

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday February 12, 2009

PRESENT: PAUL EDMUNDS, DAVIDSON
Jenifer Falls, Huntersville
D Evans, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
Don Carnahan, Cornelius
Mark Francis, Charlotte
Rick Sanderson, Charlotte
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Walt Horstman, Charlotte

STAFF: Vida Covington, Jim Zingale, Duretta Weicken, Larry Kopf, Don Ivey, Theron Barrino, Pamela White, Ramond Robinson, Megan Huff, Bob Nipper, Dwayne Pelfrey, John Bisser, Jean Leier, John Joye, Kamalita Parrott, Vince Brown

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of December and January Meeting Summaries

Chairman Paul Edmunds called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and welcomed Mark Francis to TSAC. The December and January meeting summaries were approved as written.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Michael Morgan spoke to the committee about extending service to Concord Mills.

III. Information Items:

A. FY2010-11 Transit Operating Program	4:20-4:50	Dee Pereira/ Jim Zingale
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Dee Pereira gave an overview of the two-year Transit Operating Program and the five-year Transit Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Pereira reviewed revenue with regard to fare growth, sales tax, and income for capital projects.

Scott Jernigan asked what impact the stimulus bill will have on projects. Ms. Pereria answered that CATS has about six million dollars worth of projects that were submitted

for the stimulus package, it now depends on the amount North Carolina receives and how it is allocated.

Terry Lansdell asked if the Davidson Garage project was a project for the stimulus money. Ms. Pereira stated the Davidson Garage has been in the works about 3-4 years but has been put on hold. Now the cost of materials and such has increased, but it is on the stimulus list at \$30 million dollars. Mr. Zingale stated CATS is ready to rehab the Davidson facility so if the money comes through CATS is ready to do it and the project is high on the priority list.

Mr. Zingale then explained the operations budget, including bus operations, maintenance costs, fuel prices and ridership. Mr. Zingale stated there is a lot of uncertainty with the economy and things will need to be adjusted as we go along.

Don Carnahan asked what the total number of system hours. Mr. Zingale answered 999.

Paul Edmunds asked if the park and ride lots cause an impact to the budget. Mr. Zingale answered yes they cause increases. Mr. Edmunds also asked if safety & security company police officers were being reduced at the CTC. Mr. Zingale answered that the crime at the CTC had reduced so officers were cut back but if things change CATS will go back to more company police.

Mr. Carnahan asked what would be done with the buses going out of inventory and if sold would CATS get market rate for them. Mr. Zingale answered there is very little value to the old buses but CATS will try and transfer them to other transit systems.

Mr. Lansdell asked when the selling of the vehicles would take place. Mr. Zingale answered within the next few months and several other states have shown interest in the buses.

Ms. Pereira stated when CATS sells one of the buses; any bus sold over \$5000 the amount over \$5000 has to be reimbursed to the FTA so there is not a great salvage value on buses going out of inventory.

B. Route Performance Monitoring Report

Larry Kopf

Larry Kopf presented the annual route performance monitoring report. Mr. Kopf stated that route performance monitoring is the process whereby routes are scored based on productivity and efficiency. Mr. Kopf talked about the scoring methodology, the high scoring routes, the low scoring routes and the routes that have had the most fluctuation since last year. All of the scores for all CATS routes were presented. This system lends an element of objectivity to the route planning process.

Scott Jernigan asked why the UNCC Nugget dropped in ridership and would it be cut from service. Mr. Kopf stated there were adjustments made to the UNCC service and the UNCC - CRI route has improved at the expense of the Nugget route. Mr. Kopf reminded the committee that these routes are fully funded by UNCC so service will continue as long as the funding is there.

Walt Horstman asked if a route is cut does that make other routes look differently. Mr. Kopf stated yes, as the route performance monitoring is a comparison system.

Mr. Lansdell asked if there would be changes to the UNCC service and does CATS have control of the UNCC service. Mr. Kopf stated CATS does have control of the UNCC service but since the service only runs through the school year it will be evaluated in the fall for any changes and CATS will discuss any changes with UNCC .

Paul Edmunds asked if the Saturday service for the 77X would be cut. Mr. Kopf answered yes and the cut should help the 77X numbers improve.

Mr. Edmunds asked if there is a one page sheet summary of how the route numbers are derived. Mr. Kopf stated there is a two sheet summary and he would provide that to the committee.

Mr. Carnahan suggested another column be added to the spreadsheet showing when the routes are funded by other sources.

C. Public Meeting Feedback

Larry Kopf

Mr. Kopf stated there have been a couple of open house meetings to make the public aware of the service changes and route plans, those meetings were attended by a number of people. CATS will also be distributing rider's alerts and have set up a table at the CTC to help riders become aware of the service adjustments. Mr. Kopf also said CATS will continue to go out and will be out on March 2 to help riders.

Mr. Horstman asked if the kiosks at the CTC would be updated. Mr. Kopf answered yes and we will be changing the bus stop signs as well.

Mr. Lansdell asked if there were issues with the Town of Mooresville. Mr. Kopf stated yes, it was not related to service but there are funding issues where the regional partner pays 50%. Mooresville supports the route but so far people have not been riding. Mr. Lansdell commended Mr. Kopf for his efforts on the changes to the Route 25.

D. Service Issues:

Paul Edmunds stated the Route 77X riders alerts were confusing and thought the alert was for riders to park in the lots only. Mr. Kopf stated the Town of Davidson was concerned that people were parking in business parking spaces instead of the park and ride lots when riding the bus so bus stops were moved in that area to help deter riders using business spaces. If the alerts are not clear, they will be reviewed and Mr. Kopf mentioned looking at the outbound bus stop.

Mark Francis asked if the I-485 park and ride spaces at the extended lot would be marked. Mr. Kopf stated the spaces are not marked and perhaps more signage is needed.

Scott Jernigan stated that profane language has been used on light rail and he would like to know at what point a citation is issued. Bob Nipper stated in such incidences the

fare inspectors will remind the rider of the rules but it depends on the situation, if and when a citation is written. John Joye stated unless the situation escalates to a point that will result in violence from anyone, fare inspectors have to be very careful and they are well trained in these matters.

IV. Chairman's Report

Paul Edmunds

There was no chairman report.

V. Chief Operating Officer's Report

Jim Zingale

Mr. Zingale stated that CATS would start working on the June service changes starting in March so this leaves only two more TSAC meetings to address the changes CATS may be doing. Mr. Kopf will be bringing suggested changes to the committee once February's sales tax figures are in.

Mr. Zingale went on to address questions Mr. Lansdell had from the last TSAC meeting on the number of bike riders on the system. Dwayne Pelfrey stated in 2008 there were a total of 78,000 making it about 4,000 riders per month. Mr. Lansdell had also asked about the fare zone training and what the results were. Mr. Zingale acknowledged John Joye with CATS' Legal to address this.

Mr. Joye stated that two hours of training with staff and transit police officers stressed the purpose of the fare zones, establishing the zones to see if trains could be loaded and unloaded safely, and a refresher course on all the city ordinances. Bob Nipper explained the training refresher went well and helped remind staff of the goal to deliver a safe and effective ride. Mr. Nipper went on to say the fare zones test run worked well and helped staff check fares more efficiently and to move through the crowds safely. Mr. Lansdell asked if the fare zones would be made with permanent striping. Mr. Nipper answered staff is in the process of putting down permanent striping and should be finished in the next few months. Mr. Lansdell asked if staff carried weapons, Mr. Zingale answered only company police carry weapons.

Mr. Zingale mentioned that the General Manager of Safety & Security, Jim Dougherty, had accepted a position in San Francisco and will be leaving CATS February 13. Mr. Zingale also reminded the committee that the CIAA Basketball tournament will be in Charlotte the end of February and CATS would add additional service on Friday and Saturday until 2:30 a.m. to accommodate the large crowds.

Jean Leier told the committee that the National Public Broadcasting System will be airing an in-depth piece taking a look at what Charlotte has done to be successful with transit, what could be possible with stimulus money and what leaders think works and doesn't work with the NCDOT equity formula funding. Mayor McCrory, CATS CEO Keith Parker, NCDOT officials, opponents and public interest groups were interviewed for this piece.

Scott Jernigan asked if the committee could do field trips in the future. Mr. Zingale answered yes.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2009 4:00 PM