

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of March 18, 2005**

Members Present: Chairperson Atwell, Secretary/Treasurer Donna Treloar, Elizabeth Forest, and Andy Havice

Members Absent: Vice Chairperson Fricke and Reuben Richardson

City Commission Liaison: Hannah McKinney (absent)

Technical Committee Member Present: William Schomisch, Transportation Director

City Administration Member Present: Carmine Lewis, Administration & Planning Manager
Heather L. Stiver, Administrative Support Specialist

Guests: Michele McGowen, DRC/TAG
Jennifer Messena
Don Milbeck
Curtis Morris

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Atwell called the regular meeting of the Transit Authority Board of Directors to order at 8:18 a.m.

CITY COMMISSION/CITY MANAGER ITEMS

February 28 – Merger Agreement

Transportation Director Schomisch informed the Board that it was a very friendly and cooperative meeting and reported that the meeting was very well attended. He stated that Chairperson Atwell, Vice Chairperson Fricke, and Mr. Richardson were at the meeting.

Chairperson Atwell stated that it was a very historic meeting, and that it was interesting to see the two bodies of government interact.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Chairperson Atwell stated that Secretary/Treasurer Treloar was expected; therefore, he requested Transportation Director Schomisch to report on the Discussion Items until she arrived.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Adult Punch Pass

Transportation Director Schomisch informed the Board that Goodwill Industries had approached staff about the Adult 25 punch pass for low-income individuals.

He explained that staff informed staff of Goodwill that the program was designed for individuals and not agencies to purchase. However, staff was willing to make available an Adult 10 punch pass for \$12.50 for six months. He emphasized that this 10 punch adult pass would be made available to everyone, and not just agencies.

Ms. Forest stated that she thought it was a good idea because it would be more manageable for people who did not need the Adult 25 punch pass.

DTC/ITC Project Update

Transportation Director Schomisch informed the Board that construction activity was scheduled to begin on April 4.

Transportation Director Schomisch stated that the fencing would be placed around the construction site and signs would be posted redirecting customers as it related to parking during the first few weeks in April. He indicated that the Groundbreaking Ceremony would be scheduled after construction began because he did not want that event to conflict with the ceremony that was already scheduled for the Airport on April 15.

Transportation Director Schomisch conveyed to the Board that Indian Trails had indicated that they may not be a partner at the new Kalamazoo Transportation Center. He stated that there was a meeting scheduled on March 28, in Lansing with MDOT officials and Indian Trails to discuss whether Indian Trails was staying or not.

He stated that if they did decide to leave, that State officials would rescind almost \$2 million of the \$3 million that was reserved as inter-city funding for the project. He assured the Board that there would still be receipt of rail funds due to Amtrak, and that the congressional earmark would fill the gap of \$2 million.

Transportation Director Schomisch stated that the backup plan would be to request additional funding from Washington for the Bus Replacement Program. He stated that the potential departure of Greyhound and Indian Trails would not delay the project and that there would not be any changes made to the interior design of facility because the actual amount that could be saved was minimal.

Chairperson Atwell asked who would receive the \$2 million that MDOT would take back. Transportation Director Schomisch responded that those funds would be placed back in the State pool.

Mr. Havice asked what was going on with Greyhound. Transportation Director Schomisch

responded that they were allowing Indian Trails to take the lead.

Ms. Forest requested clarification on inter – and intra-city buses. Transportation Director Schomisch responded inter-city buses were buses that provided service between cities – Greyhound and Indian Trails, and that intra-city buses was Kalamazoo Metro Transit buses.

Ms. Forest asked where would Indian Trails go. Transportation Director Schomisch responded that they wanted to be near the highway (I-94). He stated that Indian Trails felt that if they had access to a station on I-94, it would serve their purpose better because they were always complaining about being located downtown.

Chairperson Atwell stated that his interactions with other systems indicated that this was a common issue across the country.

Secretary/Treasurer Treloar arrived at 8:34 a.m.

INFORMATION ITEM

Bus Advertising Contract Update

Transportation Director Schomisch informed the Board that only one bid was received.

He reported that it had not been determined whether to award the bid to the sole bidder or rebid the contract after changes were made to the specifications.

Chairperson Atwell stated that he recalled during the budget deliberations that City Administration had emphasized it would look at every possible revenue option.

Ms. Forest suggested approaching DKI to place an add for local downtown advertising. Transportation Director Schomisch responded that it was a possibility and that the premise was to use an outside vendor to seek solicitation because there was not enough staffing available to perform the work in-house. He stated that it was a standard across the country to have a 50/50 split on the revenue. He expressed his disappointment in the receipt of competitive bids.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Atwell informed the Board that both Vice Chairperson Fricke and Mr. Richardson had

conveyed that they would not be attending the meeting.

Chairperson Atwell requested a motion to excuse the absences of Vice Chairperson Fricke and Mr. Richardson.

Ms. Forest made a motion to excuse the absence of Vice Chairperson Fricke, and was supported by Secretary/Treasurer Treloar. Motion passed.

Mr. Havice made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Richardson, and was supported by Mr. Havice. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2005

The minutes of the Transit Authority Board of Directors regular meeting of February 25, 2005, were presented to the Board for their consideration.

There were no changes or corrections made.

Secretary/Treasurer Treloar made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, and was supported by Mr. Havice. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement for February 2005

Transportation Director Schomisch reported operating expenses came in at \$829,746, which was an increase of \$48,383 or plus 6.19% when compared to February 2004, due to diesel fuel, operating expenses for the ITC Facility that was now part of KMT, and the new ADA contract rates.

Transportation Director Schomisch reported operating revenues came in at \$134,606, which was an increase of \$20,294 or plus 17.75% when compared to February 2004, primarily due to the fare increase and ITC revenues.

Ms. Forest made a motion to accept the Income and Expense Statement for February 2005, and was supported by Secretary/Treasurer Treloar. Motion carried unanimously.

Ridership Analysis Report for February 2005

Transportation Director Schomisch reported there were 290,955 rides in February 2005, which was

a decrease of 7.43% or minus 23,262 passengers when compared to the same month in 2004.

Transportation Director Schomisch reported that the productivity for the month was 27.72, which continued to be above the goal of 22 passengers per service hour for 2005.

Transportation Director Schomisch reported that the ridership for Metro Van had 2,879 passengers in February 2005, which was an increase of 505 passengers or plus 21.27% when compared to February 2004.

Transportation Director Schomisch stated that the route changes that went into affect in August 2004 were now influencing ridership data. He stated that he was not overly concerned.

Transportation Director Schomisch highlighted the information for WMU routes and pointed out the reduction in ridership, and yet productivity increased. He stated that WMU had once again requested spring/summer service on Route #25 – Parkview.

Transportation Director Schomisch informed the Board that the Route Committee would begin meeting to review all the routes for potential changes that would occur in August 2005.

Chairperson Atwell asked if ridership variance was caused by route changes versus due to the fare increase. Transportation Director Schomisch responded yes. He stated that the 10,000-ride decrease at WMU resulted in an overall decrease of only 5% for the month of February.

Ms. Forest stated that the ridership appeared to be stabilizing.

Ms. Forest asked if staff was proactive in approaching companies; i.e., Pfizer. Transportation Director Schomisch responded yes.

Mr. Havice made a motion to accept the Ridership Analysis Report of February 2005, and was supported by Secretary/Treasurer Treloar. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

APTA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ON MARCH 5 – 9, 2005

Chairperson Atwell stated that he observed a high regard of professionalism and respect for

Transportation Director Schomisch from his colleagues across the country. He commended Transportation Director Schomisch on the success of the system.

Chairperson Atwell conveyed to the Board that the Amalgamated Transit Union was holding their annual conference simultaneously with the Legislative Conference. He reported that ATU – Local 1093 President Martin Stone, Transportation Director Schomisch, and he met with Congressman Upton regarding the Kalamazoo Metro Transit System as it related to its successes, funding concerns, and capital projects, especially the DTC/ITC Project. He stated that it was a good mix of representation to Congressman Upton and that the views came from a citizen, board member, management, and union official.

Transportation Director Schomisch stated that the widening of I-94 was a priority for Congressman Upton.

Transportation Director reminded the Board that for FY2006, the State match would only be 13.9% versus the current 20% State match.

Chairperson Atwell expressed his displeasure at having to go back to Congressman Upton and ask for more money because the rules had changed. He stated that as the funding decreased, the small/rural systems may have to shut down.

Transportation Director Schomisch stated that both the Governor and MDOT Director Gloria Jeff were very sensitive to the matter, and that they had requested that Michigan have a donor State status. He indicated that there was lots of political pressure from Congress on the State.

Secretary/Treasurer Treloar asked if the federal match would decrease because the State match would be. Transportation Director Schomisch responded no, and that they would continue to receive the 80% federal match unless informed otherwise, but that the System would have to make up the 6.1% difference.

Merger of KMTS/CAV Update

Transportation Director Schomisch informed the Board that ridership was being maintained, and that to date there had been no complaints.

Transportation Director Schomisch commended staff and the transfer of the two county employees – CAV Coordinator Laurie Doering and CAV Scheduler Dawn Anderson – for their assistance during the transitional phase.

Ms. Forest asked what impact the merger had on the Board. Transportation Director Schomisch responded that at this time there was no impact to the Board. He informed the Board that the ADA LAC membership would increase by three new representatives to ensure representation from the Kalamazoo County rural service area, Kalamazoo County, and another position from the Senior

Community.

Transportation Director Schomisch stated that the current contracts with Transportation Management, Incorporated and Senior Services, Incorporated were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2005. He stated that staff would review the specifications to see if it would be possible to combine a contract for both Metro Van and Care-A-Van, which could provide some cost savings.

Transportation Director Schomisch reminded the Board that there was to be a countywide transit authority board established by December 31, 2005, and a countywide millage request was to be placed on the ballot in November 2007. He emphasized to the Board that if the millage did not pass in November 2007, that Metro Transit System still had another year before the KMTS millage expired and the current Board would continue to exist.

Chairperson Atwell stated that from his personal view that it would be difficult for a countywide millage to pass because of areas that had low population density. He indicated that it would be very challenging for a County Commissioner to tell an area that they had to pay a transit millage tax, but they would not be receiving any bus service.

Transportation Director Schomisch reminded the Board of the establishment of a Transit Oversight Committee, as outlined in the Merger Agreement. He stated that the representation from the County had been selected – County Administrator Don Gilmer, Deputy County Administrator Peter Battani, County Commissioner/Vice Chairperson Dan McGlenn, and Char Sumney. He indicated that the City had not finalized its selection, but to date Mayor Jones, Vice Mayor McKinney, and Dennis Durham had been selected.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Federal/State Funding Update

Chairperson Atwell informed the Board that he had read on-line that the Senate could have trumped the request for \$319 billion over six years. He reminded the Board that the current reauthorization was scheduled to expire on May 31, 2005. He stated that there seemed to be a sense of impatience to pass the reauthorization bill and not extend again, and that it was fair to say that both the House and Senate were comfortable in indicating that there would be something adopted by mid summer.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES/CONCERNS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Compliment to KMTS

Mr. Morris conveyed his appreciation and compliments to staff for the Care-A-Van service that was now under the City. He stated that the service was awesome from day one of the merger.

Wheelchair Lift/Ramp Incident Report

Transportation Director Schomisch highlighted the February 2005 Report indicating that there had only been one wheelchair lift/ramp failure out of the 367 times that the wheelchair lifts/ramps was used.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their formal meeting dated March 18, 2005, Chairperson Atwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting , and was supported by Secretary/Treasurer Treloar.

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Heather L. Stiver, Recording Secretary

Date: 27 May 2005