

INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 28, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Don Lawless, Chair
Charis Austin
Randy Gelderloos
Ira Hart
Lisa Haynes
George Heartwell
Jack Hoffman
Barbara Holt
Rick Morris
Terry Schweitzer
Rob VerHeulen
Jim White

Staff

Peter Varga, CEO
Robin Crothers
Alan Hartley
Meegan Joyce
Jennifer Kalczuk
Brian Pouget
Liz Schelling
Conrad Venema
Scott Walsh

Board Members Absent

Steve Maas
Richard Root
Barbara VanDuren

Others Present

Anne Bond-Emrich, GR Business Journal
Henry Borgeling, Rapid Employee
Rae Bower, Disability Advocates
David Bulkowski, Disability Advocates
Jordan Buning, DDM
David Doyle, Friends of Transit
Pat DuPerron, BDO Seidman
Casey Dutmer, CAC
Matt Duwe, WXI Fox 17
Bing Goei, Retired-ITP Board
Don Goris, Campaign Resource

Andy Guy, WCI
Laurie Hurley, NTH Consultants
Charlie Homeyer, Faith in Motion
Ruth Kelly, Friends of Transit
Kyla King, Grand Rapids Press
Ken Kolker, TV 8
Sgt. Wayne Moore, GRPD/The Rapid
Sharon Noll, Disability Advocates
Thad Smith, GPC
Tim Stanley, Rapid Employee
Christine Schumaker, ATU Local 836

MINUTES OF
INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
AS RECORDED ON JANUARY 28, 2009

Commencing at 4:00p.m., Mr. Lawless called the regular meeting of the Interurban Transit Partnership Board to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

David Bulkowski, Friends of Transit (FOT) Co-Chair, stated that FOT supports the millage for the BRT and urges the Board to approve the millage item.

David Doyle, FOT Co-Chair, noted that we are ready to run an aggressive campaign and we endorse the millage.

Casey Dutmer with Concerned Citizens for Transit supports the BRT millage and believes it is the first step to greater prosperity for our city.

BOARD MEMBER RETIREMENT-BING GOEI

Mr. Varga thanked Mr. Goei for his service on the ITP Board. Mr. Goei commented that he has gained so much knowledge while serving on the ITP Board and is honored that he has had the opportunity to serve the Board. He encourages the Board to continue to focus on job development related to public transit. He believes that public transit will play a major role in the regrowing and redeveloping of our economic system.

Mr. Lawless welcomed Ira Hart back to the ITP Board.

Mr. Varga recognized and honored Tim Stanley, a technician for The Rapid, for service to his country. He also recognized and honored Henry Boergling, a Rapid bus operator, for service to his country.

1. Minutes of the December 10, 2008 Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by Holt, to approve the December 10, 2008 Board Meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Hoffman, supported by VerHeulen, to approve consent agenda items 2-8. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Performance Oversight Committee

9. FY 2009 Report Card Standards - Fixed Route:

Mr. Schweitzer requested that the FY 2009 Fixed Route and Paratransit Report Card Standards be referred back to the Performance Oversight Committee for further review and discussion.

Mr. Morris stated that he feels the Performance Oversight Committee diligently discussed and questioned staff in an appropriate manner regarding the standards.

Mr. Schweitzer noted that after the other committee meetings additional questions were asked that need further discussion with staff.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Haynes, to refer the FY 2009 Fixed Route and Paratransit Report Card Standards back to the Performance Oversight Committee for further review. Motion passed, with 11 in favor and 1 opposed (Morris).

10. FY 2009 Report Card Standards - Paratransit:

See item 9 above.

External Relations Committee

11. CAC Appointments:

Ms. Haynes reported that the Committee recommends Rich Zeck and Mary Kent be appointed to the Consumer Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by White, to approve the appointment of Rich Zeck and Mary Kent to the Consumer Advisory Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Federal Discretionary Funding Requests for FY 2010:

Mr. Varga explained that the FY 2009 Federal Transportation Budget has not been approved yet and it is unclear whether Congress will be providing any funds to The Rapid that were approved by the Board last January. This was submitted to Michigan's federal delegation for inclusion in the FY 2009 appropriations bill. Meanwhile, Congress will begin work on FY 2010 appropriations. Additionally, discretionary projects must be submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation prior to March 1 to be eligible for State matching funds. Staff has developed the following projects for the upcoming appropriations process.

The Rapid is requesting \$7,473,896 in additional funding for the FY 2010 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Program. He noted that the funds would complete the Wealthy Operations Center Expansion Project. He noted that the balance

needed to complete the project may partially be covered by a potential federal stimulus package currently being proposed by the House and President Obama, however, we must be prepared to request the funds in appropriations bills.

We are requesting \$15,470,400 in federal funds, with a state match of \$3,867,600, for the Division Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project.

We are requesting \$2,745,000 in federal funds, with a state match of \$686,250, to fully implement the Intelligent Transportation System Deployment Plan.

We are requesting FY 2010 Section 9002 capital funds for Rail Relocation Projects. We are requesting authorization to continue working with the Michigan Department of Transportation for capital funding to relocate the Amtrak station and tracks to Central Station.

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by Schweitzer, to approve the Federal Discretionary Funding Requests for FY 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Becoming Transportation for America Partner:

Ms. Haynes noted that the External Relations Committee is requesting authorization from the Board for the ITP to join "Transportation for America". She explained that Transportation for America is a diverse coalition focused on creating a national transportation program that will take America into the 21st century by building a modernized infrastructure and healthy communities where people can live, work and play.

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by White, to approve becoming a "Transportation for America" partner. Motion passed unanimously.

14. BRT Naming:

Ms. Kalczuk reported that the BRT will be identified as the Silver Line partnered with an icon that could be recognized on its own.

Mayor VerHeulen inquired if we have run this name and icon by a trademark attorney. Mr. Lawless replied that staff has already explored trademark rights and have been directed to register it as our name and logo.

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by Holt, to approve "Silver Line" as the name for the BRT. Motion passed unanimously.

Governance Committee

15. Millage for BRT:

Mr. Lawless reported that we currently have federal approval and a commitment for federal funds for the BRT project. We also have a commitment from the state for match funds. He believes the BRT system will bring many positive components to our community including a significant economic impact. The next

step is to show that we have the ability to fund the operating portion of the system with a millage.

Mr. Varga explained that there are federal requirements for the Project Construction Grant Agreement. We have to do an environmental assessment for the project and have it included in the State Transportation Improvement Program. We also need to submit a financial plan to show how we will pay to operate the service. We fund operating through a millage and would need to request a millage now for collection in July 2012 to show that we have the ability to operate the project.

Mr. Varga reported that authorization is requested for a millage election on May 5, 2009 for 1.28 mills, for continuation of current services at 1.12 mills and an additional 0.16 to operate the BRT system, with the first collection in July 2012, and approval of the ballot language.

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by Austin, to approve the millage resolution for the BRT project. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Haynes mentioned that staff did a community survey to gain knowledge about public feelings on the BRT. Ms. Kalczuk noted that the survey that was done in November of 2008 indicated public support for the BRT project.

Mayor Heartwell commented that the economic impact of an investment like this is significant. He believes that The Rapid has proven that they have the ability to use taxpayer funds in a responsible manner and the request is only for the minimum needed. He supports the recommendation.

Mayor VerHeulen mentioned that we are only asking for a small increment of about \$12 on a \$150,000 market value house per year beginning in 2012.

Mr. Varga noted that this was a studied and deliberate process with many members of the community involved and the objective was to create a rapid transit system at a low cost to build and operate.

Mr. Lawless commented that this is the first time we have had federal mass transit funds available to Michigan and believes this is a great opportunity to invest in our future. He mentioned that ballot language does not allow us to collect funds until 2012.

CEO's REPORT

16. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga noted that the federal process for New Starts requires constant communication with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA has hired a project management oversight consultant. Originally we were going to do an environmental process with a categorical exclusion, but after discussion with the FTA we have decided to do an environmental assessment. We will have an RFP coming forward for the environmental assessment.

Mr. Varga mentioned the continued lack of state funding. He distributed a Budget and Revenue Report on the Comprehensive Transportation Fund.

He noted the emphasis that is being put on sustainability and energy consumption and noted that transit is an integral part of that. Many other funding opportunities may become available with the Economic Recovery Act.

Mr. White requested talking points for funding issues.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lawless thanked everyone for attendance at the Board retreat and thanked Committee chairs for continued service.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There was no discussion on the following information items.

- A. Minutes of 1-14-09 Governance Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of 1-21-09 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of 1-21-09 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- D. Communications

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

Board Member Comments

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary