

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday June 11, 2009

PRESENT: Jenifer Falls, Huntersville
D Evans, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Walt Horstman, Charlotte
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte
Don Carnahan, Cornelius
Rob Cornwell, Davidson
Charles Jolla, Charlotte

STAFF: Larry Kopf, Duretta Weicken, Pamela White, Lavernia Boyd, Dwayne Pelfrey,
Lisa Flowers, Paul Renaud, Ramond Robinson, Don Ivey, Theron Barrino,
Dietrich Brown, Manny Kennerly, Judy Dellert-OKeef, Chuck Juliana, Pete
Wallace, Sterling Faggart, John Muth

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of May Meeting Summary

Co-Chair Jenifer Falls called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Jenifer introduced John Muth interim CEO of CATS. John spoke briefly to the committee about the importance of TSAC and CATS goals for transportation.

The May meeting summary was amended by Terry Lansdell in that he wanted the summary to clarify that he felt years of branding should not be wasted for a few pennies for advertising and loosing CATS branding on buses. The committee approved the summary with the amendment.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Green asked about last month's committee discussion on the cost of changing the color of the Blue line. Lisa flowers explained the costs would come in when and if the blue line color was changed to green. Mr. Green asked if a different kind of train would need to be purchased or if the same type of engines and cars would be used. Larry stated CATS would use the same kind of equipment just a newer model and that the trains would run all the way from the South I-485 to the North I-485.

Jenifer asked if the train line that would go north to Mooresville would be a heavier type train. Larry stated yes, it would be a commuter train.

III. Action Items:

A. Vanpool Rate Increase

Dietrich Brown

Vanpool manager Dietrich Brown presented information concerning the proposed fare increase for the vanpool program to TSAC.

Rob Cornwell asked if including vanpool in the current fare policy would put vanpool on the bi-annual increase and wondered if that was a good idea as bus and vanpool have two different types of cost structures. Dietrich stated CATS feels it is a good idea keeping in mind the expenses for vanpool need to also be considered.

Dee Evans asked when the next increase would take place and stated she would not like to go through fare increase twice. Dee asked if vanpool is brought into the existing fare policy what happens to other programs fares. Dietrich stated in the next six months there will be an analysis of all the fares and vanpool will be part of that analysis if vanpool is put under the current fare policy. However CATS at that time would have the option to consider a small increase or none at all. Larry indicated that staff recommended that all services would be governed by the same fare policy. Dietrich added that CATS needs to be fiscally responsible as well.

Charles Jolla asked if the increase would make up the operating deficit since there had be no increase since 2005. Larry stated the increase would not be enough to cover the operating deficit.

Terry Lansdell asked if even with the 15% increase CATS would still be below the comparative costs of other systems. Dietrich stated yes.

After Dietrich's presentation and discussion the committee took action to support a 15% increase for vanpool fares and to include the vanpool program in the CATS fare policy.

B. Bylaws

Lisa Flowers

Lisa Flowers returned to the committee to present the proposed bylaw revisions. Lisa stated the changes to term limits and attendance requirements would be presented and approval from TSAC was needed to move forward to CTAG & MTC.

Anthony Wesley asked when a committee member has completed a term are they automatically appointed to the next two terms. Lisa stated there is a process with City Council for reappointment to committees so an individual would need to follow that process.

Scot Jernigan asked regarding absences if there are no excused absences. Lisa stated that per the revised bylaws, if adopted, that in general no excuses for absences would be accepted. However allowances could be made in extreme circumstances such as long term health issues.

Don Carnahan stated if vanpool is included in the current fare policy should the committee be a fifteen member committee adding a person to represent vanpool. Lisa stated the committee could ask for that change. Dietrich stated CATS could identify interested vanpool recipients for the committee.

Terry made a motion for the committee to endorse the revised rules of procedure with the addition of a vanpool representative to the committee to be presented to CTAG and then to MTC for approval. The motion was approved.

C. Regional Services

Pamela White

Pamela White presented information on the regional express routes; 74X Union, 80X Concord, 82X Rock Hill, 83X Mooresville, 85X Gastonia, and 88X Lincoln County. She stated that routes such as these that travel outside of Mecklenburg County require 50% funding from a partnering entity per MTC policy. Two new proposed regional express services were presented. The first, the Concord Mills Express, would operate from Uptown Charlotte to Concord Mills on Saturdays. Approximately 50% of the funding for this route would be provided by a JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) grant, 25% would be provided by the City of Concord and/or Lowes Motor Speedway, and 25% would be provided by CATS. The second service, the Celenese Route, would operate from Rock Hill to the Lynx Blue Line's I-485 Station. Rock Hill would pay 100% of the operating cost for this service.

Larry Kopf explained that anytime CATS service runs outside the county, the service needs MTC approval. One of TSAC's roles is to advise MTC on service issues, and staff was recommending that TSAC endorse the implementation of both services given the favorable funding arrangement for each.

Jenifer asked if the \$11,030 cost to CATS for Concord was subtracted before or after fares. Pamela stated before the fares. Larry stated that Concord and Lowes Motor speedway were not offered the same package in terms of net costs, but that negotiations were ongoing.

Terry asked how it was determined that to run a service from the Celenese area. Larry stated that Rock Hill approached CATS stating they were interested in a new route from the Celenese area and that they would fund the service at 100%. Terry also asked if 425,000 was a projection for 2009 ridership on the regional services. Larry stated it is a projection but is based on real data and keep in mind 2009 had the gas shortage and the buses were packed at that time. Terry made a statement in support of reverse commute service, and asked how the reverse commute fare would be administered on the Concord Mills service. Larry indicated that that was a detail that would have to be worked out.

Jenifer asked if the Saturday route is different than the weekly route. Pamela stated the Saturday route would be the same as the weekly route with the exception of the Saturday route ending at the Mall.

Don Carnahan asked how long the JARC funds would be used. Larry stated two years.

Charles Jolla asked if the route 22 would be extended to the Mall. Larry stated there is a problem extending that route due to fare structure for out of county routes. Charles stated perhaps Concord Mills Mall could compensate. Larry stated Concord Mills was not interested in compensating at this time but that CATS could discuss with them again at a later date.

Larry stated that staff is asking for TSAC endorsement of the two regional express routes, which would subsequently be presented to MTC.

The committee voted to endorse the Saturday Concord Mills Express service and the Celenese service.

IV. Information Items:

A. Special Transportation Service (STS)

Pete Wallace

The General Manager of the Special Transportation Service (STS), Pete Wallace, presented an overview of the STS operation. Pete discussed the history of STS, its mission and how the service is organized. In addition he provided a breakdown of requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and how the ADA impacts the two levels of service that STS provides. The various technologies that STS utilizes including reservation and scheduling software, Mobile Data Terminals and the Automated Vehicle Locations system were discussed along with the eligibility and certification process.

Walt asked of all the applications received for STS how many did not qualify for service. Pete answered 149.

Terry asked when the eligibility rules for STS were changed. Pete stated July 2006.

V. Service Issues

Walt stated that route 4 Country Club arrival times are irregular and asked that they be checked.

Anthony Wesley asked if the Epi-center had responded to the late night service funding proposal. Larry answered there had not been any response from uptown businesses for the proposed cost at this time.

VI. Chairman's Report

Jenifer Falls

Jenifer gave a report from the last MTC meeting. Jenifer said that MTC endorsed sending a letter to State representatives to include Mecklenburg County in House Bill 148. At the MTC meeting CATS had reported that 22 bus operators laid off in March were expected to be back to work by this fall. CATS also reported that the City settled with Crowder construction regarding a dispute related to light rail construction. The Federal Triennial review went well for CATS with no findings in 21 out of 23 categories. Also Keith Parker proposed to Federal Transit officials that CATS receive higher than 50% federal assistance to proceed with the Northeast Corridor. Officials

felt that since Charlotte line is run so well that Charlotte could possibly get the funding. Also CATS took 1st place in the State bus rodeo.

VII. Interim Manager of Operations Report

Larry Kopf

Larry proposed that the August TSAC meeting be held at the Rail Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF). Members would be transported from CMGC in a Sprinter bus to the VMF. The meeting would be in the Rail Facility conference room and a tour of the facility would be given. Larry stated the next service change will be August 24, 2009 to coordinate with construction on Davidson Garage and CATS will start the new enhanced bus by September 09. Larry continued saying CATS Federal Triennial review outcome had two findings. One finding is that CATS will need to come up with an equitable service change plan which is a new requirement. The second finding second was related to the Facility plan. CATS' has documents related to Facilities plans, but the documents would have to be consolidated into one coordinated plan. STS and Vanpool maintenance records were not cited as findings, but were areas that could improve. Also, the fleet would have to be adjusted to get down to 20% spares, a federal requirement. The recent service reductions had resulted in 35% spares.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY AUG. 13, 2009 4:00 PM