

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of July 23, 2010**

Members Present: Chair Carol Fricke, Vice Chair Donna Treloar, Andy Havice, Reuben Richardson, Michael Gregor and Garrylee McCormick

Members Absent: (None)

City Commission Liaison: Terry Kuseske, City Commissioner (Absent)

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

City Administration Member Present: Beth Sowles, Administrative Office Specialist

Others Present: Dale Hein, KCTA
Jack Mekemson, KCTA
Michelle McGowan, DRC
Jason Meddaugh

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

ROLL CALL

All Transit Authority Board members were in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Transit Authority Board introduced themselves to the people in attendance.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Mekemson presented information on the oversight committee for Public Transit / Human Services (PT/HS). Mr. Hein stated applications were reviewed for grants for JARC and New Freedom. There is only a minimal amount of money available from the State for these programs. Mr. Schomisch stated that the purpose behind the Plan is to show that programs are being followed in order to apply for JARC and New Freedom funding.

ISSUES/ITEMS FOR CITY MANAGER/CITY COMMISSION

Facility Renovation – Mr. Schomisch announced that the City Commission approved the contract with Carrier Construction for the facility expansion.

PROCLAMATION BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Fricke read the proclamation for the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Richardson stated that he appreciates transit staff cooperating with the ADA.

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2010

The minutes of June 25, 2010, were approved as presented.

Mr. Gregor asked for a timeline on the new bus purchases. New hybrids will be delivered in the Fall of 2011. The replacement buses for the Metro County Connect will be in the Spring of 2011.

Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from June 25, 2010, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement – June

Mr. Schomisch presented the June Income and Expense Statement. Mr. Schomisch stated that the goal was to raise approximately \$270,000 with the fare increase and that goal is being achieved.

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

Ridership Report – June

Mr. Schomisch presented the June Ridership reports. Ridership continues to decrease and is now down 13% from last year. This decrease is attributed to not only the fare increase, but also the state of the economy and the price of gas is down. Demand/Response ridership is the same as last year. Community Service is down due to MRC not using the program as frequently as they were last year.

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

Acceptance of Mr. Gregor's Resignation

Mr. Gregor stated that due an abundance of opportunities in his life and that it is time for him to step down from the TAB. Chair Fricke stated that Mr. Gregor would be missed with his energy and input.

Moved by Mr. McCormick (with regret) and supported by Mr. Richardson. Mr. Havice opposed the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

KCTA Presentation – “Kalamazoo County Transportation Plan”

Mr. Mekemson presented the KCTA “roadmap”. This is a plan for countywide support and making it an integrated countywide system. In recognizing the difficulty, KCTA has put together a plan of what needs to be done to create the integrated countywide system and for the transition of the system to the KCTA. There are three phases of the plan. First is to secure leadership for transit. Second phase is ensuring the millage passes. The current plan is to transfer the system to KCTA in 2013.

Mr. Gregor asked for explanation for rationale. Mr. Mekemson stated there has always been a plan. A new plan was necessary for the transition following the defeat of the November 2008 countywide millage and the subsequent need (and approval) of two separate millages in the county and the City.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the City Manager is not in favor of transferring assets until the 2012 and 2013 millages are passed and funding is stable.

Mr. Havice stated he doesn't believe the County will support a countywide bus system. One millage was passed, but the other failed. Mr. Havice stated he believes the county will not support this. Mr. Havice inquired what happens if a millage can be passed one time, but not again. Mr. Mekemson stated the county tax has been passed twice and does not believe there will be one countywide tax, that it will be two taxes. Mr. Havice asked once it is tied together and the County goes “belly up” on the taxes, is there a way to separate again. Mr. Hein stated it does not go to County Government, but goes to KCTA. What is Plan B. Chair Fricke stated that currently there is no Plan B. If the millages do not pass, the plan does not go forward. Mr. Havice expressed great concern about the KCTA not being able to sustain the system.

Chair Fricke stated that there are two years to raise awareness of public transit in order to help people realize the value of the system.

Mr. Mekemson stated that Plan B is currently being done now. Plan A already failed. The System depends just as much on the countywide millage as well as the City millage.

Mr. Havice asked whether this depends on whether the law is changed to allow Act 196 to collect two millages.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the City of Kalamazoo is the owner/operator of system and will not transfer the system to another entity unless the financial base is stable. The system will not be transferred unless the two millages are passed. If a future millage fails, Act 196 can dissolve and the City can recreate an Act 55 Board.

State/Federal Funding Update

Mr. Schomisch stated that not much is occurring on the Federal side. In the State, the \$30 million local match is not being addressed for transit capital funding. Bills will go to Conference Committee later in the year. MPTA has been very active in talking with members of the Conference Committee. Senate version took monies from highway and transit side to create the \$84 million local match for Federal Highway Projects. House bill indicated that the \$84 million should come from the General Fund. Shortfall on the transit side has not been addressed.

Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA)

Mr. Schomisch stated KCTA has been hosting meeting with jurisdictions to discuss the COA recommendations.

Diesel Fuel Update

Mr. Schomisch reported on the last purchase of diesel fuel and that it is under budget. Mr. Gregor asked whether it was possible to purchase B10 or B20 fuel. Mr. Schomisch stated that anything over B10 has issues with temperature.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Fricke ensured that a quorum will be available for the August 27th meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. McCormick had a gift for Mr. Schomisch – tokens from the Pushkin, Russia transit system. Mr. McCormick had the ability to ride public transit in Russia.

Mr. Gregor asked about Mr. Meddaugh's appointment to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Meddaugh asked about the changes to the COA. Mr. Schomisch stated that City of Portage citizens wanted service to continue to Brown and the Portage Community Center. That request was able to be accommodated. Mr. Meddaugh also asked about losing service to the airport. Mr. Schomisch stated that not much has been said about the airport service.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their meeting dated Friday, July 23, 2010, Chair Fricke adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Beth A. Sowles, Recording Secretary

Date: July 23, 2010