

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

October 24, 2012

Presiding: Mayor John Woods (Davidson)

Present: Curt Walton (Charlotte City Manager)
Hugh Wrigley (CTAG Co-Chair)
Rick Sanderson (TSAC Chair)
Bobbie Shields (Mecklenburg Assistant County Manager)
John Collett (NCDOT Representative)
Anthony Roberts (Cornelius Town Manager)
Mayor Jill Swain (Huntersville)
Mayor Jim Taylor (Matthews)
Bill Thunberg (Mooresville Representative)

Chief Executive Officer: John Muth, CATS Deputy Director, for Carolyn Flowers

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by MTC's Vice Chair, Mayor John Woods.

II. Review of Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of September 26, 2012 was approved as written.

III. Transit Services Advisory Committee (TSAC) Chair's Report

Rick Sanderson

Mr. Sanderson reported that TSAC met on October 11. Staff provided information on the LYNX Blue Line Extension's (BLE) station area plans and the upcoming February service change. The next TSAC meeting will be Thursday, November 8.

IV. Citizens Transit Advisory Group (CTAG) Chair's Report

Hugh Wrigley

Mayor Woods reported that Hugh Wrigley is the new Co-Chair of CTAG. Mr. Wrigley reported that CTAG met on October 16. Members received an update from Carolyn Flowers on current activities. Members also set dates for budget review meetings.

V. Red Line Task Force Update

John Woods

Mayor Woods reported that the Red Line Task Force met prior to this meeting. Paul Worley from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) gave a short presentation on negotiations for the rail capacity transportation study being created with Norfolk Southern (NS) on the O-line. Scoping is projected to be completed at the end of 2012; the team hopes to complete the project by the end of 2013. Mark Briggs from Parsons Brinckerhoff, who has assisted with financial planning, reported on a meeting he has had with a group of developers along the North Line. He will also meet with one of the developers of a major development at the northern terminus of the line in Mt. Mourne, the Langtree Development Group. The Charlotte Gateway Station Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process continues Friday morning with a meeting to interview the two finalists for the Public Private Partnership.

VI. Public Comments

Christopher McMillan said that as a blind person, he wanted to commend CATS on the very accessible CATS app for the iPad, which informs him about trains and buses. He also commended CATS on attaining the BLE's Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) so in the next five years, he will have a train to assist him. His concern was with the potential \$600,000 revenue decrease from advertising. If advertising and revenue are lost due to the City Council's efforts, the quality of the system will continue to deteriorate. He urged MTC members to fight for revenues and maintain existing levels of transportation, and to move forward with the BLE.

VII. Action Items

a. Advertising Review

Olaf Kinard

Mayor Swain reported that she and fellow MTC member Mr. Collett met with Charlotte City Council Members LaWana Mayfield and Claire Fallon, along with CATS staff, to discuss the current transit financial situation and why the decision was made on transit advertising. Charlotte City Council had expressed concern about the addition of alcohol advertising. The meeting's consensus was to work with the advertising agency to exclude alcohol advertising from the small buses that run through fragile neighborhoods if there are no financial ramifications. Council Members and Mayor Foxx took that consensus agreement to Charlotte City Council who agreed with the solution.

Discussion: Mr. Walton thanked Mayor Swain for taking her time to share the information with Charlotte City Council Members, and MTC members for their patience in working toward something the Charlotte City Council can be comfortable with. Mayor Swain noted that sometimes it is important to sit down and listen. She appreciated that Charlotte City Council was responsive. Mayor Woods noted that he saw heads nodding in favor of the solution. CATS staff was instructed to move forward to implement the solution.

VIII. Information Items

None.

IX. Chief Executive Officer's Report

John Muth

Under the CEO's report, Mr. Muth discussed the following:

a. BLE:

Mr. Muth reported that last week, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff came to Charlotte to sign the federal Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the BLE. This important milestone locks in the 50% federal share of the funding. The state FFGA has already been signed.

Discussion: None.

X. Other Business

None.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. by Mayor Woods.

NEXT MTC MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012, 5:30 P.M.