



Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority  
1735 Morris Avenue · Post Office Box 10212 · Birmingham,

**Report to the Board  
Finance Committee**

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chairman Walter Jones, at 9:10 a.m. in the Executive Briefing Room, located at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

**Members Present:** Walter Jones and Chris Lewis

**Members Absent:** Guin Robinson

**Others Present:** William Copling, Jacquese Gary, Barbara Lawson, Chris Leffert, Jesse Lewis, Richard Nardecchia, Ken Simon, and Collina Washington

**Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by general consent.

**Items for Information and/or Discussion**

Financial Report

Richard Nardecchia, Chief Financial Officer, reported that as of April 30, 2009, assets were \$31,367,420.96 while total liabilities were \$11,446,468.29. The Income Statement details year to date revenues of \$17,359,334.70 and expenses of \$16,191,070.55 resulting in a difference of \$1,168,264.15. The total cash and cash equivalents were \$6,156,447.90 of which \$6,129,933.11 was the balance in the operating and money market accounts. Total overall variance with the budget is a positive \$2,792,324.98.

Mr. Nardecchia also directed the Committee's attention to page 19 of the Committee packet and noted that the Pass Through Grant Funding has been added to the financial report, per the request of Doris Powell.

Review Budget

Chris Lewis inquired about the Beer Tax and Mr. Nardecchia replied that monthly amounts received should increase as the summer months approach. The total allocated for the BJCTA is \$2,000,000.

### Superstops/Hubs

Mr. Lewis shared that an email was received from Congressman Artur Davis' office regarding the BJCTA proposal. The proposal has passed their evaluation and is being submitted to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I), the federal funding committee. The total cost of the superstops is \$4.5 million; the T&I is considering funding \$3.6 million (80%); the BJCTA will need to provide \$900,000 (20%). The superstop project was also selected by the community and business leaders that attended the Stakeholders Committee on May 18, 2009, to try to make it a success. Walter Jones asked if there was any action to be taken by the Committee and Mr. Lewis replied that it was just for discussion at this time.

### **Resolutions for Consideration & Recommendation - None**

### **Old Business – None**

### **New Business –**

Mr. Lewis mentioned one recommendation that came from the May 2009 Board Retreat was for the Finance Committee move forward with a funding request for strategic planning and for the Board to withhold all financial decisions in regards to stimulus money until such time that a strategic plan is in place, based upon an agreement by all Board members of what should be the priorities. The money would then be spent accordingly to what the strategic plan dictates. William Copling, Interim Executive Director, mentioned there were time constraints for the stimulus fund application. Chris Leffert, Grants & Revenue Officer, stated that he had to submit the BJCTA application by June 15, 2009.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Leffert if he could make a presentation at the upcoming Board meeting on all the projects that the BJCTA was planning to submit. Mr. Leffert replied that the application could include any transit related capital projects and the BJCTA was guaranteed \$8.7 million, as long as the application is submitted timely. Mr. Jones then asked how the projects were being prioritized. Mr. Copling responded there was a plan submitted for the purchase of fourteen (14) buses but that it was his recommendation to purchase twenty (20) buses. Mr. Lewis questioned which funds would be used for the maintenance repairs for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Facility, if all the stimulus funds were to be used for the buses. Mr. Copling replied \$1.425 million from the Federal Transit Administration; and the software upgrades would come from the \$1.7 million from the City of Birmingham. Mr. Leffert informed the Committee that the \$1.425 was restricted for the purchase of vehicles. Mr. Lewis referred to the language in the contract with the City of Birmingham and stated that the BJCTA should be careful as to the expenditures because the Birmingham mayor and councilors believe that the funds are being strictly used for the purchase of paratransit vehicles. Dr. Jesse Lewis, The Lewis Group, confirmed this to be correct. Mr. Lewis confirmed with Mr. Leffert that the \$8.7 million would have the flexibility to fund the maintenance repairs to the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Facility. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Copling if it would now be his recommendation to spend part of the \$8.7 toward the maintenance repairs. He responded that in light of learning the restrictions, he would put together a new plan. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Leffert to be in

attendance at the next Board meeting to address any known restrictions from the funding resources.

Mr. Lewis announced that the resolution to form the Commission on Public Transportation has passed the House and Senate. This resolution for state dedicated funding is now waiting the governor's signature. In conjunction, he said the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) Conference would be the best opportunity to network with a full slate of officials across the State of Alabama. Mr. Lewis thought it prudent for the Board to participate and let people know that their support is needed for state dedicated funding.

Mr. Lewis asked Dr. Lewis if it were feasible to hold a town hall meeting on June 1, 2009, so that the community could have input as to how the stimulus funds should be spent. He responded positively and suggested the meeting be held at 10:30 a.m., at the BJCTA.

Mr. Lewis made motion to request \$3,000 to hold a Strategic Planning Retreat; it was seconded by Mr. Jones; and forwarded to the full Board for its consideration.

Mr. Lewis made motion to hold a town hall meeting at 10:30 a.m., on June 1, 2009; it was seconded by Mr. Jones; and forwarded to the full Board for its consideration.

Mr. Lewis made motion that the Board participate in the BCA Conference to be held July 31-August 2, 2009, at The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama; it was seconded by Mr. Jones; and forwarded to the full Board for its consideration.

Mr. Jones asked for verification as to whether or not the Occupational Tax would have any impact on the BJCTA. Mr. Leffert replied that it could only affect the BJCTA Jury Shuttle.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Lawson, Administrative Assistant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Walter Jones, Committee Chairman