

**TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**January 11, 2001**

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PRESENT: Mark Loflin, Chair, Charlotte  
Jim Blank, Charlotte  
Laura Blue, Charlotte  
Paul Edmunds, Davidson  
Raenice Goode, Mecklenburg County  
Steve Goodman, Charlotte  
Walter Horstman, Matthews  
Bob Inskeep, Huntersville

STAFF: Keith Parker, Katrina Heineking, Pete Wallace, David Feltman, Brad Miller, Jon Downing, Mason Martin, Ann Boggs

ABSENT: Linette Fox, Charlotte  
Mary Klattenhoff, Charlotte  
Scott Lawrence, Cornelius  
Kathy Matson, Mint Hill

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

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**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Loflin called the meeting to order. He introduced Mr. Walter Stone, former Chairman of the Transit Services Committee.

**II. Approval of October 17, 2000 Meeting Summary**

The October 17, 2001 Meeting Summary was approved as written.

**III. Discussion Items**

*A. Governance Subcommittee Report*

Mr. Loflin asked the Governance Subcommittee to report on its study of the draft By-laws. Ms. Boggs explained the differences between the attendance policy in the draft and that of the City of Charlotte. Mr. Loflin asked for member opinions on the policy of permitting an officer to serve for more than one term, and the consensus was favorable. It was decided to begin officers' terms of office as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each year; and there was consensus that the Committee should continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Edmunds suggested that the By-laws be revised to include a requirement to elect officers at the first meeting of each calendar year. The Committee voted unanimously of those present to accept the draft By-laws as amended by Mr. Edmunds.

## *B. CATS FY2002-2003 Transit Program*

Mr. Parker provided a slide presentation on the highlights of the proposed FY2002-2003 Transit Program.

Mr. Horstman asked what government organization is responsible for the cleanliness of bus shelters, and Mr. Parker explained that that is currently a CDOT responsibility, although as more shelters are installed it may devolve upon CATS. Ms. Goode asked when the new bus stop signs will be installed, and Mr. Feltman told the members that installation of new signs should begin in the Fall of 2001. Mr. Parker reminded the members that there are approximately 3000 signs to be replaced. Ms. Goode commented on the fact that there are no new ADA employees projected for FY2002 or 2003, and Mr. Parker explained that a large number had been hired in FY2001. Mr. Goodman asked why there was an increase in CATS administrative personnel projected, and Mr. Parker explained that the largest group of those new positions are being created in conjunction with the consolidated Customer Service improvements. Mr. Inskeep asked whether the Capital Expenditures budget for FY2002-03 included funding for bus rapid transit, and was told it includes sufficient funding for whatever LPA is chosen for a given Corridor. Ms. Goode asked whether there will be a fare increase during the budget cycle, and was told there will not. Mr. Parker made the point to the members that the proposed Program gives significant emphasis to bus service, and is not weighted toward rail service. Mr. Edmunds asked how many buses will be de-commissioned in the next years, and Mr. Parker told the members that approximately 60 older buses are slated for de-commissioning in the next two years, however, if demand for increased services continues to grow as it has been recently, it may not be possible to de-commission that many. Mr. Inskeep asked whether the assumption that ridership will increase 5% in FY2002 is unrealistically low, and Mr. Parker told the members that while a greater increase would be ideal, he expects that it will take some time before new services become familiar and ridership on them goes up. Ms. Goode asked when Route 9 will be extended, and Mr. Downing told her that that route extension will likely take place in the Fall of 2001.

*{Due to the ceremony honoring Mr. Walter Stone, it was decided to change the order of the following agenda items}*

## **IV. Chief Operating Officer's Report**

*A. MTC Agenda:* Mr. Parker briefed the members on upcoming MTC meeting agenda items. He highlighted the items having to do with the Gastonia Express, the First Union Shuttle service, and the purchase of one hybrid electric bus. In explanation of the bus purchase, Mr. Parker briefed the members on the State requirement that 50% of all buses purchased after Jan 2004 must be low-emission. Purchase of one hybrid electric bus sooner will allow CATS to determine whether this is appropriate technology for future purchases.

*B. Brazil Trip:* Mr. Parker informed that members that he had recently participated in a trip to Brazil, funded by the FTA, in order to study an exceptional bus rapid transit system there. He will provide a presentation at a later TSAC meeting.

*C. Other Future Topics:* Mr. Parker suggested that future TSAC meeting agenda items include a presentation on recent market research results by CATS, and a presentation and discussion of the Countywide Transit Services Plan.

*D. Organization Charts:* Mr. Parker provided the members with CATS organizational charts.

## **V. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Loflin reminded the members that the second phase of the Corridor public input meetings is now underway, and urged the members to attend as many meetings as possible.

Mr. Loflin recognized Mr. Walter Stone for his valuable participation as Chairman of the Transit Services Committee, and presented him with a certificate. He also introduced and welcomed Mr. Walter Horstman, the new member representing Matthews.

## **VI. Other Business**

Mr. Inskeep asked whether CATS has any liability for park-and-ride lots, and Mr. Parker explained that most lots are not owned by CATS and that liability is the responsibility of the owner. This led to a discussion of possible security measures at park-and-ride lots, and Mr. Parker agreed to have the CATS Staff investigate the issue.

Mr. Inskeep also commented that he felt the buses could be kept cleaner, and Ms. Heineking explained that the buses are washed inside and out every day.

Ms. Goode commented on the use of cell phones by bus riders, and Mr. Inskeep noted that it would be helpful to provide the driver of each bus with a cell phone for the use of riders in the case of emergency or significant delay.

Mr. Edmunds asked who is responsible for bicycle planning, and was told that that is an outside agency. Mr. Loflin informed him that it is his intention to have a representative of the bicycle organization address the TSAC sometime in the future.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

The next TSAC meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 4:00 p.m.