**TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Summary**

**Thursday June 9, 2011**

Present: Terry Lansdell, Charlotte

Dee Evans, Charlotte

Marvis Holliday, Van Pool

Rob Cornwell, Davidson

Anthony Wesley, Charlotte

Walter Horstman, Matthews

Staff: Duretta Weicken, Larry Kopf, Kirk Scott, Paulus Ford, Theron Barrino, Shannon Dabney, Mike Lacagnina, Patrick Hoskins, Pamela White, Chuck Juliana, John Trunk

Meeting Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order and Approval of the May Meeting Summary**

Co-Chairman Terry Lansdell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., quorum was not met to approve the May meeting summary.

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

There was no comment from the public.

**III. Information Items:**

1. **Countywide Transit Services Plan** **Patrick Hoskins/Pamela White**

Patrick Hoskins began an overview of where CATS is in the process of the Countywide Transit Services Plan. Patrick explained; the progress included the five-year bus service plan that includes service adjustments, along with the cost and implementation plan that dictates the how and when the plan goes into effect and also some capital development recommendations. Pamela White explained the proposed changes to routes 2, 8 and 34, the village riders, route 77X, Independence express routing, and routes 6, 18 and 10.

Terry asked if there will be any service to the proposed dropped loop on route 8. Pamela stated riders in that area will have access to route 1 or they can walk down to route 8 as the loop currently has about eight riders per day.

Terry asked about the loop that route 1 will utilize and stated there is a lot of construction in that area and wondered if it would affect the route 1. Pamela explained the construction will affect route 1 slightly but CATS is keeping abreast of the situation incase adjustments are required.

Walter Horstman wondered why routes 8 and 34 ran along the same route in part of the proposal; Larry stated both buses need to go in that business area because there are multiple riders there.

Terry stated there are no bike lanes or sidewalks along that route. Also there are no pedestrian accommodations across the I-85 Bridge in that area and was in hopes there would be plans to change that.

Terry stated that it is really hard for people to get beyond North Lake Mall after 6pm so when riding the Village rider wondered if people need to get two transfers to get further North to Davidson. Larry Kopf stated no transfers are needed to continue on to Davidson when riding the Village Rider because the bus changes the head sign to become the Davidson/Cornelius Route and then the bus will continue north.

Terry asked how ridership is on the Village rider corridor. Pamela stated CATS is trying to build passenger ridership in that area and there are about 10 passengers per hour. Larry stated it is a difficult area to serve and CATS is trying to improve service there.

Rob Cornwell asked if route 99 goes all the way to North Lake Mall and from North Lake Mall can a rider take route 97 to come back to Davidson. Larry answered yes.

Larry asked what is gained with the proposed changes for the people in Davidson as far as running time. Pamela White stated when riding the bus from Davidson to Uptown Charlotte it takes about 43 minutes, with the proposed split route changes riders would be on the bus for 36 minutes. As far as the North Cross route, the new travel time would be 35 minutes. Larry stated that Davidson riders would save 6 minutes with the proposed changes. Pamela answered yes.

Rob asked if the 5:25am and 5:50am buses from Davidson would still run with the proposed changes. Pamela stated the earliest bus from Davidson would be 6:00 am. Rob stated he did not think the 6:00 am bus would accommodate the riders trying to get to work in the morning and would like CATS to reconsider the proposed times.

Patrick Hoskins continued explaining the current proposal of the Independence express buses; saying route changes for the inbound would come off Independence, down 4th street turning on church to stonewall to Graham then onto the Gate Way where possibly more riders would board. Then in the PM the bus would avoid the stop at 4th and Tryon Streets and continue out College to access the highway. Walter stated very few people ride the bus around the loop in the AM. and he thought the proposed PM route would not be a problem.

Patrick went on saying for routes 6 & 18 the proposed change would be to combine the two routes for efficiency. Terry stated route 18 really got hurt when the weekend service was cut and agreed combining the two routes would be good.

Walter stated it looked like the proposed route 6 & 18 run the same way.

Patrick stated the 6 & 18 would alternate trips.

Patrick stated there would be minor changes to route 10 as well.

Larry stated that CATS staff is still working on this proposal and wanted input from the TSAC committee to help CATS provide better service to customers as CATS staffs continue to finalize the proposal and the proposal will be an action item for TSAC at the October meeting.

1. Safety & Security update **John Trunk**

John Trunk CATS Transit Support Services Manager gave a brief update to the Committee about the May 28th Speedstreet event and was available to answer any questions from the committee regarding publicized stories about the Transit Center during Speedstreet. John reported there were approximately 31,000 people at the Speedstreet event this year with an increase in ridership on rail and bus. John explained CATS provides extra security and crowd control measures during special events.

Marvis Holliday asked how curfew is enforced during special events. John stated CMPD handles curfew enforcement.

Walter suggested limiting under age riders after curfew time. John stated it would be hard to limit underage riders that come down town earlier in the evening before curfew. Larry stated it would not be fair to ask the drivers to enforce limited ridership for curfew and it may not be legal for CATS to do that as well.

Terry asked if there was a spike in ridership after 1AM during Speedstreet. John stated no, that it seemed people were leaving earlier than the last scheduled train.

Terry asked how CATS secures the Transit Center during special events. John stated CATS uses bike racks to close off the entrance and several generator lights are used to help maintain security.

**IV.** **Service Issues All**

Terry stated he was not clear about how the bus for route 99 ran on Sam Furr Rd. Larry explained the bus for route 99 does not go all the way to Davidson as route 99 but it stops near the library and changes its sign to read route 97 then the bus will continue north.

**V. Chairman’s Report**  **Terry Lansdell**

Terry gave report of last month’s MTC meeting saying that State representative Secretary Conti was at the meeting to report about the transportation funding for the BLE. Also there was a report about STS-two service being at capacity and whether ADA requirements could still be met.

Terry continued saying there was an action Item about the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) grant revised to require Board approval, a motion was approved to allow CATS to receive a matching grant. Also the committee CATS has identified NC grant money for environment and Natural Resources that may fund half of a recycling program along the rail line. And there was discussion from CATS CEO on the sales tax issues.

**VI.** **CATS Manager of Operations Report Larry Kopf**

Larry reported that CATS Budget was adopted by MTC and City Council. Also mentioned was there would be no raises for City Staff however if there is savings this year the City is looking to give a 1% lump sum raise for staff next year. Larry continued saying there was a new service to Matthews/ Mint Hill route 94 service to the elderly in that area. Larry also stated that service started on route 29 UNCC and route 60 Tyvola all of which are funded from a 5310 grant which is a grant designed to help provide transportation to the elderly and disabled.

Terry reminded the committee there will be no July meeting and if any of the committee members has input for the Independence Corridor project they could still send comments to Ramond Robinson via email or letter.

Next TSAC Meeting: Thursday August 11, 2011 4:00 pm