



Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Opening: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chris Lewis, at 12:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room, located at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

Members Present: Brian Hamilton, Walter Jones, Johnnye P. Lassiter, Chris Lewis, Ronald Lyas, Doris Powell, Guin Robinson, and Rev. Patrick Sellers

Members Absent: Frank Galloway, Jr.

Others Present: Charles Ball, Debra Anderson-Burse, Anna Brown, Chris Bolling, Joseph Bryant, Sheila Chaffiu, Butch Ferrell, William Foisy, Jacquese Gary, Judy Gordon, Christy Grier, Darrell Howard, Jason E. Joseph, Eddie Laird, Barbara Lawson, Chris Leffert, Dr. Jesse Lewis, Tracy Lewis, Carmen Mays, LaTanya Millhouse, Richard Nardecchia, Wytangy Peak, Harhonda Pinkney, Kevin Owen, Nicholas Porterfield, Steve Roberson, Joi Scott, Ken Simon, Carletta Singleton, Jasmine Sledge, Collina Washington, Brandon Wilson, and Greg Wingo

A moment of silence was observed.

Rev. Patrick Sellers led the assembly in the recitation of the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: The minutes were adopted by general consent.

In-town Transit Partnership (ITP) Resolution

Charles Ball, Executive Director, Regional Planning Commission (RPC) of Greater Birmingham, and other key players involved in the ITP project were available to address questions of the BJCTA Board members. Topics discussed were related to supporting documentation of the resolution that would assist in making an informed decision, names of other entities that are supporting the project, and funding for operational costs after the initial three years. Mr. Ball agreed to afford the Board and all partners an opportunity to read the grant application before its submission. Doug Brewer, Mayor of the City of Graysville and Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairman, committed Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds toward the long range of funding.

Should this application be awarded, Chris Lewis suggested a public service announcement be made to address the transit master plan and a schedule of implementation. The announcement should also include communication to the general

public regarding the proposed superstops/hubs and the express bus service projects, also pending the funding award of these projects.

Mr. Robinson asked that the Board leave the order of the agenda and moved the motion that the ITP Resolution come before a vote; it was seconded by Ms. Powell and approved by general consent.

Resolution No. 2009-30 - In Support of a Grant Application Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the In-town Transit Partnership Bus Rapid Transit System was moved by Guin Robinson and seconded by Doris Powell. Mr. Lewis requested a roll call vote which resulted in eight (8) ayes from Brian Hamilton, Walter Jones, Johnnye P. Lassiter, Chris Lewis, Ronald Lyas, Doris Powell, Guin Robinson, and Rev. Patrick Sellers. Resolution No. 2009-30 was approved by unanimous consent.

Mr. Lewis requested that William Copling, Interim Executive Director, and Dr. Jesse Lewis of The Lewis Group work with Mr. Ball in developing and reporting a cost estimate for a comprehensive transit marketing plan.

In the interest of time, Walter Jones moved the motion that the committee reports, as noted in the Board packet, be accepted as read; it was seconded by Doris Powell and approved by general consent.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Lewis provided a written report to the Board summarizing the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) Governmental Affairs Conference recently attended by Mr. Jones and Mr. Lewis. Highlights mentioned from the report were:

- Discussions held with Neal Wade, Executive Director of Alabama Development Office, and Bill Taylor, Executive Director of Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, regarding their support of state funding for transit; a follow-up meeting will be scheduled.
- Discussions held with Randy Wilhelm, Interim Executive Director of the Green Jobs Alliance of Alabama and Jim Folsom, Lt. Governor of the State of Alabama, regarding the future development of transit.
- A request made to Billy Canary, Executive Director of BCA, to add transit to the 2011 legislative agenda of BCA.
- A meeting held with Terry Kellogg, Sr., Vice President at Blue Cross, to discuss their needs for transit and their support of future transit development; a follow-up meeting will be scheduled.
- A meeting held with Arthur Payne, State Representative-District #44, of Trussville regarding his apparent hesitation to support past transit efforts; a follow-up meeting to hear his ideas for transit will be scheduled.

Mr. Lewis concluded the travel report with a recommendation for the entire Board be present at future BCA conferences to continue building relationships with the business and governmental communities, especially for state and local transit.

In regards to the annual election of Board officers, Mr. Lewis announced that this year's Nominating Committee is comprised of members Johnnye P. Lassiter, Doris Powell, and Guin Robinson, chairing.

Interim Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Copling reported:

- Mayor Larry Langford, City of Birmingham, advised that there is possibly an additional \$4.2 million that could be designated for transit in the FY 2010 budget. Mr. Copling is working on a proposal for a short line route within the city limits of Birmingham for use of the funds to present to the mayor.
- There will be a meeting next week with members of Alagasco regarding land available for the ITP project, possibly for use of vehicle maintenance and storage.
- The City of Hoover has been provided with two alternative plans for service reduction.
- The City of Center Point's new service plan will go into effect September 14, 2009.
- Applications have been accepted for the Manager of Planning position and interviews will soon be conducted. Darrell Howard, Principal Transportation Planner of the RPC, has been invited to participate in the interview process.

Mr. Lewis referred to the reported reduction in number of ridership, the dollar bill machines being inoperative in fare boxes, the number of fixed route buses down, the number of limited VIP vehicles, and the overtime hours that have continued at similar rates as past months. He considered whether any of these items mentioned factored into the number of ridership being down. Mr. Copling responded that the problems that buses were experiencing dealt with engines, transmissions, and rear end failures.

In response to Rev. Patrick Sellers' question regarding the procurement of buses, Mr. Copling responded that there has been preliminary research on the Foton bus and the matter will go back to the Finance Committee for further discussion. Brian Hamilton requested that legal counsel continue to work with staff to ensure that the procurement process with LAMetro complies with Alabama state law.

Johnnye P. Lassiter referred to the renovations of the 8th Avenue Facility. Mr. Hamilton stated that the schedule of renovations should coincide with the arrival of buses and made a recommendation that the Program Development Committee assist in the process. Mr. Lewis requested that procurement inquire into a partial delivery of buses in a six-month period and Collina Washington, Procurement Manager, agreed to do this.

Ms. Lassiter requested information regarding a visit to the NABI facility. Mr. Copling replied that at the appropriate time, a visit will be scheduled; however, the BJCTA does not want to give any appearance of preferential treatment to NABI while the Request for Proposal (RFP) was in process. He commented that the next step is to ensure that legal has an opportunity to review and approve the procurement process.

Mr. Robinson requested a specific plan to reduce overtime be prepared in writing from staff and presented at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Copling reported that there were no responders to the initial RFP for the purchase of the thirty (30) paratransit vehicles. Another RFP will be sent out this day.

Resolutions for Consideration –

Resolution No. 2009-24 - Revised Drug and Alcohol Policy was moved by Brian Hamilton, seconded by Johnnye P. Lassiter, and approved by general consent.

Resolution No. 2009-31 – Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Enter into Memoranda of Understanding with Participating Municipalities and Governmental Entities was moved by Rev. Patrick Sellers, seconded by Brian Hamilton, and approved by general consent, with changes requested on the accompanying policy Payment by Municipalities and Governmental Entities for Transit Services Provided by the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority.

Joi Scott, Legal Counsel, explained that the policy was drafted to set guidelines when a municipality does not submit timely payment. The policy works hand-in-hand with the Memo of Understanding that allows a municipality and the Authority to know and agree upon the services to be provided and the responsibilities of payment.

Old Business –

Travel

Rev. Sellers referred to the moratorium on travel and commented that it limits the Authority and excludes staff from being able to attend needed training workshops.

Update on the Search for An Executive Director

Ms. Powell reported that she had not received information recently in regards to this matter.

New Business – None

Public Comment –

Anna Brown, a transit dependent rider, expressed concerns and gave examples of buses being pulled from their fixed routes to serve the UAB contract. Mr. Lewis requested a written report to the Board from staff by Friday of this week in regards to the matter.

The **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:43 p.m. The next **Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors** will be held **Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 12:00 PM** at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, AL.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Lawson, Administrative Assistant

Date: _____

Approved by:

Chris Lewis, Chairman

Attest:

Rev. Patrick Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer