

**TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday March 14, 2013.**

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**PRESENT:**

D. Evans, Charlotte  
Rick Sanderson, Charlotte  
Rob Cornwell, Davidson  
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte  
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte  
Marvis Holliday, Van Pool  
George Schaeffer, Charlotte  
Walter Horstman, Matthews  
Jean Veatch, Davidson

**STAFF:** Duretta Weicken, Paulus Ford, Theron Barrino, Larry Kopf, Pamela White, Judy Dellert-OKeef, Brian Horton, John Fitzgibbon, Dee Pereira, Olaf Kinard, Ben Gomez, Robert Cerrato

***Meeting Time 4:00-5:30 PM***

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

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

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

There were no comments from the public.

**III. Information Item**

**A. CEO of CATS Update**

Carolyn Flowers CATS CEO gave an update of the state of CATS regarding Major initiatives for the past year and where CATS is heading. Ms. Flowers reviewed the BLE and the BLE financing plan. Ms. Flowers continued saying there is now a MTC Transit Funding Working Group of 27 members from business, community and elected leaders that will develop a set of financing and funding mechanisms to

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continue to advance the 2035 Transit plan, then the recommendations will go to MTC in mid spring. Ms. Flowers continued with the Bus/Rail advertising stating a new ordinance will allow advertising at the LYNX station starting late summer this year and in addition possible revenue vending machines at platforms.

Marvis Holliday stated with all the controversy about the alcohol ads on buses, what is CATS doing with those issues. Carolyn stated there is advertising on the local buses but there will be no alcohol ads on the circular routes going through neighborhoods. Also there will not be alcohol advertising on the rail platforms but there will be on the rail cars.

Terry Lansdell asked when CATS would renegotiate the advertising contract. Olaf Kinard stated the advertising contract would be renegotiated in 2016.

Terry asked on the legislative change from the reimbursement structure to the 25 million dollars a year, did that happen last year. Carolyn stated as they were going through the budget process the last two years, in 2011 the BLE was taken out of the budget totally, then with a lot of support from businesses and the chamber, it was restored to the budget, then in the 2012 budget process, BLE was taken out again so the compromise was that CATS already had a signed contract with the Board of Transportation for the Federal Full Funding Grant stating that the BLE would continue to be supported but not supporting any other transit project coming out of the state, then a resolution was passed stating they are eliminating transit projects having a special new starts program and all future transit projects will have to go through the MPO and will have to be put into the STIP. This all means they will honor the Blue Line and it will be funded this way instead of on a reimbursement basis.

Terry asked if CATS is asking for new changes this year. Carolyn stated no that CATS is trying to stay in place and are not going to lobby for any additional projects at this time.

Rick asked if CATS knows what the additional increase interest payments would be because of the \$25 million a year versus the reimbursement plan. Carolyn stated the additional interest will be \$36 million which has to be taken out of the project reserve so that means if there are any unforeseen expenses, that is \$36 million that will not be able to be spent on the project.

Jean Veatch asked if taking out of the reserve will change after CATS meets with the rating agency. Carolyn stated CATS has to show that it has the capacity to take on the additional debt so CATS has to lock down that money to cover the interest.

#### IV. Action Item:

##### A. June Service Change

Pamela White CATS Service Planning gave an update on the proposed June service change before the committee voted to recommend the June service change to MTC. Pamela stated some things have changed since the presentation last month. Public meetings produced good feedback for the following changes, with the Rt. 9 to extend Sunday service, Rt. 23 to extend service to Albemarle Rd. Park & Ride, Rt. 29 to realign to Sharon Amity Rd., and to extend Rt. 222 Albemarle Park & Ride via Sharon Amity And the new service Rt. 51 Pineville Matthews Rd. Pamela continued saying Rt. 94 will be discontinued due to low performance, Rts. 18 & 20 will be consolidated with Rt.20 unchanged between Uptown & Queens Rd. Pamela stated the Independence Corridor will be under construction in June but buses will still stop at the stops along Independence until the NCDOT says CATS cannot stop there any longer and at that point signs will be pulled.

Walter Horstman asked when the Independence corridor doesn't allow buses to stop any longer, will the buses running the new routes be for time savings and will it improve the OTP. Pamela stated the buses will still make the Independence stops that they currently are making until NCDOT tells us we cannot stop there anymore. However CATS did not reduce the time as we believe with the additional traffic and construction it may slow things down along the way. Walter stated there are a lot of school students and apartments around the Village Lake stop that ride the bus. Pamela stated CATS will be mindful of bus stops and scheduling in that area.

Terry asked for the names of the consolidated routes on the June service change. Pamela stated Rt.6 Metropolitan and Rt.6 Kings Dr. and the consolidated Rts.18 & 20 is going to be Route 20 Sharon Rd.

Terry asked what the frequency will be for the Rt.6 and Rt.20. Pamela stated 20 minutes for Rt. 6 and 30 minutes for Rt.20 until 7Pm and then every hour.

The committee voted and approved the June service change as is it is written.

## **V. Service Issues**

D Evans stated the bus stop at Presbyterian Hospital in Matthews needs benches and wondered if that would be possible. Larry Kopf stated he would do an analysis and look into that stop.

George Schaeffer complimented the bus operators on their skills to avoid accidents when drivers do crazy moves to get ahead of the buses.

Jean Veatch stated she and other riders were a bit confused by a survey that had been handed to them to turn in at the end of their ride. Judy Dellert-OKeef stated this is the 2013 Origin Destination survey the first of a series of surveys to be done through April.

Walter stated there are signage issues during DNC in the uptown and now some of the pretty uptown signs are old and faded others just don't apply to any routes now. Pamela stated it is true signage was now accurate but the route changes were on rider's alerts and not on stops. Larry stated CATS will look at the old and faded uptown signs.

Rob Cornwell asked if speeds of CATS buses are tracked. Larry stated CATS is able to track speeds by bus play back and can try to figure out the speed by looking at point A to point B to track times between and do that if there is a complaint.

George Schaeffer asked the committee if they felt it necessary to continue to have printed copies of the meeting presentations since it is on the overhead for viewing per meeting. The committee agreed that only an agenda is necessary. Larry stated we will just have a few handouts for those that want them from now on.

## **VI. Chairman's Report**

Rick stated MTC reviewed the financing plan for the BLE with controversy the financing will be brought back to MTC this month. Rick also stated the Transit Funding Working Group would welcome any ideas from the committee members on ways to finance the system. Rick stated due to conference room issues, the next MTC meeting is Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Mint Hill Assembly Hall, in Mint Hill. Rick asked the committee if they wanted to take any CATS facilities tours this year to let him know.

## **VII. Manager of Operations Report**

Larry Kopf CATS Manger of Operations reported CATS staffing changes for BOD saying Kirk Scott is the new General Manager of BOD and Ben Gomez is interim Assistant General Manager until April 8<sup>th</sup> when Tom Reynolds will come to be the Assistant General Manager. Larry continued saying the bus bridge for the Poindexter crossing has been going well and the last bus bridge will be April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Also Larry wanted the committee to know that the Bus Maintenance Rodeo will be March 23 and the Bus Rodeo will be March 30<sup>th</sup> at the South Tryon at Shopton Road location if members wanted to go.

***NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2013 4:00 PM***