

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday October 14, 2010

PRESENT: Rick Sanderson, Charlotte
Walt Horstman, Matthews
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte
Christine Bryant, Huntersville
Rob Cornwell, Davidson
George Schaeffer, Charlotte
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte

STAFF: Larry Kopf, Ramond Robinson, Duretta Weicken, Judy Dellert-O'Keef,
Paul Renaud, Patrick Hoskins, Sterling Faggert, Joe Boucher

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of the September Meeting Summary

Chairman Rick Sanderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Rick introduced new member Christine Bryant appointed to represent Huntersville and presented former Huntersville representative Jenifer Falls a certificate of appreciation for her service on the committee. The September meeting summary was approved as written.

II. Chairman's Report

Terry Lansdell

Terry Lansdell TSAC Co-Chair gave the committee an update on the September MTC meeting stating the committee discussed the Transit advertising and were presented TSAC's Transit advertising recommendation. Terry stated MTC voted on Transit advertising with a 4-4 tie vote to pass advertising on transit vehicles.

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment.

IV. Action Item:

A. Service Standards

Larry Kopf

Larry Kopf CATS Chief Operations Planning Officer explained the Federal Transit Association requires transit systems to have Service Policies. CATS' current service policies that include the light rail were adopted and updated by MTC in 2007. Service Policies are review every three years and updated as the system changes. The purpose is to provide an objective basis for planning new services, evaluating existing services and to help communicate to the public in respect to why CATS can or cannot provide service. CATS' is proposing a few changes to the guidelines to remain current with today's environment. A summary of the changes include minor wording changes to improve clarity. The proposed changes are:

- 2.5 Added is "the route is performing above the average"
- 2.6 Third bullet, added reference to the MTC Financial Policies (MTC-01)
- 2.7 Deleted rail service load standard from bullet point and added a new table for "Rail Vehicle Loading Standards" at the end of the section added "if funding is available"
- 2.12 Deleted reference to CATS Historic Trolley service, CATS discontinued the service July 1, 2010.

The committee voted to accept the proposed changes to the Transit Services Guidelines (MTC-06) and recommend the changes to the MTC.

V. Information Item:

A. Countywide Transit Services Plan Update

Patrick Hoskins

Patrick Hoskins CATS Service planning presented the committee with the Countywide Transit Service Plan explaining the five year plan is used to guide CATS bus services with service adjustments and facility recommendations. CATS' is ready to update the plan for FY13 through FY-17, and is asking TSAC to give input for the five year development plan with recommendations for service.

Walt asked what the difference is between adding a trip to an existing route and extending the weekday service hours. Patrick explained adding a trip to an existing route is inserting a trip in an existing span for issues like overcrowding and extending weekday service hours is used for later in the evening or early in the morning trips.

George Schaeffer asked what neighborhood shuttles are. Patrick stated sometimes, Routes are run at reduced fares and for those routes CATS uses the 29 foot buses for the shorter routes that connect to the regular routes. Terry asked how attendance is at CATS public meetings. Patrick stated the public meetings have not had high attendance but staff has been able to go to some neighborhood meetings where there is good attendance. So far CATS has had 6 out of 22 public meetings.

B. February Service Change

Ramond Robinson

Ramond Robinson CATS Service Planning presented the committee with the February Service Change stating proposed changes are:

- 11 North Tryon – Route 11 North Tryon trips that currently terminate at Tom Hunter will be extended to Ken Hoffman Drive near the Promenade Shopping Plaza. Trips will no longer turn around on Tom Hunter, Elgywood and Arrowhead. Some trips will continue to operate to UNC-Charlotte, with others stopping at Ken Hoffman Drive.
- 34 Freedom Drive – New Sunday service will be introduced on route 34 Freedom Drive. Minor schedule adjustments will take effect on Saturday trips. Also, extra trips will be added to the weekday schedule to accommodate additional riders traveling to Phillip O’Berry.
- Additional trips are being added to Express Routes 54X University Research Park, 64X Independence and 77X North Meck. 81X Wachovia Express Shuttle - The 81X Wachovia Express Shuttle will be discontinued. Riders can use route 22 Graham Street and 54X URP Express as alternatives.

Terry Lansdell asked if route 26 changes would be regular daily service hours. Ramond stated yes.

Scott Jernigan asked if service hours would change. Ramond stated the service times may be better with the reorienting of some routes.

Ramond stated that Route 39 will be extended to service IKEA and Walmart. Terry asked if amenities would be built to accommodate the route. 39 extension. Ramond stated there are some existing parking spaces. Larry stated the Right of Way at that location is not big enough for amenities and CATS would need to encroach on Walmart property to add a shelter and so far Walmart has not been cooperative with CATS request for property use.

Larry stated one of the purposes of TSAC is to review and provide input to the proposed changes along with giving input for changes keeping in mind the tight budget.

VI. Service Issues

All

Terry asked CATS to check the exhaust on Bus 893.

George Schaeffer stated at the CTC there had been large volumes of people crossing the street from between parked cars. Mr. Schaeffer stated it seems very dangerous for the people and the bus drivers coming down the street.

Terry stated there is still construction at the Super Stop on Independence and there are a lot of potholes.

Christine Bryant stated that the trash can at the Huntersville gateway are always overflowing and wondered if they could be emptied more frequently or to add another trash can there.

Walter Horstman stated he had noticed people smoking at the CTC and wondered if most people are following the no smoking rule. Larry stated most people do follow the rule.

Anthony Wesley asked if CATS could have an announcement on the train about when the last train runs during special events. Larry stated CATS runs rider's alerts for special events.

VII. Manager of Operations Report

Larry Kopf

Larry stated after the September MTC meeting CATS was approached by a non-profit group inquiring about putting an ad on the buses. Larry explained CATS policy states there can be no non-profit ads, but if there were a part of their organization that was for profit they could advertise. Larry continued to update the committee saying Steve Keiper General Manger of CATS Bus Operations Division resigned and would be leaving by the end of November and that Dwayne Pelfrey would be the General Manager.

Larry stated CATS would be running service to the speedway this weekend for the Bank of America 500. Also CATS' had received a State of Good Repair Grant for a transit asset management system and to update equipment for CATS garage.

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