

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of February 26, 2010**

Members Present: Chair Carol Fricke, Vice Chair Donna Treloar, Garrylee McCormick, and Michael Gregor

Members Absent: Andy Havice (Excused), Reuben Richardson (Unexcused)

City Commission Liaison: Terry Kuseske, City Commissioner

Technical Support Members Present: William J. Schomisch, Executive Director

City Administration Member Present: Kelly Vander Kley, Marketing Coordinator
Anthony E. Givhan, Senior Operations Supervisor

Others Present:

Thomas Whitman – Perteet, Kathy Shultz – KATS, Dale Hein – KCTA, Michele McGowan – Disability Network, Jennifer Parsons – Disability Network. Commission for the Blind: Betty Roberts, Miles Matte, Roxanna Mann, Lisa Powells, Michelle Nichols, Megan O'Rourke, and Pam Crooks

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fricke called the regular meeting of the Transit Authority Board of Directors to order at 9 am.

ROLL CALL

Andy Havice – Excused Absence, Reuben Richardson – Unexcused Absence

INTRODUCTIONS

Transit Authority Board introduced themselves to the people in attendance.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Chair Fricke moved discussion item VIII C to item V.

Chair Fricke added a discussion item on the Proposed Michigan Gas Tax.

Mr. Gregor added a discussion item on Board Recruitment.

Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) – Presentation by Perteet, Inc.

Mr. Schomisch introduced Mr. Thomas Whitman from Perteet. The short-term recommendations are designed to be done at no cost with resources being shifted. The long-term recommendations do involve a cost. For the next three years, there is no additional funding to move ahead with the long term recommendations. Metro Transit will only be looking at short-term and what is possible and then looking at the long-term recommendations as a blueprint and whether additional funding is possible.

Ms. Pam Crooks thanked Metro Transit for working well for the Commission for the Blind students. Ms. Crooks stated that the Center is located on Route #4 – Oakland route and that the recommendation is to end service at 6:15 pm and that will take away a lot of independence from students. It would be wonderful for every half hour, but at night, they're on their own. Staff and students have a concern with the service ending at 6:15 pm. There are 23 to 30 students living on their campus at any given time. The students are all at different points, but this would cut out their transportation option. Ms. Crooks stated that service wouldn't have to go past 10 p.m. It's mainly to get to the store or prescriptions filled. The students need to do things after school.

Ms. Megan O'Rourke stated she would like more of an opportunity to get the students on the bus and moving the route closer to Howard would help. It's also great advertising to convince people to move to Kalamazoo to have bus service.

Mr. Thomas Whitman of Perteet stated that the vast majority of boardings and alightings were happening at that spot during the daytime hours during their study.

Ms. Lisa Powells stated that as a student she had to turn in her driver's license in because of being legally blind. After 6:15 pm she would have to take an expensive cab or some other means.

Mr. Hein stated that he lives on Oakland Drive and the bus stop that used most frequently is the one that is located between the Commission and the one that's down a little further.

Ms. Crooks responded that some students do not feel comfortable using the other stop. That is why the Commission has its own stop. It is intimidating to be at the other stop with the students from the alternative school.

Ms. O'Rourke stated that part of Oakland doesn't have any sidewalks and the easiest one to get to is the one right in front of the building.

Ms. Michele McGowan stated that on the stop ridership map with all of the dots, there's a location with a red dot that's being recommended to be removed on Centre in Portage near Westledge.

Mr. Gregor stated that he supports the basic concept of building stronger expectations around routes for riders by eliminating the deviations. Most people in the community view the system as inconvenient.

Commissioner Kuseske stated that the recommended KVCC expansion to every 30 minutes would help alleviate congestion. In the evening, a lot of students would be taking the last bus home and there isn't another option if the bus is full.

Mr. Whitman stated that KVCC was the driving force of looking into operating an hour or two later. Students who are attending the last class at KVCC cannot use the Metro Transit system. That's why there is a recommendation to extend the service in the evening.

Commissioner Kuseske stated that creating destinations and going to specific spots and creating hubs within the system is a good thing. It's an evolution of the Metro Transit System and as it grows and changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ISSUES/ITEMS FOR CITY MANAGER/CITY COMMISSION

Mr. Schomisch stated that the current ATU contract expired as of February. Management sat down with the union and looked at whether or not there could be a one-year contract. The ATU is moving to a new City health care plan and is one year behind everyone else. No agreement was reached on a one-year contract. Negotiations for a new multi-year contract will begin soon.

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2010

The minutes of January 22, 2010, were approved as presented.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the minutes from January 22, 2010, and was supported by Vice Chair Treloar. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement – December and January

Mr. Schomisch stated there was an increased expense due to the retroactive pay that was paid to all ATU employees while revenues were almost \$80,000 less than last year. The official audit will not be completed until April or May.

Mr. Schomisch reported that in January expenses were up \$50,000 from last year. Operating revenue also showed a substantial increase.

Vice Chair Treloar made a motion to approve the December 2009 and January 2010 Income and Expense Statements, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Ridership Report – January

Mr. Schomisch reported that there is one less service day in January of this year compared with January of last year. There was also a fare increase in January. Metro Transit experienced a ridership loss of almost 20% in January compared to 2009. On the demand/response side, there was an increase.

Mr. Gregor asked for route numbers to be included on the chart on the back for future reports.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the January Ridership Report, and was supported by Mr. Gregor. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State/Federal Funding Update

Mr. Schomisch stated that the reauthorization of the federal transit program had not been done as yet. Metro Transit's bus replacement program is in really good shape. If Metro Transit were to receive an additional \$2.6 million in 2nd stimulus dollars, it could be applied to the maintenance budget, thereby relieving the maintenance budget and bank that money for future service increases. These are federal dollars that do not require a state match.

On the State side there are three gas tax bills that were introduced. The current gas tax is 19¢. Under this proposal, the tax would go up to 23¢ in 2010 and then up to 27¢ in 2013. It would also raise the diesel fuel tax. The second bill deals with commercial vehicles. The third bill establishes a Transportation Investment Fund. There's \$28 million dollars of gas tax revenues that are diverted to other areas—this third bill locks those monies in and no one can touch them. The writers of these bills understood that there should be no diversion of dollars. It's not going to solve the overall problem of funding infrastructure. If nothing changes right now, the MDOT budget for 2011 will be 15% lower than it is. Additionally, there's no money to match the money that's available. We would be leaving almost half a billion dollars on the table.

Mr. Hein stated that the ominous consequences of inactivity will really impact us. Mr. Hein will propose to the KCTA that they contact our legislators.

Board Recruitment

Mr. Gregor stated that he would like to increase attention to recruiting people to serve on the TAB and possibly post for Board positions on the buses. Mr. Schomisch responded that in the past recruitment has been done through Leadership Kalamazoo. Mr. Gregor stated he is in the class now.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Schomisch stated that the TVM has not been received yet and the delivery date is not yet known. Because of that problem, it has been decided, on a temporary basis, to reinstate our old punch pass structure at current prices. Vice Chair Treloar asked whether this addressed the issue that was in the Letter to the Editor in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. Mr. Schomisch responded that this addresses all concerns.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. McCormick stated he was very impressed with the Perteet process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hein stated that for the Adopt-a-Shelter program there are nine organizations that have agreed to adopt a shelter and documents are being signed. KCTA met with officials at Kalamazoo Township and some neighborhoods wanted to get involved. KTCA has not approached Crossroads Mall as yet. Mr. Schomisch stated that part of the Adopt-A-Shelter program is to offer a reward for participation and would like to come up with a recommendation to the TAB for passes or tokens.

Chair Fricke stated that something else should be considered so that people don't have to be users of Metro Transit.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their meeting dated Friday, February 26, 2010, Chair Fricke adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Kelly A. Vander Kley, Recording Secretary

Date: February 26, 2010