

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday October 13, 2011

PRESENT: Rick Sanderson, Charlotte
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Christine Bryant, Huntersville
Dee Evans, Charlotte
Marvis Holliday, Van Pool
George Schaeffer, Charlotte
Anthony Wesley, Charlotte
Rob Cornwell, Davidson
Walter Horstman. Matthews
Michael Warner, Charlotte

STAFF: Duretta Weicken, Larry Kopf, Kirk Scott, Theron Barrino, Shannon Dabney,

MEETING TIME: 4:00-5:30 PM

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

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

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment.

III. Information Items

A. Countywide Transit Service Plan Update

Pamela White CATS Planner reviewed the route proposals for the final stages of the Countywide Transit Services Plan (CTSP) FY2013-FY2017 as an information item to TSAC. Pamela stated the proposal will then be an action item for recommendation to MTC in November. Pamela then presented the CTSP proposal which includes service adjustments, recommendations for services, and cost of an implementation plan as well as Capital plans and

projects. Pamela stated if TSAC has any feedback from the proposed five year plan, CATS will take that feedback look and see if any marks were missed then bring the final report back to TSAC in November and then to MTC in December and hopefully for adoption in January.

Terry Lansdell stated in the Toddville area there are no sidewalks and there are a few apartment complexes in the area and wondered if Route 1 would be able to service the area in the future years. Pamela answered yes that CATS has gone out to assess and will continue to assess the area for future needs and CATS believes route 1 will be a sufficient service with the restructuring of the route.

Terry asked what will be lost or gained by the route 34 changes. Pamela stated it is believed the route will gain ridership because the customers like a direct trip uptown which route 34 provides. Terry asked if the Route 1 frequency would remain the same. Pamela answered yes.

Terry asked what route picks up the North Idlewild loop. Pamela answered CATS is proposing Route 23 will pick up that loop.

Walter Horstman asked if the Sprinter goes past down town or if it just goes to the Gateway Center then is it going out central Ave and farm Pond lane. Larry Kopf stated CATS is considering this Sprinter service for a layover at the Gateway.

Rick asked if the route was being called a Sprinter it may confuse riders since they are use to the Sprinter bus to the airport. Larry stated Sprinter is a brand name for a service type and it makes fewer stops, it is a limited stop service. Walter asked if the fare is the same as a local service for the Sprinter service. Larry answered yes. The committee discussed the need to make it clear to riders about the Sprinter services. Larry agreed.

Terry stated the amenities for the Village Riders is very weak in design, with poor vision for pickup and there is a lot of work needed to be done in the area along with time points for the Village Riders need to be worked on.

Terry asked in regards to the proposed park and rides, what properties are owned by CATS. Pamela answered CATS is in hopes of having several public, private partnerships for the park & ride lots. Larry stated funds for the proposed park and rides have not been identified but in the next five years, CATS will have opportunity to apply for grants that will help supply funding for some of the park and rides.

Anthony asked if it had been considered to have a Sprinter service from the Southside of town to uptown and then to the airport. Pamela stated not a

Sprinter service but CATS has looked at providing a service from the South area to the airport but found that from if riding from Woodlawn station to uptown then to the airport that it took a shorter amount of time compared to a route from the Southside out to the airport. It was discovered that the distance, the time it took and ridership demand, just didn't justify the route.

Terry stated he may have a problem with the terminus points for the 7 & 7s. Larry stated the proposed time points are the same as today's time points.

Terry asked if there were any plans to improve the route 10 amenities. Pamela stated Staff is working with CDOT which is planning a new street in the area that would allow service there.

Walter asked when the proposed schedule would be implemented. Larry stated as soon as the proposed schedules are adopted by MTC.

IV. Service Issues

Christine Bryant stated that route 20 is consistently late during the 8:12-8:42 am time frame. Larry stated he would check into it.

George Schaeffer stated that routes 61X & 62X when going south bound, near Fairview there are three stops that are close together and wanted to know if it has been considered to have only two stops in that area. Larry stated he will look into those stops.

Anthony Wesley stated since he reported the loud music on trains, that there has been improvement.

Dee Evans reported an accessibility problem along the Independence corridor by the IHOP stating people trying to get to the stop have to cross a ditch and the stop is very close to the highway making it dangerous for any riders. Larry stated the situation is difficult because of the major highway which NCDOT has but that CATS will access the stops and recommend any need for any improvements to NCDOT.

Walter Horstman asked where the number is for a bus stop. As Walter would like to report a stop as being dangerous since several people have stumbled over a hump in the road when unloading and wondered if the driver could pull up a bit to avoid the hump. Larry stated each stop has a five digit number near the top of the sign on the poll and suggested the customer ask the driver to pull up a little and to lower the bus at this stop.

Michael Warner reported that bus number 624 has a terrible squeaking problem and needs some greasing.

Terry reported that the light signs on the back of buses number 1013 & 557 are not working so it makes it very difficult for a person to know what bus went by and how long they will need to wait for the next bus. Terry also reported the display sign at the CTC has not been working for about a week.

V. Chairman's Report

Rick reported at the MTC there was a Federal Transportation update stating the full funded grant agreement is expected in the third quarter of 2012. The Redline taskforce gave a presentation stating the line is now called the North Corridor Redline Rail project that will have passenger and freight rail. There was a presentation by the Urban Land Institute giving an update on plans for the Southeast Corridor. And for the Redline project it is expected that NCDOT will take the lead roll with negotiations and Norfolk Southern railroad.

VI. CATS Manager of Operations Report

Larry Kopf reported because there has been a lot of interest from businesses wanting to advertise on CATS buses MTC has approved that advertising will now be available on the Sprinter and Gold Rush vehicles. Larry continued saying the yellow barriers that were being tested at the rail stations for the visually impaired and handicapped will now be on all the rail platforms. The yellow barriers are provided for needed protection to customers to keep them from falling between rail cars when boarding and departing the trains. Larry reported that ridership is up for September and the on time performance for the system was down. CATS is trying to work on that and. Also CATS is working to reduce rear end collisions involving buses by installing yellow flashing lights that engage when the bus is stopping so drivers will be alerted and will hopefully reduce rear end collisions.

Christina asked if there were any thoughts on having more ads on the inside of buses. Larry stated there are no high tech signs but the buses do have the paper ads inside, but most businesses want the ads on the outside to reach more people.

Marvis Holliday asked if there is ridership a ridership report that shows how ridership is during home games. Larry stated yes there is a report showing that ridership and that he will get the information for next meeting.

NEXT TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2011 4:00 PM