

**TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday August 12, 2010**

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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  
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte

STAFF: Dwayne Pelfrey, Theron Barrino, Larry Kopf, Judy Dellert-O'Keef, Ramond Robinson, Duretta Weicken, Celia Gray, John Trunk, Bryan Nadolny, Phoebe Eason, John Bisser

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

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**I. Call to Order and Approval of June Meeting Summary**

Chairman Rick Sanderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The June meeting summary was approved as written.

**II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

There was no public comment.

**III. Action Item:**

**A. Transit Rules and Regulations**

**Celia Gray**

Celia Gray presented a draft update to the Transit Rules and Regulations that are due for three-year-review. Celia highlighted key changes which included the addition of Transit Fare Zones (recommended by TSAC in November, 2008 and approved by the MTC in December, 2008) and extending the list of acts prohibited on Transit Rail Platforms to riding bicycles and scooters. Celia asked the TSAC to recommend the changes with the exception of the change in 4.9 Banning. CAT'S has not yet established a banning process. TSAC voted to recommend MTC approval of the proposed changes to MTC-04 Transit Rules and Regulations with two exceptions:

1. Add "or similar recreational devices." To 4.4 bullet point
  - Skating, skateboarding, riding bicycles, scooters or similar recreational devices.
2. Don't make change to section 4.9 Banning.

Kevin Spitzmiller suggested perhaps there should be an inclusion for wheelchairs to be permitted and the riding of all other specific modes of transportation such as skateboarding is prohibited on the platform. Celia stated the 4.4 section allows customers to have them but they cannot be ridden on the platforms. Larry reminded the committee that ADA equipment can be a lot of different items and are difficult to specify since the disabled use many different types of things to accommodate their disability. CATS is trying to identify recreational vehicles that we know for sure should not be ridden on the platforms.

Rick suggested the wordage be reviewed by the legal department. Larry stated CATS would like some recommended wording on the policy to take to the MTC as they will be voting on it this month and the wordage can be reviewed by legal so the ADA rules are not compromised.

Jenifer Falls asked if Segway's are allowed on the trains. Larry answered Segway's are allowed on the train but any vehicle with flammable fluids is not allowed on any Transit vehicle. Celia added that a Segway is allowed on the train but must be secured in designated spots not blocking aisles and that any vehicle that is used for mobility for a disability can be ridden onto platforms and trains.

George Schaeffer recommended the 4.4 section of the policy be stated as skates, skating, riding bicycles or similar recreational devices are prohibited on the platforms and trains.

Rick mentioned that Segway's are rolled onto the platforms and train instead of being ridden.

Rob Cornwell asked if surveying or polling people on the platforms and trains is permitted. Larry stated polling is not allowed. Celia stated the 4.5 section prohibits begging, soliciting and panhandling on transit property.

Terry Lansdell stated that not all platforms allow bicycles the ability to ride through the Platform, one has to get off and walk across because there is less than three foot of space for cyclists to get around. Celia answered CATS is in hopes that a cyclist would know to dismount when there are large crowds on platforms. Terry stated he just wanted to make CATS aware of the lack of three feet of room for cyclist so the future expansion of the platforms can accommodate.

The committee voted unanimous to accept the revised rules and regulations with the two exceptions of the 4.4 section as a recommendation to MTC.

#### **IV. Information Item:**

##### **A. Streetcar Update**

**John Mrzygod**

John Mrzygod Engineering and Property Management (E&PM) Transit Services Program Manager presented the committee with an update on the Streetcar and Streetcar starter projects. John explained in 2009 City Council approved an eight million dollar budget to advance streetcar from 10% to 30% and that is what EPM has been working on. John continued saying the difference between the BLE and Streetcar is that streetcar is a City project and the funds for this project come from the City Capital budget verses the half cent sales tax where CATS projects are usually funded. John went on saying with the project in 30% of design and higher costs that several items were being looked at as they can take up to a third of the construction budget and the last review of the ten mile alignment was in 2006. Various stops and utilities needed to be reviewed along with the cost estimates.

Walter Horstman asked since streetcar was a City project did it involve the County budget as well. John answered no, that it is just the City's streetcar project.

Terry asked while the starter streetcar project will be using original streetcars, will future streetcar that uses overhead wires interfere with new cars.

Rick asked who will be operating the street cars. John answered saying while it is a City project, CATS will be operating the streetcars.

Jenifer asked if there will be a fare to ride the streetcar since the starter project is such a short ride. Larry Kopf stated that charging a fare has not been determined yet. Jenifer asked when the whole alignment would be completed. John answered saying completion would be determined by City Council and how they want to advance the project.

Kevin Spitzmiller asked if there had been any measures to determine the success of the Streetcar alignment so City Council can make a decision as to move forward or not. John stated Ridership and economic development will probably help to make decisions on moving forward or not.

Don Carnahan asked what the cost estimate for the 10 mile alignment would be. John stated when the project was designed in 2006 the cost was \$250 million; cost estimates for completion in 2013 are estimated at approximately \$450 million.

Jenifer asked if the yellow and green replica cars are real streetcars. John stated yes the replica cars are real vehicles that run on electric overhead wires.

Walter asked how many streetcar tracks are laid in the Elizabeth area. John answered there are two sets of track laid in the Elizabeth area.

Terry asked if the replica cars are different than the vintage cars. Larry reminded the committee that CATS restored car 85 a vintage trolley but the replica cars were built. John Muth stated the replica cars are built with all the train protection to operate safety on the rail lines.

## **B. Transit Community Update**

**John Muth**

John Muth Deputy Director of Charlotte Area Transit Systems shared a presentation to the committee that CATS has been conducting as a series of public meetings to inform the public of how transit improvements over the last decade are benefitting the community and what's planned for the future to provide greater connectivity for the region. These meetings are meant to show CATS' investors what we have achieved in the forms of operational quality and reliability as well as amenities and corridor projects.

Scott Jernigan asked how solid the date is for completion of the BLE project. John answered saying that the completion date is being challenged by the sales tax revenue and the lack of State, Local and Federal funds, but plans are to continue design and then evaluate.

Rick asked if the BLE funding would affect the expansion of the South Corridor platforms. John stated the FTA has concerns about including expansion of South Corridor platforms in the BLD project.

Terry asked if the City's air quality looks good. John stated he did not know the exact figures but that CDOT does a lot of work on the modeling that cranks out the calculations to help determine air quality. John added while CATS has kept up ridership that the weather and the amount of cars in use impacts air quality as well. Larry stated that the LYNX helps along with buses, to improve air quality.

## **V. Service Issues**

**All**

Rick stated there is a signage problem at the New Bern and East West Stations going south bound. Larry stated he would let facilities know to check it out.

Kevin stated the Arrowood station bus schedule timeframe is running late for the 7am train. Larry will look into that.

Don Carnahan stated since the reduction of funds, there have been long lines to purchase passes at the Atrium and stated he thinks there needs to be some education for the public about the hours of service there. Larry stated since job cuts at Wells Fargo there have been some problems but CATS is trying to work through it. Larry continued saying he would speak with CATS marketing about putting out a Riders Alert. George Schaeffer suggested CATS do the publicity at the Atrium as the public will pay attention to CATS more than Wells Fargo.

Anthony Wesley stated two days in a row there had been some illegal pass sales going on at the Archdale station around 2pm in the afternoon. Larry stated CATS security will look into it.

Scott stated there had been kids on the rail tracks and when he approached a security person at the atrium and asked if he could radio it in to the rail security, the security person stated no and said he would have to go down into the CTC to tell

them to radio the rail safety and security people. Larry stated he would look into that with rail security.

Scot also asked if CATS had a policy in place for riders when riding at night that a bus driver can let the rider off a bit closer to home. Larry stated there is a courtesy of Operators to drop off closer to home within reason; however newer drivers may not be familiar with this courtesy. Larry stated he would let staff know to inform new operators of this courtesy.

Terry asked that there be a curb & gutter check at the East Blvd. @ South Blvd. near the CVS as there is standing water when it rains. Larry stated he would check into it.

**VI. Chairman's Report**

**Terry Lansdell**

Terry reported on the June MTC meeting saying the committee talked about the Red Line and developed a sub-committee staffed by the Mayors and Managers of the towns.

And an update was given about CATS Fare Checks which went well and there was a discussion on transit advertising. Terry continued saying the CTC grants and bus replacements were discussed and a safety update was given.

**VII. Manager of Operations Report**

**Larry Kopf**

Larry gave the committee a copy of the end of the year ridership report pointing out CATS had a 6% decrease in ridership which is the first decrease CATS has had in twelve years.

DNC representatives were in town; CATS and other City representative gave tours and gave reasons why DNC should be here. Larry wanted the committee to know that this convention would impact the transit system should they choose Charlotte for the event. And that there is a new transit Segway policy allowing Segway's on buses for people with disabilities. Also UNCC has an interest in a new bus route that they will fully fund; the bus runs off campus where student live. The trial route will run from August through December and then UNCC will determine if they want to continue thereafter.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY SEPT. 9, 2010 4:00 PM