

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday January 14, 2010

PRESENT: Rick Sanderson
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Jenifer Falls, Huntersville
Rob Cornwell, Davidson
Walter Horstman, Charlotte
Kevin Spitzmiller, Charlotte
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte
Don Carnahan, Cornelius
Charles Jolla, Charlotte
P. Wilson McCrory, Charlotte

STAFF: Paul Renaud, Duretta Weicken, Dwayne Pelfrey, Theron Barrino, Pamela White,
Judy Dellert-OKeef, Chuck Juliana, Larry Kopf, Darryl Frierson, John Bisser,
Andy Mock

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of December Meeting Summary

Chairman Rick Sanderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The December meeting summary was approved as written. Also Rick introduced new member Wilson McCrory to the committee.

II. Information Items:

A. BLE Update

Andy Mock

Andy Mock Assistant Project Manager for the LYNX Blue Line Extension gave the committee an overview of the Lynx Blue Line extension, what it is, where the project is to date, stations, alignment, funding and schedules. Andy first reviewed the Blue Line and its successes and went on saying those successes helped with the future plans of the Blue Line extension which has thirteen stations, 7 park & rides which provides 4500 parking spaces and extends from 7th street to I-485 North.

Rick asked if Tryon Street will be upgraded and if construction of the bridge could be in the weave construction. Andy replied yes that Tryon Street will be upgraded with some crossings omitted and most major crossings upgraded but the project is not in the weave. Rick asked if there would be a tunnel going under some areas. Andy stated no.

Terry asked if existing bridges would be used. Andy stated that bridges will be made wider for bike lanes. Terry asked where track interlocking is throughout the project. Andy stated that there is interlocking along the corridor which creates many pockets that will be used for special events.

Charles Jolla asked if longer platforms would be constructed along the South Corridor to accommodate the three car trains. Andy stated yes if three car trains are running the south corridor platforms will have to be retrofitted to accommodate.

Wilson McCrory asked when three car trains would start running. Andy stated by opening day of the BLE in 2019.

Kevin Spitzmiller asked if bridges or tunnels were more expensive. Andy stated tunnels are more expensive.

Rick asked if the last station on the corridor would be made adaptable for future expansion. Andy said the end station would be made adaptable for additions, should future plans develop.

Kevin asked how far the I-485 station is from Concord Mills and why the line is not built to the mall. Andy stated the mall is about four miles away from the station and the cost to build over I-485 is very high and when comparing ridership going to the mall the cost outweighed ridership.

Charles asked if the Verizon Amphitheater patrons could use the rail line. Andy stated that Verizon is still a ways from the rail line, but perhaps a bus could service Verizon patrons to the rail line.

B. TOP Program

Dwayne Pelfrey/Darryl Frierson

Dwayne Pelfrey and Darryl Frierson of the CATS Bus Operations Division gave an overview of the Bus Operations Division and the "TOP" Teams of Professionals Program". The flight program consists of teams of 15 operators with a team leader meeting together to develop relationships, to be proactive and to improve customer service.

Walter Horstman asked if the revenue hours included deadheading. Dwayne stated no but it does include layovers.

Walter asked how long teams stay together. Dwayne said teams don't really change but because of operators schedule changes, the team leaders evaluate quarterly to determine how an operator is performing and to determine what changes if any need to be made.

Walt asked if there were stats on how long teams stay together. Darryl stated teams don't really change unless there is a specific reason to change them. Team leaders evaluate quarterly to determine how an operator is performing and to determine what changes if any need to be made.

Walt asked if more operators are hired after there are reductions. Darryl stated the teams were expanded by adding dispatchers and supervisors from the transportation center.

Wilson McCrory asked what qualifies as on time. Dwayne answered not more than one minute early and not more than five minutes late for each time point on the route.

IV. Public Comment on agenda items:

Michael Morgan commented about, in his view, a violation of title six because the local buses are not using the bus way, and stated he was working on a proposal about route reorganization.

Charles Strickland commented his concerns of safety issues when CATS runs one car on the LYNX system.

V. Service Issues

All

There was no service issues reported.

VI. Chairman's Report

Terry Lansdell

Terry reported that the MTC meeting was low keyed as the committee was trying to become familiarized with all the new members.

VII. Interim Manager of Operations Report

Larry Kopf

Larry reported there was a fuel spill at the South Tryon facility on December 22 from a faulty valve with a serious high cost cleanup process. Larry explained that staff is working to resolve the problem and cleanup and that he would report back to the committee on this issue at a later date. Larry went on saying the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced an Urban Circulator Grant Program which includes \$130 million in funding and grants will be up to \$25 million per project. Staff and consultants are evaluating the opportunity to implement a first phase of the streetcar project and to further the enhanced bus project using this grant. Staff will present information on the application requirements, including local matches and project schedule criteria at the January 11, 2010 City Council Dinner Briefing.

Larry also reported that sales tax for November was 1.8 million dollars lower than the year before.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2010 4:00 PM