**TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Summary**

**Thursday August 11, 2011**

Present: Rick Sanderson, Charlotte

Terry Lansdell, Charlotte

Dee Evans, Charlotte

Marvis Holliday, Van Pool

Hilary Broadway, Davidson

George Schaeffer, Charlotte

Anthony Wesley, Charlotte

Michael Warner, Charlotte

Staff: Duretta Weicken, Larry Kopf, Kirk Scott, Paulus Ford, Theron Barrino, Shannon Dabney, Pamela White, Ramond Robinson, John Trunk, Vince Brown, Chris Bauer, Gary Lee, Eric Hershberger

Meeting Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order and Approval of the May and June Meeting Summaries**

Chairman Rick Sanderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., the May and June meeting summaries were approved as written. Rick then introduced new member Michael Warner.

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

There was no public comment.

**lll**. **Action Item:**

1. October Service Change

Ramond Robinson CATS Service Planning presented the proposed October service changes to the committee for endorsement.

Ramond reported the following changes.

#9- will operate to the new park & ride (Feb. Change)

#11- will have additional runtime to alleviate bunching

#14- will have additional 3 minutes run-time between Elizabeth & CTC

#22- adjusts running time

#27- additional runtime on 8:05am trips leaving Target

#54x Adjust inbound pm trip for connection to Gateway

#57 will add a trip at night

#21- routing change/schedule change

#26- routing change

#34- adjusts Ashley/Alleghany trips. Late night service for workforce

#43- Saturday service

#61x- extend to Woodard center

#74x- Union County Express (reduce trips)

#80x- Concord Express (Park & Ride change)

#94- Matthews- Mint Hill Village Rider (update timetable)

UNCC Service- starts August 22

Gold Rush Orange Line- Starts August 15

Terry Lansdell asked on Rt. 21 what the time of day would the service change be. Ramond stated the schedule would be the same as it is today only the last part will have a different name.

George Schaeffer asked if there are other routes that have special trips that might confuse people that are looking at a schedule. Ramond stated there is a special trip on Rt.34 and people that ride do have an understanding of the special trips and the 61x special trip is only two trips per day.

Terry asked how the special trips are represented on the schedule maps. Ramond answered special trips will be represented in the map format on the schedules and in some instances there are notes on the schedule indicating the special trips.

Rick asked if the schedules will show the whole route with the special route part. Ramond stated the whole route will be shown and where the special routing comes in it will be like two routes together with notes on the schedule.

Terry asked if a rider gets on at the Woodard Center will they be paying full price for the trip uptown. Ramond stated at that point in the route the trip is a reverse and a person would just pay the regular bus fare.

D. Evans asked if there were future plans for funding the route after the JARC grant money runs out. Ramond stated when grant money runs out the route should have produced enough ridership to sustain the route. Larry Kopf stated CATS will evaluate the route at the end of grant funding and will determine whether to continue the route at that point.

Rick asked if the proposed October service changes go to MTC for approval. Larry stated only major changes to routes are taken to MTC.

Terry asked where bunching happens on Rt. 11. Ramond stated the bunching was caused by the construction on this route and CATS is adjusting times to keep that from happening. Terry stated route 11 has high ridership, are there any bus stops amenities along the alignment. Ramond stated there are several bus stops along the alignment but there is street maintenance along the road and easement space is limited along Sugarcreek road and buying easement is very expensive.

Chairman called for a motion on the October Service changes, it was moved to endorse the October service changes minus route 9 the October Service change minus Rt. 9 was approved by vote.

Olaf Kinard spoke to the committee stating that CATS has not received any information about the DNC or any information on the CTC being affected by the DNC in anyway.

**IV. Information Items:**

1. Center City Access Study Charlotte Gateway Station Update

Chris Bauer (CATS Development) presented the results and key recommendations of the Center City Access/Charlotte Gateway Station Study, which evaluated strategies for integration/optimization of CATS Charlotte Transportation Center (CTC) bus operations with transit services to be phased-in to link with and serve the future Charlotte Gateway Station (CGS). The major focus of the study was to provide an understanding of how center city transit services could be affected and enhanced to optimize integration with the NCDOT’s planned CGS and attendant future transit services. The City is partnering with the NCDOT to plan, build and execute this additional transit hub in Uptown Charlotte.  NCDOT’s current strategy is construction of future station will likely result from a public private partnership, and will be part of a larger master planned development. As NCDOT continues its process and deliberations over the timing of requesting qualifications for a “master developer”, NCDOT staff has requested CATS provide them with programming, proximities, and operational elements for future bus operations at CGS. The study made recommendations for strategies to phase implementation of the planned CGS to offer immediate system benefits and to accommodate future services, while maintaining or improving the level of service for existing riders.  The study also Identify strengths and weaknesses in current CTC operations to apply what is learned to planned CGS, while minimizing overall increase in operational costs.  The study was not conducted to provide a design or architectural vision for the future CGS, as it is assumed this will emerge during the master developer partnership design process.

Rick asked if the schedule for the gateway project had been revised and asked if the project was a NCDOT rail project. Chris stated the project was scheduled for late summer requests for qualification from Master developers but the project is currently on hold by NCDOT and the project is a NCDOT rail project.

Terry asked if project is keeping in mind to facilitate pedestrian mobility between roads. Chris stated it is broadly spoken during the planning phase and will be considered more in the design phase.

1. FY 2011Yearend Financial Highlights

Eric Hershberger addressed the committee stating for the FY2011 CATS closed with a $5 million budget savings. He explained the various ways CATS saved and explained how Sales Tax, operating Assistance, Interest income and fuel cost affected the overall budget. Eric ended saying FY11 was a very challenging financial year with competition for limited resources yet CATS maintained its core services with no reduction in the workforce and how financial policies objectives were met and exceeded, resulting in a yearend fund balance of $112 million.

Rick asked what the goal was for preventable accidents on the bus side. Larry answered saying CATS goal was .5 per one hundred thousand which is very good and rakes Charlotte as one of the safest systems in the country.

Terry asked what the fuel budget was for FY12. Eric stated CATS current budget is 250 but right now CATS paying a little more.

Terry asked if CATS was getting new buses this year. Larry answered CATS had just gotten 11 and will receive 6 hybrids later this year.

Rick asked Olaf how the fleet advertising was doing. Olaf reported that Titan secured contracts that are equal to what the first years guaranteed to. CATS’ has not gotten paid yet but the secured contracts means CATS breaks even for the year.

Rick asked if the contracted ads are for bus or rail. Olaf stated the ads are for the rail right now.

Rick asked if the kinks were out of the Blackberry apps. Olaf stated that the blackberry may go to just text as it works better.

**V.** **Service Issues All**

Terry stated bus 620 needs the exhaust checked, bus 534 has a windshield leak and bus 915 rear digital sign is not working.

George stated that the air conditioning on the buses has been working very well this summer.

Marvis Holliday stated he had noticed the bus that goes down West blvd. has been hugging the center line while going down the street and car are unable to pass. Larry asked Marvis to get the bus number and time of day so CATS staff can look into the issue.

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

Rick stated there was no MTC meeting in July and announced to the committee that member Scott Jernigan had been transferred out of town and would no longer be on the committee. Rick then asked Terry to give a recap of the June MTC meeting. Terry stated the June MTC had a Redline update and discussed the security issues that occurred during the Memorial Day activities in uptown.

**VIl.**  **CATS Manager of Operations Report Larry Kopf**

Larry stated that the new Davidson Street Garage had a dedication ceremony Stating other divisions would move into the facility a little later as CATS figures out the bus parking configuration. Larry stated CATS has applied for grants for the State of Good repair in hopes of using the money to acquire a new fare system, Clean Fuels grant and two TIGGER grants to help with the expansion of the platforms on the South line to accommodate three car trains from the BLE. Larry continued saying For BOD negotiations on the Union contract and the Countywide Transit Service Plan is about half way through as CATS takes the plan out to public and other meetings.

Next TSAC Meeting: Thursday September 8, 2011 4:00 pm