

CITIZENS TRANSIT ADVISORY GROUP (CTAG)
Meeting Summary
May 15, 2012
DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Present: Mary Barker, CTAG Co-Chair
Tom Cox, CTAG Co-Chair
Todd Steiss, Town of Huntersville
Henry Antshel, City of Charlotte
Katherine (Kate) Payerle, City of Charlotte
Peter Larsen, Town of Mint Hill

Staff: John Muth, Wanda Braswell, John Trunk, Larry Kopf

Meeting time 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Mary Barker, CTAG Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

II. Approval of April 17, 2012 meeting summary

The meeting summary was approved as written.

III. Democratic National Convention (DNC) Update

Larry Kopf

Mr. Kopf presented the latest information concerning changes to the operations of CATS for the Democratic National Convention (DNC).

Bus Service

- The Charlotte Transit Center (CTC) is relocating to 3rd Street and Mint Street and will provide full customer service.
- To accommodate the buses, the streets will be blocked at 3rd Street between Poplar Street and Graham and Mint Street between 4th Street and 2nd Street.
- Climate controlled tents will be used.
- The buses will park on the streets.
- Other bus amenities will be located on the lot occupied by the Virginia Paper Company building that may be demolished before the convention begins.
- Information signage concerning boarding and deboarding the buses will be posted.
- Security will be at or above the level currently at the CTC.
- The operators will be place on regular schedules to reduce confusion with extra buses on standby and ready to roll when and if delays occur.
- Gold Rush service will be limited.
- Extensive customer information campaigns are planned.

Rail Operations

- Rail operations will run from the I-485 stopping at the Stonewall Street Station instead of 7th Street.

- The train runs at 10 minutes intervals during rush hour and 12 minutes during the midday period.
- To accommodate the 10 minutes headway, both tracks at the Stonewall Station will be used simultaneously.
- The 10 minute operation will run on a single track with a passenger crossover between Bland Street and Carson.
- CATS will run a shuttle between the Carson Street Station and the relocated CTC.
- CATS staff will serve as ambassadors at the stations.

Ms. Payerle asked if other use of the CTC is being considered during the convention. Mr. Kopf said during the convention the Secret Service will occupy the CTC.

Mr. Antshel asked about the funding for all the equipment and changes needed for the relocation. Mr. Kopf said CATS is submitting to CMPD a list of all items and will request reimbursement from the Safety & Security budget. Ms. Barker asked if police will be present on the buses. Mr. Kopf said although no police will be on the buses there will be a high level of security.

Mr. Steiss asked about the arrangements made to get disabled citizens to downtown. Mr. Kopf said those type of plans are still in the planning stage because it is still unknown what streets will be open.

Mr. Antshel asked if there are any safety concerns about the trains running single tracks. Mr. Kopf said the staff tested the run and “it went pretty well”.

Mr. Steiss said that with the increase in ridership the option of purchasing passes in advance, would give CATS gauge of the number of ridership expected and could have extra buses ready. Mr. Kopf said CATS will provide extra buses where and when extra buses will be needed. CATS will be working with downtown businesses to present lunchtime transit fairs providing route information and offering the opportunity to purchase bus passes.

Ms. Payerle asked if there is a link to provide information and purchases of passes for out of town travelers. Mr. Kopf said CATS and the City of Charlotte have websites with DNC information. Ms. Payerle asked if passes could be purchased online. Mr. Kopf said yes.

The bus and rail schedule for the week of the DNC:

- Sunday service for Sunday and Monday.
- CTC relocates to 3rd and Mint Street on Labor Day (Monday, September 6) with buses on detour.
- Lynx’s begins the alternate run of I-485 to Stonewall but with only 12 minute intervals on Monday.
- Tuesday and Wednesday will have weekday service for buses with Lynx including the peak hour 10 minutes’ intervals and 12 minutes intervals during the midday.
- For Thursday, all rail and bus operations resumes on the regular schedule with minor bus detours. CTC reopens at the 310 W. Trade facility.
- On Friday, the regular schedules still apply except there are no detours.

CATS will not manage the DNC delegates' shuttles but could be asked to operate some shuttle runs. CATS staff is in the process of preparing documents for submission to FTA for the required waiver. CATS may use other modes of transit such as the STS buses.

Mr. Cox asked about the number of attendees for the DNC. Mr. Trunk said 5,000 delegates, 15,000 media and 5,000 other dignitaries and officials.

Mr. Antshel asked if CATS has had any experience handling a crowd of this size. Mr. Kopf said nothing of this magnitude but individual staff members have experience from previous employment. On previous occasions, CTC has been moved.

Ms. Barker asked about the Gold Rush. Mr. Kopf said that is still being considered.

Mr. Steiss suggested that hotels located near express bus services be provided schedules prior and during the DNC week to distribute to hotel clientele traveling to the DNC. Encouraging the customers would help reduce traffic and generate additional revenue.

IV. CEO's Report

A. Update on the Latest Light Rail Accident

Mr. Trunk reported that the accident involved two vehicles and the light rail train. One vehicle was stopped for the train and was hit from behind by another vehicle pushing the first vehicle into the passing train. The accident put two railcars out of commission. Mr. Antshel asked if the drivers would reimburse for the repairs to the railcars. Mr. Trunk said CATS was exploring the drivers' liability.

B. DNC Information

Mr. Trunk said the information provided in this meeting and the plans for the DNC are suggest changing at a moment's notice. One challenge being faced is the number of people coming into the city to do harm. CATS must be vigilant about handling incidents as they occur and have in place alternate plans that will insure the safety of all attending the convention.

C. Blue Line Extension Update

Mr. Muth said the approval for the final design was submitted and CATS should know by the end of May. CATS concluded FTA required third party agreements with CSX, Norfolk Southern, North Carolina Railroad, Duke Energy, NCDOT and AT&T on May 4, 2012. The application packet was sent to the FTA and there is a ten day review period.

D. Red Line

On June 13, there is a meeting with Ms. Flowers, Mayor Woods and Norfolk Southern representative.

E. CTAG Summer Schedule

July and August meetings are to be cancelled. CTAG will tour bus operations in June and in September.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a. m.

NEXT CTAG MEETING: JUNE 19, 7:30 A.M. AT 3145 SOUTH TRYON STREET

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