

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of July 23, 2007**

Members Present: Chairperson Carol Fricke, Garrylee McCormick, Michael Gregor, and Andy Havice

Members Absent: Vice Chair Donna Treloar, Elizabeth Forest and Reuben Richardson

City Commission Liaison: Bobby Hopewell, Vice Mayor (Absent)

Technical Support Members Present: William Schomisch, Transportation Director

City Administration Member Present: Beth A. Sowles, Administrative Office Specialist

Guests: Richard Atwell, KCTA Chair, Paul Ecklund, Jack McKempson, Linda Teeter, Diane Kempen, Terry Kuseske, Greg Rosine, and Char Sumney, KCTA Board
Dale Hein, KCTA Project Manager
Baiba Stepe, Western Michigan University
Bob Miller, Western Michigan University

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fricke called the regular meeting of the Transit Authority Board of Directors to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Fricke requested a motion to excuse the absences of Vice Chair Donna Treloar, Ms. Elizabeth Forest and Mr. Reuben Richardson.

Mr. Havice made a motion to excuse the absences of Vice Chair Donna Treloar, Ms. Elizabeth Forest and Mr. Richardson and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Board members introduced themselves to the guests in attendance.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Added to Discussion Items: Safety Audit by Michigan Insurance Pool

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGNEDA ITEMS

None

ISSUES/ITEMS FOR CITY MANAGER/CITY COMMISSION

The Transportation Director identified the items that had been to the City Commission, as identified on the Agenda.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the City Commission approved the one-year contract with WMU, the one-year contract with The Pointe, and the 2007 MDOT Ridesharing Contract.

Mr. Gregor inquired as to what the Ridesharing Grant is. Mr. Schomisch explained that it helps fund the position at Metro Transit that provides information on the ridesharing opportunities in Kalamazoo and surrounding areas. A copy of our last quarterly report to MDOT regarding our ridesharing program will be provided to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2007

The minutes were accepted with no changes.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2007, as presented and was supported by Mr. Gregor. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement – June 2007

Mr. Schomisch presented the Income and Expense Report for June 2007. Highlighted was the fact that the System experienced a slight increase in both expenses and revenues due to the operations of the Kalamazoo Transportation Center and the commissions the Department collects as the agent of Indian Trails and Greyhound.

Mr. Gregor made a motion to approve the April and May 2007 Income and Expense Statements and was supported by Mr. McCormick.

Mr. Havice asked why Townships no longer contribute to the budget. Mr. Schomisch explained that the KCTA millage replaced jurisdictional shares.

Public Comment

None

Motion carried unanimously.

Ridership Analysis Report – June 2007

Mr. Schomisch presented the June Ridership Analysis Report. Mr. Schomisch reported that the fixed route service had a 13.9% increase over last June. Also stated was that Customer Service has had an increase in calls from individuals stating they are first time users of the System. Productivity has also improved by almost 5%. Only three routes showed a decline in productivity. The three new Portage routes have had a total of 10,553 trips since that service began. Metro Van ridership also increased almost 10%. Care-A-Van declined by 5.5% overall. This was anticipated due to KAA students no longer being transported from Three Rivers as part of Care-A-Van's rural service.

Mr. Gregor made a motion to approve the April and May 2007 Ridership Analysis Reports and was supported by Mr. McCormick.

Mr. Havice asked if the Route #2 – Portage was having to turn passengers away due to the 64% increase of trips on that route. Mr. Schomisch stated that no passengers have been turned away. Mr. Havice also asked if the Route #28 – Shaver bus would improve on passenger trips provided. Mr. Schomisch stated that the KCTA Chair, Mr. Richard Atwell, has asked if a marketing program can be implemented for the three new Portage routes.

Chair Fricke inquired as to whether the decrease in Care-A-Van riders was due to the expansion of the Metro Van service area with the implementation of the three new Portage routes. Mr. Schomisch indicated he did not believe so.

Public Comment

None

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Recommendation for Millage Renewal

Chair introduced the Committee's recommendation for the Millage renewal. Mr. Schomisch stated that the Resolution includes the ballot language. TAB approval is necessary so that the Resolution can be given to the Kalamazoo City Commission for their concurrence on the one mill; one-year recommendation.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the Committee felt strongly that staying with the 1 mil for one year was the right action to take due to promises made during the KCTA millage campaign. The millage will be for funding the operation of Metro Transit services in the City of Kalamazoo through 2008.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the Finance Committee's Recommendation for Millage Renewal and was supported by Mr. Gregor.

Mr. Havice asked why the request is labeled a new additional levy and not a renewal. Mr. Schomisch stated that the City Attorney's recommendation is because the current levy is expiring and would be a new millage.

Public Comment:

Mr. Terry Kuseske of Kalamazoo, MI, extended his appreciation and thanks to the Finance Committee for the invitation to attend their recent meeting. Mr. Kuseske stated that it was important to completely understand all of the process and that he came away with a better understanding for the work necessary on the KCTA budget.

Chair Fricke added that Finance Committee's recommendation was another step forward to the merging of both the TAB and KCTA.

Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens for Metro Transit

Mr. Schomisch presented to the Board the option of reinstating the millage campaign committee. He stated that normal practice is for three members of TAB run the campaign in addition to citizen volunteers.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the reinstatement of the Citizen for Metro Transit Campaign Committee and was supported by Mr. Havice.

Mr. Gregor asked what the next step is and who would be in charge of coordination. Chair Fricke stated that if anyone is interested, they could approach any Board member.

Public Comment

None

Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Route Modifications for Fall 2007

Mr. Schomisch presented the changes for Fall 2007. It was explained that changes are normally done once a year. Mr. Schomisch stated that because of the elimination of two WMU campus routes, public input was requested, together with both TAB approval and Kalamazoo City Commission approval. WMU is continuing the eliminated Metro service through a private contractor. Mr. Schomisch presented a history of the WMU contract highlighting the new agreement. Metro Transit will continue the football and basketball shuttles. WMU student will also continue the free access system-wide all year with their student ID's.

There are minor changes affecting Route #2 – Portage has some change affecting the Industrial Park area, Route #4 – Oakland will service Evergreen South Apartments and Route #11 – Stadium will no longer service Evergreen South.

Mr. Havice made a motion to approve the proposed route modifications and was supported by Mr. McCormick.

Chair Fricke asked who is providing the service on WMU. Mr. Schomisch answered that Indian Trails would be providing that service. Chair Fricke asked inquired if 45-foot buses are able to maneuver on campus. Mr. Schomisch indicated he hoped so.

Mr. Havice asked if transfers from Metro Transit could be used on WMU routes. Mr. Schomisch stated that the WMU privatized routes will **not** be open to the public and the two services are completely separate systems.

Public Comments

Bob Miller, Associate Vice President at WMU, stated that he appreciates Metro Transit's willingness to work with WMU. Mr. Miller complimented the work of WMU's Auxiliary Services, which negotiated the new one-year agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Federal/State Funding Update

House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved their versions of funding bills. The House version confirms the funding set forth in SAFETEA-LU Senate version falls short of that funding. A Conference Committee will now work to resolve differences, but probably not until September.

Diesel Fuel Update

Through July 10th, the average price per gallon of diesel fuel was \$2.04, compared to the budgeted amount of \$2.45. In October, Metro Transit will move from a low-sulfur fuel to ultra low sulfur due to new engines requiring that fuel, per EPA requirements.

Federal Audit of Required Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Update

FTA recently completed a random audit of Metro Transit's Drug and Alcohol Testing program. There were several program deficiencies noted with a timeframe given of when those deficiencies need to be corrected by. A final report will be provided to the board following Metro Transit's submission of its 90-day responses.

Michigan Transit Pool

A number of transit systems in Michigan formed a transit pool, the Michigan Transit Pool. Millions of dollars have been saved since 1984 because of this Michigan Transit Pool. A free service that is offered by the Transit Pool is a Transit System Safety Audit. Metro Transit recently had this audit completed. A final report will be shared with the Board.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Wheelchair/Lift Ramp Incident Report – June 2007

Chair Fricke noted that there were no wheelchair incidents during the month of June, which she was very pleased to note.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Gregor asked about the absences of the Board. Chair Fricke stated that those absent from the meeting were anticipated, and staff had previously been notified.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their formal meeting dated Monday, July 23, 2007, Chairperson Fricke adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the proposed route modifications and was supported by Mr. Gregor.

Beth A. Sowles, Recording Secretary

Date: July 23, 2007