serviced once BRT begins. The one individual was not present at the committee meeting. The committee recommended no action taken on this item. Mr. Eatman indicated staff had done a project to the north where the sidewalk and infrastructure were installed. He indicated this stop may or may not have a long term future. No action was taken on this item. Mr. Eatman noted staff will follow up with the individual requesting the change. Ms. Wire asked if it is possible to look at street maintenance in that area and provide something temporary to make it easier for this individual to walk.

STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income (February 2018))
2. Variance Analysis (February 2018)
3. Go PASS Ridership Summary (February 2018)
4. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (February 2018)
5. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (February 2018)
6. Operating Statistics (February 2018)
7. Route Statistics (February 2018)
8. Ridership Percentage by Time Period (February 2018)
9. Evaluation by Route (February 2018)
10. Advertising Update (February 2018)
11. On time Performance Report (February 2018)
12. Monthly Talking Points (February 2018)

CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED

Mr. Magsanoc thanked staff for the information and answers provided to the Route Committee.

Ms. Rindge urged members to go to at least one of the information sessions for the Wake Transit Plan and listen to what people are saying.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt