

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday August 14, 2014

PRESENT:

Rick Sanderson, Charlotte
D. Evans Charlotte
Christine Bryant, Huntersville
George Schaeffer, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
Mike Warner, Charlotte
James Hilsman, Charlotte
Walter Horstman, Matthews
Rob Cornwell, Davidson
Jean Veatch, Cornelius

STAFF: Pamela White, Paulus Ford, Tom Reynolds, Debra Franklin

Meeting Time 4:00-5:30 PM

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

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

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no one from the public to give comment.

III. Action Items:

A. October Service Change

Pamela White Manager of Service Development explained the October service change is to improve on time performance and to meet the needs of the public. Pamela reported that Routes 29 & 55 will be adjusted to help the on time performance.

Route 1 is growing so CATS is making an outbound service adjustment going to Walmart the goal is to stream line the neighborhood to accommodate the need of the public. Route 3 CCPC CATO Campus has construction, Route 11 Southbound lane of traffic on South Tryon will be closed for Bridge work so the route will be re-routed to Institute Circle. Routes 14, 15, 39 will be re-routed because of the streetcar construction when Kings Drive is closed. For Route 51 CMS has requested CATS extend bus service to CPCC middle college so students can travel to the campus. This proposed route change will be one trip in the morning and one trip in the afternoon fully funded by CMS.

D. Evans asked if the Route 1 would still be going through the neighborhood. Pamela stated the base route buses will still go through the neighborhood.

Walter Horstman asked about the route 1 and 1C. Larry stated the route will run every 20 minutes with one bus once an hour that will run to the Walmart. Walter stated so that mean the route will run three buses into the neighborhood and then one bus goes to the Walmart. Larry stated yes. Pamela stated the extension of the route to Walmart was made possible by a grant.

Jean Veatch asked if the route to Goodwill opportunity campus was a running from a current route off of Wilkerson Blvd. Pamela stated CATS is working with Walmart to establish a stop on their property as part of the Sprinter route.

James Hillsman asked when route 14 & 15 are towards Presbyterian Hospital on Elizabeth and the at the second stop it makes a right turn and a left turn on Charlotte Town why can't the bus stop be at the corner. Pamela stated as part of the current detour the safety team thought it best to keep the stop where it is to allow the bus to clear that corner and then have enough time to get over to make the left turn.

Rick Sanderson stated the proposed services changes were also an action item for the committee to vote to recommend to MTC. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposed October service changes to MTC.

IV. Information Item:

A. CATS Year End Report

Larry Kopf CATS Chief Operations Planning Officer and Manager of Bus Operations presented the CATS yearend report explaining CATS targets are for the Balance Score Card that goes to the City Manager office. Larry explained the goals from the

beginning of the fiscal year and what the results were for the end of the fiscal year. Each member received a copy of the 2014 Targets and results.

Mike Warner asked how rail achieved \$211.44 EOY result when the goal was \$324.00. Larry stated that he would get the answer and relay it at a later time.

Jean asked who is targeted in the Wellness target. Larry stated employees are targeted in the wellness target to help bring down insurance costs.

Jean asked if the targets of the current year are used to structure the next year targets. Larry stated some targets stay the same but there are new ones as well.

Rob Cornwell asked how Idling is tracked. Larry stated it is a diagnostic on the engine of the buses.

B. Ridership

Pamela White stated ridership is one of the most important measures used to determine how well CATS is doing. FY14 was challenging in many aspects so the purpose of this presentation is to take a look at the ridership and see what the challenges were or why CATS encountered some of those challenges. CATS overall ridership was down 2% from the previous year. Like most transit systems the top 10 routes represent about 45% of the ridership and Charlotte is not different. Pamela reviewed CATS top ten routes and explained that Construction & weather related days caused significant challenges to ridership. Larry stated also sometimes ridership loss is out of CATS control with losses due to our partners with tight budgets.

V. Service Issues

Walter wondered if Ballantyne would have more of a need for transit in their area. Larry stated that businesses like Metlife is getting more and more employees and the route CATS has in Ballantyne is doing ok at this time but CATS is speaking with Ballantyne officials to look at alternative roadways to try and improve the route to make it more convenient for riders.

VI. Chairman's Report

Rick reported on the June MTC meeting saying there was discussion on the Redline Task Force. Also MTC decided to not meet again until September.

Scott asked the committee if anyone had a meeting topic to let the agenda setting committee know.

Jean stated she would like to be informed about the continuing effort of the multi modal connectors throughout the city. Larry stated there is a concept called Last Mile First Mile and that he would see about getting a presentation for TSAC.

Mike Warner suggested the Complete Street concepts. Larry stated there is a Complete Street concept and he would look into having someone come to speak about that.

Christine Bryant asked Larry to continue to pass along any Red line news when it is available.

VII. Manager of Operation Report

Larry reported that the Outlet Mall on Steel Creek opened July 31 and the Route 55 Westinghouse was extended to service the Outlet Mall. Also there is an emergency transit drill scheduled for August 24. It's a training exercise with Police, Fire and other emergency agencies. And there is some construction on the rail line for the weekend of August 23 & 24th CATS will have a bus bridge in place to accommodate riders. Larry also reported on the sales tax saying CATS was challenged for FY 2014 with a 2 million dollar deficit to what was budgeted. But June came in a million over so CATS is still a million dollars down for the year. However CATS saw the trend early on and monitored expenses and still met budget for FY 2014.

Rob Cornwell asked how the toll road on I-77 will work with the buses. Larry stated CATS will be able to use the lanes so if you ride the bus you do not have to pay the toll.

Next TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2014