

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

November 19, 2014

Presiding: Dena Diorio (Mecklenburg County Manager)

Present:

Mayor Dan Clodfelter (Charlotte)

Debra Campbell (Charlotte Assistant City Manager)

Rick Sanderson (TSAC Chair)

Anthony Roberts (Cornelius Town Manager)

Mayor Jill Swain (Huntersville)

Greg Ferguson (Huntersville Town Manager)

Hazen Blodgett (Matthews Town Manager)

Bill Thunberg (Mooresville Representative)

Chief Executive Officer: Carolyn Flowers

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Commission was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by CATS' CEO, Carolyn Flowers.

II. Election of Temporary Chair to Preside Over Meeting

As both the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting, Ms. Flowers asked for nominations to Chair the meeting. Mayor Swain nominated Ms. Diorio to chair the meeting; Mr. Blodgett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. Review of Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of October 22, 2014 was approved as written.

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

Rick Sanderson

Mr. Sanderson reported that TSAC met on November 13. TSAC received information on Phase I of the CityLYNX Gold Line, the Bus Stop Enhancement Program and the upcoming February service changes. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11.

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

No report.

VI. Red Line Task Force Update

No report.

VI. Transit Funding Working Group (TFWG) Update

Jill Swain

Mayor Swain reported that there was an Infrastructure Financing Forum on October 28 in conjunction with the SmartRail Conference to hear from other communities about Public Private Partnerships (P3s) and other alternative funding options. The objective is to continue researching financing options to keep the TFWG at the forefront to continue the efforts. Mayor Swain said that she will be going to Washington, DC soon to speak further about funding options.

VII. Public Comments

Christopher McMillan, a legally-blind community member, provided a statement to be read into the minutes as he was unable to attend the meeting. In his statement, Mr. McMillan said that CATS'

Special Transportation Service (STS) has such high demand that he cannot get on a waiting list for service even five days in advance. He urged MTC members to continue to seek funding for STS to serve the growing disabled population, and to fight for the fees necessary to improve options on the county line in the Charlotte-Harrisburg area. Mr. McMillan said that he is grateful for new equipment, buses and staff for STS, but more options are needed.

VIII. Action Items

a. 2015 Legislative Agenda

Carolyn Flowers

Dana Fenton, Intergovernmental Relations Manager with the City of Charlotte, said that the Federal Legislative Agenda is the same as presented two months ago.

Discussion: None.

Resolution: Mayor Swain motioned to adopt the 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda; Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda

Carolyn Flowers

Mr. Fenton said that two of the items that were proposed for the State Legislative Agenda have been removed. The authority does exist for TIFIA with the current structure that exists for local governments; in addition, there is sufficient legislation on P3s to provide a framework for moving forward. Therefore, those items have been removed.

Discussion: None.

Resolution: Mr. Roberts motioned to approve the 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda; Mayor Swain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Regional Strategy

Olaf Kinard

Mr. Kinard, CATS Director of Marketing & Communications, reminded MTC members of last month's presentation proposing to use Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) as a focal point to seek funding from other sources beyond our MPO that touch the other seven counties surrounding Mecklenburg. Staff is asking MTC to approve the strategy for the Memorandum of Understanding.

Discussion: Mayor Clodfelter asked for a copy of last month's presentation. Mr. Kinard said a copy will be sent to him.

Resolution: Mayor Swain motioned to approve the TDM Regional Strategy; Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Representative

David McDonald

The current representative to the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) is Mayor Swain, who is not able to continue in the role. MTC also needs to nominate an alternate for when the representative is unable to attend.

Discussion: None.

Resolution: Mayor Swain nominated Dena Diorio to serve as MTC's representative to CRTPO; Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution: Ms. Diorio nominated Leman Brice as alternate to CRTPO. Mayor Swain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. McDonald, CATS Transit Planning Manager, said that the Rock Hill Area's MPO has invited MTC to provide a representative to their MPO, known as the Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study (RFATS). CATS is not a signatory to the RFATS MPO; the City of Rock Hill can fulfill the role of lead transit agency.

Discussion: None.

Resolution: Mr. Ferguson motioned to decline the invitation to provide a representative to RFATS; Mayor Swain seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

IX. Information Items

None.

X. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Carolyn Flowers

Under the CEO's report, Ms. Flowers discussed the following:

a. Budget Update:

Sales tax receipts remained very strong in September. Receipts were \$6.939 million.

The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) application was submitted on November 14, 2014. Staff will meet with USDOT on December 2 to discuss the application.

b. Upcoming Conferences:

The annual meeting of the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) will be held November 20, 2014 in Charlotte. Secretary Foxx will speak there.

The Chamber Public Policy Update is advocating for long-term federal investment and working to address the long-term challenges in our state. The Chamber has developed a coalition called The Prosperous Future to form a broad-based forum of stakeholders. Mayor Swain has a video in support of the group.

c. December MTC Meeting:

Ms. Flowers said there will be no MTC meeting or Manager's meeting in December as there are no action items on the MTC agenda. Ms. Diorio said that a motion is needed to cancel the December MTC meeting.

Resolution: Mayor Swain motioned to cancel the December MTC meeting; Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Other News:

There will be a line cut for the LYNX Blue Line November 22-23, 2014 to integrate streetcar with light rail.

Ms. Flowers said that the advocacy side of TFWG had requested a limited-edition advocacy t-shirt. CATS had a few t-shirts made to be raffled off, and Ms. Flowers showed the t-shirts to MTC members.

e. LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE) Construction Update:

Danny Rogers, LYNX Blue Line Projects Director, reported that construction is underway on the project. The current revenue service date is the summer of 2017, in time for students at UNC Charlotte to take the train on their first day of classes. Staff is working with the contractors to increase their productivity to recover schedule lost due to delays in the private utility work, which was supposed to be completed but is still ongoing. The utilities are now working hard to complete their part. There will be a cost for the contractors to increase productivity, as they will be bringing on extra crews and working extra hours. The budget is currently in good shape, as five out of six construction contracts awarded were below budget. The total budget contingency currently exceeds FTA requirements. Staff anticipates charges to the budget for schedule recovery and to provide project enhancements that were cut when the economy soured and the project's budget looked unattainable.

The project has added a fifth parking level at the JW Clay Parking Garage, a parking garage at the Sugar Creek Station instead of the planned surface parking, additional Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) and pedestrian safety amenities such as crossing gates and median fencing. N. Tryon Street has pedestrians everywhere, so pedestrian safety amenities are needed. Pedestrian crossing gates will prevent riders from walking in front of approaching trains. The parking garage at the Sugar Creek Station will be closer to the station than most of the surface parking that was planned.

Staff is waiting on FTA response for the following project changes: expansion of the North Yard Maintenance Facility, including additional track work; pedestrian bridge extensions at the University City Boulevard and JW Clay parking garages to facilitate passenger access from across the streets; a pedestrian bridge at the Sugar Creek Station to cross Sugar Creek Road from the east side of the road and access the station on the west side; and a bus pull-out at Tom Hunter Station. The Tom Hunter Station is a high exchange station in the models between rail and bus, so improved connectivity for passengers will be appreciated in that area.

Discussion: Mayor Swain commented that at the Metro Mayor's Conference, Secretary Kluttz from the NC Department of Cultural Resources spoke of doing something unique to bridges, so there may be an opportunity to work with Cultural Resources on pedestrian bridges. Mr. Rogers said that there will be treatments on the N. Tryon Street bridges that will be special. Most BLE bridges will have some sort of art treatment or special upgrade.

Mayor Clodfelter asked for some information to be provided at a future meeting. He wanted to know if all sales tax distributions are converted from point of sale to per capita, what the loss would be to CATS and how that loss would be distributed between capital projects and operating expenditures.

XI. Other Business

None.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Ms. Diorio.

NEXT MTC MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015, 5:30 P.M.