

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday June 10, 2010

PRESENT: Rick Sanderson, Charlotte
Walt Horstman, Matthews
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
Don Carnahan, Cornelius
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte
Kevin Spitzmiller, Charlotte
D. Evans, Charlotte
Jenifer Falls, Huntersville
Rob Cornwell, Davidson
Marvis Holliday, Van Pool
George Schaeffer, Charlotte

STAFF: Duretta Weicken, David Murphy, Theron Barrino, Larry Kopf, Pete Wallace, Jeff McClellan, Vincent Brown, Dwayne Pelfrey

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of May Meeting Summary

Chairman Rick Sanderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The May meeting summary was approved as written. Rick introduced new member George Schaeffer.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment.

III. Information Item:

A. CMS Collaboration

Ramond Robinson

Ramond Robinson CATS service planner presented the committee with CATS potential service collaborations with CMS.

Walt Horstman asked if there were any other transit systems that high school students use to get to school. Ramond stated he had ridden city transportation in Virginia when he was in high school. Larry Kopf stated in St. Louis Missouri, high school aged kids ride public transportation to commute to school but it is not the same for every city. CATS' issues are the expectations of the parents of the students.

Anthony Wesley asked if a student has one opportunity to catch city transportation to get to school and misses that bus does that mean the student misses school as well. Ramond stated no there are other opportunities to catch the bus. Missing the early city bus just means the student will be arriving later to school.

Jenifer Falls asked if the kids that go to Phillip O'Berry School would still have access to school buses as well as public transportation. Larry stated yes the schools will still need to run their shuttle trips in the beginning.

Kevin Spitzmiller asked what ratio of the routing actually goes into the Transit Center during the commute to schools. Ramond stated all the routes that can be utilized by students to get to school all go through the Transit Center. Kevin suggested perhaps a single bus going through the transit center that is full could go directly to the school.

B. June Service Change

Pamela White

Pamela White CATS Service Planner explained the upcoming June service changes. CATS will implement a service change on June 28, 2010. The June Service Change includes minor schedule adjustments to increase on-time performance, route modification to increase productivity, and discontinuing a regional express route (Lincoln County Express) in which the contract was not renewed.

Walt asked how many people actually use the Guaranteed Ride Home service. Larry stated at least four people per day use the GRH service and it is a good program but it is a very costly program and with the slow economy in regards to the sales tax, CATS needs to protect the core services.

George Schaeffer asked what the cost was per year to provide the GRH service. Larry stated GHR is budgeted for \$100,000 a year.

Marvis Holliday asked what kind of marketing was being done for the service changes. Pamela stated there have been public meetings, rider's alerts on buses, press releases and the local news papers.

Don Carnahan asked if CATS would be reprinting any of the bus schedules. Pamela answered yes bus schedules will be printed with the new fare increases and the route changes.

C. Travel Markets

Larry Kopf

Larry stated CATS would not be making any changes to the Travel Market policy but wanted the committee to know CATS would be presenting the policy to MTC. Larry reviewed the Travel Market policy and explained the policy's Primary and Secondary markets. Larry also explained how the Travel Market Policy is used in coordination with route performance monitoring to make warranted route reductions.

Walt asked where the STS plus services is in the markets. Larry answered STS plus is in the primary market.

IV. Action Item:

A. July Meeting

The committee voted unanimous to not have a July meeting. Next TSAC meeting will be August 12, 2010

V. Service Issues

All

Jenifer asked if there was something CATS could do about people being very loud on the bus. Larry stated he would look into putting a “gentle suggestion” for people to be considerate of others while travelling on the bus.

Anthony stated there has been confusion about when the last train is going out of town during special events. Larry stated the last train during special events is always 1am, there are a couple of events where the last train leaves at 1:30am but that could be announced on the trains and also the information is posted on rider’s alerts and on ride-transit.org.

Kevin asked when extra trains are requested, would they be coordinated with the events. Larry stated yes.

Anthony asked when the new schedules will come out. Larry answered new schedules will come out with when new service starts July 1.

Walt stated he noticed a different voice on the bus announcements. Dwayne Pelfrey answered that CATS was in the process of trying to record a more professional announcer.

Walt asked if there was any way to acquire real time info for buses. Larry stated CATS has been working on the availability of real time information.

Scott Jernigan asked what CATS plans are for the Fourth of July events. Larry stated there is an event meeting planned for next week.

Don requested the committee be given an update on the future Corridors and where they stand. Larry stated he would discuss with the Chairman and decide when that would be presented.

Jenifer wanted to know what would happen to the transit center at Eastland Mall when the mall closes. Larry stated that CATS is negotiating a long term lease agreement so when the Mall closes the transit center will remain open.

VI. Chairman’s Report

Rick Sanderson

Rick reported on the May MTC meeting saying there was a presentation given by the NCDOT on the High Speed Rail project and how the CATS system ties in with that at the new gateway project also with the addition of the Northeast corridor and the

estimated volume of riders, three car trains will be the standard so the South corridor platforms will need to be extended to three car platforms along with updates to the sub-stations. Also there was a presentation of the City of Charlotte's Sustainability facilities policy so that each facility will be greener and have less of an impact as possible on the environment.

VII. Interim Manager of Operations Report

Larry Kopf

Larry reported to the committee about CATS Grant opportunities stating there is a Clean Bus Grant which CATS would use to update the bus fleet and using alternative fuel. Another grant that CATS has submitted an application for is the State of Good Repair grant which would be used to update system equipment and to upgrade current communications equipment and the AVL system along with equipment for the South Tryon garage and Hybrid electric buses.

Larry continued saying the month of May with Speed Street, the NASCAR Hall of Fame grand opening; the raceway events and the NRA convention all had very good ridership.

Marvis asked how the buses to the raceway worked out with the traffic. Larry stated there are some problems with the traffic but CATS and the raceway will need to work that out.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY AUG. 12, 2010 4:00 PM