

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday January 8, 2009

PRESENT: PAUL EDMUNDS, DAVIDSON
Jenifer Falls, Huntersville
D Evans, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
Don Carnahan, Cornelius
Linda Newton, Charlotte
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte

STAFF: Keith Parker, Vida Covington, Jim Zingale, Duretta Weicken, Dwayne Pelfrey,
Chuck Juliana, Larry Kopf, Don Ivey, Theron Barrino, Pamela White, Ramond
Robinson, Megan Huff

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of December Meeting Summary

Chairman Paul Edmunds called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There was not a quorum to approve the December meeting summary.

II. Citizen Comment

Gary Learner had concerns with the proposed changes to Route 29.

Eric Setzer had concerns for Route 29 proposed changes.

Karen Warner had concerns about the Gold Rush service changes.

Mr. Michael Morgan had interest about service to Concord Mills, opposed changes to Route 29 & Route 30 to South Park & Scaleybark and future service from Rosa Parks to UNCC.

Charles Strickland expressed concerns about having better service to Ballantyne Village and to have night bus service from the light rail station to Ballantyne.

III. Information Items:

A. Proposed Service Adjustments

Larry Kopf

Larry Kopf reminded the committee that CATS is funded by the half cent sales tax and with the down trend of the economy it has created a budget shortfall, making the proposed service changes necessary. Mr. Kopf mentioned there were several public meetings and review of public comment. He then discussed the proposed changes to bus services.

Mr. Kopf continued saying that Lynx service frequency would be adjusted during peak times to 10 minute headways and Sunday headways would be 20 minutes.

Paul Edmunds asked if there was any feedback from express riders on the discontinuing service of the uptown loop and if the Gold Rush would get people to the CTC. Mr. Kopf stated there had been mixed reviews about the service change to the loop and that walking to the CTC was a better option than using the Gold Rush. Paul stated service change to the uptown loop was a change for him but it was not difficult walking 1-3 blocks to catch the bus. The important thing to remember is to keep service where service is vital to riders so if walking 2-3 blocks enables service in those areas that is what we need to do.

Mr. Edmunds asked with the million dollar shortfall to the budget, where does CATS need to make further cuts and where do we stand with that. Mr. Kopf stated the changes CATS proposed helped to stay within the budget goal and to have less impact to our riders. CATS will know more after the changes go into effect.

Mr. Edmunds suggested that the Route 82X (Rock Hill) terminate at the I-485 station and riders continue their trip to uptown on the train, has CATS considered this? Mr. Kopf stated CATS is looking into that but the drawback is the increase to travel times and most customers are against that.

Mr. Edmunds asked if Route 29 remains in peak hours will there be a schedule change. Larry stated yes Route 29 will operate every fifty minutes until 8pm.

Don Carnahan asked if the Route 77X running mid day will go to North Lake Mall. Mr. Kopf stated no, Route 99 from Huntersville comes to North Lake Mall and Route 7 serves the mall. Mr. Carnahan asked if there would be any adjustments to the schedule as the stop at the CTC gets backed up when so many express buses stop there. Mr. Kopf stated CATS would look at that.

Jenifer Falls asked if 77 X Saturday service would be dropped. Mr. Kopf answered yes.

Paul Edmunds asked if the stops for the Village Rider had been worked out. Mr. Kopf stated the stops have been established.

Jim Zingale asked if there were other cuts to the Gold Rush service. Mr. Kopf stated there are proposed changes to the Red Line not running after 6pm and not going into the Double Tree stop and riders would walk out to Trade Street where the Gold Rush would also be routed to go past the area.

Mr. Edmunds asked how firm the proposed changes were. Mr. Kopf stated there may be some minor changes but no major changes can be made as CATS needs to meet the March deadline. Mr. Edmunds asked if CATS service changes would remain on the

same yearly schedule after March. Mr. Kopf stated yes the next change would be in June.

IV. Action Item:

A. Proposed Service Adjustments

Quorum was met during the first half of the meeting and Scott Jernigan made the motion that TSAC recommend CATS proceed with the proposed service changes to the MTC. The motion carries that CATS proceed to MTC with the planning and implementation of the proposed changes, subject to some clarifications as the services are further evaluated.

B. Pending Grand Awards

Vida Covington

Vida Covington reminded the committee of grant funds available to CATS to pass through to nonprofit agencies for improving employment related transportation and to assist people with disabilities trying to get to work. CATS conducted a Call for Projects and received six proposals of which four were recommended for funding. The four agencies recommended were Charlotte Housing Authority, United Family Services, Disability Rights and Resources (formerly Programs for Accessible Living, Inc.) and Metrolina Association for the Blind. These agencies will go to CTAG and the MTC as an information site. The City Council would have to approve to the City entering into contracts with these four agencies to start services and access funds.

Paul Edmunds asked that a list of the applicants receiving grant monies be distributed to TSAC.

D Evans asked when grant funds would be available to agencies again. Ms. Covington stated there have been other funds appropriated to CATS from the Federal Government and the selection process for those monies would most likely be available in the spring of 2009.

Mr. Edmunds asked if the project from Metrolina Association for the Blind would be for CATS or a different service. Ms. Covington answered that their project is for an escort type service for the blind and to hire a sensitivity trainer for operators with CATS.

C. Service Change Issues:

Don Carnahan stated the 77X stop at Exit 23 at 7:22am bus let someone off the bus where there is not a stop. Jim Zingale stated CATS is clear about the stops and asked Larry Kopf to check into this. Paul Edmunds suggested a refresher course on policy and stops.

Anthony Wesley stated there was a lot of trash at the Woodlawn and East/West stops. Jim Zingale stated CATS would check into that.

Paul Edmunds asked if the outbound trips for the 77X had plans for formal stops at Jackson Street and Depot Street in Davidson. Larry Kopf stated CATS will need to look at that but that CATS works with the Town of Davidson to establish stops. And that he would get an answer at a later date.

V. Chairman's Report

Paul Edmunds

The chairman stated Barry Dodd would be leaving the committee this month and that D. Evans has been elected to serve on the committee for the next three years. Also Linda Newton's term has expired and leaves the committee this month. A new member would be selected by the City Council in February.

VI. Chief Operating Officer's Report

Jim Zingale

Mr. Zingale stated the State announced Gene Conti as the new Director of Transportation. . As far as stimulus packages from the Federal side there has not been any decisions but CATS has submitted many proposals.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2009 4:00 PM