

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

April 27, 2011

Presiding: Mayor Anthony Foxx (Charlotte)

Present: Mary Barker (CTAG Co-chair)
Rick Sanderson (TSAC Chair)
Harry Jones (Mecklenburg County Manager)
Jennifer Roberts (Chairman, Mecklenburg County Commission)
John Collett (NCDOT Representative)
Sarah Nuckles (SCDOT Representative)
Mayor John Woods (Davidson)
Leamon Brice (Davidson Town Manager)
Mayor Jill Swain (Huntersville)
Greg Ferguson (Huntersville Town Manager)
Ralph Messera (Matthews)
Bill Thunberg (Mooresville Representative)
Mike Rose (Pineville Town Administrator)

Chief Executive Officer: Carolyn Flowers

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm by MTC's Chairperson, Mayor Anthony Foxx.

II. Review of Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of March 23, 2011 was approved as written.

III. Citizens Transit Advisory Group (CTAG) Chair's Report

Mary Barker

Ms. Barker reported that at its last meeting, CTAG accepted the FY2012-2013 operating budget but voted against reducing the discount for nonprofit agencies.

IV. Transit Services Advisory Committee (TSAC) Chair's Report

Rick Sanderson

Mr. Sanderson reported that TSAC met on April 14. Staff presented proposed changes to the pass sales discount program. By majority vote, TSAC members approved no changes to the nonprofit discount program, since nonprofits comprise a small percentage of the program.

V. Red Line Task Force Update

John Woods

Mayor Woods reported that the Red Line Task Force reviewed three issues at its meeting today: CATS staff meetings with NCDOT, information from Gwen Cook with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation on a plan for a Greenway Trail that would run roughly adjacent to the Red Line and continued work with Paul Morris from Greenleaf Strategies, an NCDOT consultant assigned to the Red Line project. Mayor Woods asked Mr. Morris to provide an update to his project.

Mr. Morris said he was here on behalf of NCDOT and Secretary Conti to help CATS develop a complete funding strategy for the Red Line. Scoping work last year validated and confirmed project support. His firm has identified a strategy for how funding might work. The next steps

are to solidify what will be needed financially and where the funds will come from. He hopes to complete those steps by the end of the year.

Discussion: Ms. Nuckles spoke favorably about the bike path. Mayor Woods confirmed that it would run the entire length of the Red Line.

VI. Public Comments

None.

VII. Action Items

a. FY2012-13 Transit Operating Budget

Dymphna Pereira

FY2012-16 Transit Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Ms. Pereira, CATS Chief Financial Officer, said that MTC would be asked tonight to approve and adopt the two-year Transit Operating Budget and five-year Transit Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The proposed budgets have three major risk factors: fuel prices, sales tax revenue and funding uncertainties with federal and state financial partners. Staff will monitor these risk factors and budgetary impacts and make recommendations to the MTC at appropriate times. In response to a question from Mayor Swain, Ms. Pereira advised that the budget included a proposed revision in the fare discount program for the Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) and nonprofit programs; however, staff could manage the budgetary impact on the proposed Operating Income if the MTC approved no change in the fare discount program for nonprofit programs.

Discussion: Ms. Flowers noted that both CTAG and TSAC voted not to revise the fare discount program for nonprofit programs, which would add \$165,000 revenue if adopted. A motion was made by Mayor Swain and seconded by Mayor Woods to adopt the revised fare discount program. Mr. Messera asked if the \$165,000 revenue could be covered if the nonprofit program was not revised. Ms. Flowers responded that CATS had handled a similar situation last year, and could do so again in FY2012.

Resolution: Mr. Messera motioned to adopt the revised fare discount program for ETC but make no changes in the fare discount program for nonprofits. Mr. Rose seconded the revised motion, which was unanimously approved.

Resolution: Mayor Swain moved to approve the proposed FY2012-FY2013 Transit Operating Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messera and passed unanimously.

Resolution: Mayor Foxx recused himself from voting on the bus portion of the five-year CIP. A motion was made by Mr. Messera and seconded by Mayor Swain to recuse Mayor Foxx from voting on the "Bus" item in the five-year CIP program. Mayor Woods then called for a motion to approve the "Bus" item in the five-Year CIP. Motion was made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mayor Swain and approved unanimously by all members excluding Mayor Foxx. Mayor Foxx called for motion on the remainder of the 5-Year CIP; the motion was made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mayor Swain and unanimously approved by the MTC.

b. State Full Funding Grant Agreement (SFFGA) for BLE

Dymphna Pereira

Ms. Pereira explained that an SFFGA provides state matching funds for New Starts fixed guideway projects. It can be executed following issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) by the Federal Transit Administration. The North Carolina SFFGA for the BLE will demonstrate to FTA that CATS has secured a commitment for required non-federal funding for the project, along with the local funding component. The actual share will be determined at the

end of 65 percent Preliminary Engineering. NCDOT's Early Letter of Commitment will be included with the CATS Final Environmental Impact Statement and New Starts Project Evaluation applications, both of which will be submitted to FTA this year. MTC's approval to negotiate and execute the SFFGA will begin the process that will culminate in NCDOT and the City signing the SFFGA in December 2011 or January 2012.

Discussion: None.

Resolution: Commissioner Roberts motioned to approve negotiation and execution of the SFFGA, authorizing CATS CEO to coordinate the SFFGA with the Charlotte City Council. The motion was seconded by Mayor Woods and unanimously approved.

VIII. Information Items

None.

IX. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Carolyn Flowers

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

a. Regional Service Impacts:

CATS has received notice from Union County about possible funding elimination for route 74X Union County Express. The Union County Board of Commissioners budget workshop is April 28. Forty-three 74X riders attended an April 13 public meeting to speak in support of the route. Staff compiled and sent their comments to the Union County commissioners, who will make a decision about funding the route once they have approved their County budget.

The first year of service for Route 78X Celanese Express was funded 100% by Rock Hill and York County, as well as a grant from FTA and SC DOT. The contract to continue service for FY2012 will not be renewed due to budgetary reasons. Sarah Nuckles has offered a proposal to serve the riders. Staff will investigate how to provide riders transit alternatives.

b. Legislative Actions:

Staff will present procurements for bus parts and renewal of the CTC lease to Charlotte City Council on May 12. CATS' budget will be presented to Charlotte's City Council on May 23 for their approval, as well as acceptance of a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) New Freedom grant to fund new shopper service in the Mint Hill area and to renew the contract with Center City Partners for the Gold Rush service.

The legislature continues to develop the state's budget. Recent developments relevant to CATS are that proposed cuts to State Operating Assistance have been reduced to only 4%, and that the state has retained restoration of New Starts funding in the budget, but at lower levels than in the past.

City staff worked with legislative members to amend the charter so the City can enter into a Design-Build, Design-Build-Operate, Design-Build-Maintain or Design-Build-Operate-Maintain contract. The legislative draft recently circulated did not include the financing option, so Design-Build-Operate-Maintain is not included yet. However, other projects of interest included are in the areas of energy conservation and efficiency, heavy rail transportation facilities, railroad parking garages, bridges and roads.

Other legislative items of interest are SB666 and HB399, which would put a 15-cent cap on the wholesale component of fuel. The Metro Mayors Association estimates the budgetary impact would be in neighborhood of \$250 million. This could affect road projects and future allocations to State assistance and New Starts projects such as the BLE and perhaps funding

for the Red Line also. Staff have been asked if MTC wants to take a position, since many municipalities and agencies have done so. Triangle Transit has signed on in opposition.

Resolution: Commissioner Roberts motioned for the MTC to take a position opposing the legislation, which Mr. Rose seconded. The motion to oppose the legislation passed unanimously.

c. Budget and Ridership:

Sales tax receipts in the past two months show signs of recovery, putting CATS on track to make mid-year budget projections. Ridership is higher than projected, with the last two months showing significant increases, trending at 2% higher on a year-to-date basis.

d. Legislative Trips:

Ms. Flowers met with the NC Board of Transportation Multimodal Committee in Raleigh with Ms. Pereira and John Muth, CATS Deputy Director, with the support of John Collett. Staff also met with members of the Mecklenburg delegation to solicit continued transit support in the budget, and met with NCDOT to discuss commuter rail and New Starts projects.

e. Other:

Town Hall Day is next week in Raleigh. Staff will provide information if needed to MTC members on transportation issues.

Friday, May 6 is Clear the Air Day. The American Lung Association recently released its State of the Air report; Charlotte scored an F in the ozone category.

WTS, the Women's Transportation Seminar, recognized CATS as its Employer of the Year.

The Bus Maintenance Rodeo and Rail Rodeo skill competitions were held in April. The Bus and STS Operator Rodeo was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for May 14. The Bus Maintenance team will advance to the national competition in Memphis; the Rail Rodeo team can advance to the national competition in Boston if funding can be found. The teams will be introduced to MTC members at a later meeting. Charlotte will host the national bus Rodeo in 2015.

X. Other Business

Mayor Foxx commended Mayor Swain on an excellent presentation before the NC House Transportation Committee on MTC's behalf. She commended Mayor Foxx on his presentation to the committee as well.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm by Mayor Foxx.

NEXT MTC MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011, 5:30 PM