**TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Summary**

**Thursday May 12, 2011**

Present: Rick Sanderson, Charlotte

Dee Evans, Charlotte

Terry Lansdell, Charlotte

Scott Jernigan, Charlotte

George Schaeffer, Charlotte

Hilary Broadway, Cornelius

Marvis Holliday, Van Pool

Christine Bryant, Huntersville

Rob Cornwell, Davidson

Anthony Wesley, Charlotte

Staff: Duretta Weicken, Larry Kopf, Kirk Scott, Paulus Ford, Judy Dellert-OKeef, Ramond Robinson, Glennie Holland, Shannon Dabney, Gary Lee, Timothy Gibbs,

Meeting Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

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

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

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

Peggy Washington made comment to the STS not utilizing the buses in drop off and pick up of riders. She as an approved STS rider has not been able to get a bus to her home for a ride to work and did not understand if a bus was in the area why it could not pick her up as well. Larry Kopf stated he would check into the issue and referred Ms. Washington to Shannon Dabney of STS to assist with possibly resolving the issue.

**III. Information Items:**

1. **Independence Roadway Project**

Tim Gibbs of CDOT presented the committee with the NCDOT improvement plans for US 74/ Albemarle Rd to Conference Dr. Tim explained the gradual improvements to US 74 from 1980 to future 2015 when the U209 US74/ Albemarle Rd to Conference Dr. project is expected to be completed. Tim also explained future project U2509, six additional miles from Conference Dr. to I-485 and other plans for the corridor will include a new twenty-one mile toll road called Monroe Parkway from I-485 to Marshville.

Larry Kopf asked Tim to explain the Conference Drive fly over for buses and how the route is going to be changed. Larry stated currently the Matthews express comes down Monroe Rd. turns right onto Conference Dr. and swings through the Park N Ride then makes a left turn at that corner of Conference and Independence. Tim stated the express bus will have to go across Independence to a ramp at Conference and Idlewild that will take the bus back onto Independence. In reverse the bus can access the lot directly from Independence.

Larry asked what the timelines would be for the hot lanes.

Tim stated the City is currently doing further study of independence to consider the corridor with hot lanes.

George Schaeffer asked if hot lanes have worked in other cities. Tim stated yes, Orange County California has implemented the lanes and Atlanta will implement lanes starting this August, Miami, Florida has had lanes since last fall and Washington is considering some lanes on the Capital belt way.

Christine Bryant asked if the hot lanes would have the easy pass system. Tim stated plans are to use an easy pass system that will also work with other state systems.

Marvis Holiday asked if the Monroe Parkway/Marshville project was associated with the plans for a new highway to the beach. Tim stated yes.

Anthony Wesley asked if the US74 improvement project has priority over the light rail project to the University area. Tim stated the US 74 improvement and the light rail project have different funding sources.

Terry Lansdell asked if the U209 project would incorporate pedestrian bike access on the major/minor thorough fares. Tim answered the City has allocated wider sidewalks and bike lanes into the project.

Terry asked if moats or continuous bus ways would exist in the independence project as they have in past projects. Brian Horton addressed moats saying the plan is to develop more street connections under and over Independence so there won’t be any interchange conflicts.

1. **Urban, Land Institute Study**

Alysia Osborne principal planner with the Planning department and the project manager for the Independence boulevard area plan and Brian Horton Transportation Planner of CDOT spoke to the committee about long term plans for the Independence corridor and how those plans will help to expedite Rapid Transit plans along that corridor. Alysia spoke about the Urban Land fellowship program. Brian explained the ULI general observations of the corridor, area plans, challenges and concluding thoughts for the corridor during the Urban Land Institute study.

1. **Independence Corridor Service**

Ramond Robinson CATS planner explained the proposed Independence Corridor service plans while the corridor is under construction. Ramond reviewed the routes affected and explained the proposed bus route changes for Routes 17,27,221, 222, 64X and 65X.

Scott Jernigan asked if the proposed changes had to do with the longer term project. Ramond stated the proposed changes are during the construction of Albemarle Rd to Conference Dr. Project but will also have interaction with future plans.

George stated riders cannot board buses along Independence during construction. Ramond stated yes.

Terry asked if there were three park n ride lots along route 27 and is there opportunity to expand those lots. Ramond stated there are two park n rides along this part of the corridor and there may be some opportunity to acquire more spaces.

George asked if Route 27 will pick up a large volume of riders that comes off the changed route17. Ramond stated route 27 will pick up some riders around Sardis road and then CATS will have an in between route to help with volumes. Larry stated CATS is still trying to determine where riders are getting on the bus route.

Scott asked how full the buses are going outbound on Monroe road.

Ramond stated there are seven or eight full loads on buses on outbound Monroe road.

Dee Evans asked how long the park n ride would still be at the BJ’s lot since the business has closed. Larry stated when CATS does not own the property where there are park n rides it is unknown how long the park n ride space will be available for CATS to use.

Ramond then asked the committee for any ideas or input that may better serve the public on the proposed routes during the construction time. Because of time restraints the committee was asked to email Ramond any thoughts concerning the routes involved during construction.

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

Due to time restraints for this meeting, Rick asked the committee members to email any service issues to Larry Kopf.

**V. Chairman’s Report**  **Rick Sanderson**

Rick gave report of last month’s MTC meeting saying the committee approved the proposed Reduction of Discount Fares as recommended from TSAC to reduce the discount percent to 20% for the ETC program and to not reduce the discount percent to the Non-Profit organizations. Rick continued saying the MTC approved CATS FY12-13 budget and the Capital Fy12-16 budget.

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

Larry reminded the committee that Speed Street will take place the end of May and that there would be new detours of streets during this year’s event. Larry encouraged committee members to remind other riders of the detours and that there will be more train services and more parking at the I-485 station this year. Larry also informed the committee that the 80X Concord Park n Ride would no longer be available at the end of May due to a new business owner.

Next TSAC Meeting: Thursday June 9, 2011 4:00 pm