

INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

OCTOBER 28, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Charis Austin
Randy Gelderloos
Lisa Haynes
George Heartwell
Jack Hoffman
Barbara Holt
Don Lawless
Terry Schweitzer
Barbara VanDuren
Rob VerHeulen

Staff

Peter Varga, Executive Director
Robin Crothers
Judy DeVries
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Jennifer Kalczuk
Chris Leighty
Brian Pouget
Liz Schelling

Board Members Absent

Ira Hart
Steve Maas
Rick Morris
Rick Root
James White

Others Present

Jeff Ammon, Miller Johnson
Leon Carrico, ATU, Local 836
Wendy Hoyt, HDR
Richard Jackson, ATU, Local 836
John Mason, HDR
Watchdog Miller, Citizen

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Watchdog Miller does not support the 10-year contract we are entering into with Grand Rapids Community College. He feels that the appointed task force members were not interviewed for routing skills. He commented that we should not invest in the underground employee parking lot at the Wealthy Operations Center and that Rapid employees should ride the bus. He made a comment claiming that Rapid staff members are reporting record ridership numbers, which he says is not true.

Mr. Lawless cautioned Mr. Miller to comment only on subject matter and not to make personal comments about staff. Mr. Lawless noted that he has had many discussions about ridership with Mr. Varga and staff and they have always been very direct about projections and how numbers change.

1. Minutes of the September 30, 2009 Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by VerHeulen, to approve the September 30, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by VanDuren, supported by Gelderloos, to approve items 2 and 3 as Consent Agenda items. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Performance Oversight Committee

4. August 2009 Paratransit Ridership Report:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that we have seen an increase in paratransit ridership and thought we should look at the reasons contributing to the increase. Staff has made an attempt to compare The Rapid's paratransit service to paratransit service offered at other agencies. We have determined that because there are

so many variables that factor into paratransit service it is difficult to compare the service we provide to the service provided at other agencies. He noted that this is an area that the Transit Master Plan would look into and determine if there are areas that need improvement.

He mentioned that given the current economic climate many agencies are reducing or eliminating transportation services. It is more cost effective for them to have clients use our transportation services, which results in an increase in demand response service for The Rapid.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Heartwell, to approve the August 2009 Paratransit Ridership Report. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Agreement with Grand Rapids Community College:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that staff requests Board authorization to approve an agreement with Grand Rapid Community College for the purpose of providing intercampus bus service for a 10-year period beginning November 1, 2009.

In late August 2009, GRCC contacted The Rapid requesting the provision of an intercampus transit service between its main building and the campus at Sneden Hall. However, it was not feasible to enter into a service agreement with GRCC because of the short timeframe between the time the request was made and the College resumption date. Therefore, a Letter of Understanding was signed on August 27, 2009 between GRCC and The Rapid to begin immediate service provision in time for College resumption. The letter would be sufficient until a formal agreement addressing critical elements for providing such service continuing into the future is entered into between the two parties.

For the first year of the contract, the rate of service shall be \$57.96 per bus, per hour, from first point of revenue service to last point of revenue service.

Mr. Lawless inquired if the contract has a cancellation provision. Mr. Varga replied that it does.

Mayor Heartwell inquired about the 10-year contract term. Mr. Varga explained that we have an amendment each year to allow for rate adjustments and changes in service which could include discontinuing service.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Heartwell, to approve the agreement with Grand Rapids Community College. Motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning Committee

6. Transit Master Plan Project Update:

Mr. Varga commented on the many changes that have occurred in the past 10 years, including the inception of The Rapid in 2000. The Transit Master Plan is helping us to move forward and create a plan with the community addressing what we would like to see happen in the next 10 to 20 years in regard to transit.

Mr. Jaiyeoba introduced the consulting team from HDR to the Board and explained that since the ITP Board approved a contract with HDR in August, 2009 we have accomplished a number of activities.

He explained that we have developed a Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force to guide the project process and recommendations. The Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force had its first meeting on October 27, 2009.

Presentations have been made to the city councils/commissions at the cities of Kentwood, Walker and Wyoming. We have distributed 1,000 copies of the TMP newsletter to the community providing information on the project and explaining the project process. A website has been developed to provide additional information and opportunity for community feedback on the project and we have formed a project management team made up of ITP staff and the planning directors of respective jurisdictions including GVMC, MDOT, the GRF Airport and Kent County Road Commission.

We have several more efforts underway, including public workshops between November 4 and 18 at the cities of Wyoming, Kentwood, East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grandville and Walker. Public involvement will play a critical role in ensuring that the TMP will be embraced by the community. We will also have further presentations to the city councils/commissions at the cities of Grand Rapids and Grandville.

Ms. Haynes noted that the first Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force meeting was very productive and she was encouraged by the diversity of the group.

External Relations Committee

7. Board Engagement Guidelines:

Ms. Haynes explained that the Board is asked to endorse a plan for Board interaction and engagement with our various stakeholder groups. The plan includes goals that Board members are encouraged to endorse and actively carry out.

- Each Board member is encouraged to commit to at least two speaking engagements on The Rapid's behalf each year of the member's choosing. Staff will assist with any materials that are needed and will ask Board members about the type of opportunities that interest them.
- Use city commission/council meetings as avenues to talk about the role of public transit and what is happening at The Rapid. Tie transportation into other speaking opportunities or forums as appropriate.
- Have at least one Board member from the city in which a community session is being held during the TMP process. We intend to have at least one meeting in each of the six communities.

- Board members will spread the word about the TMP community sessions and actively encourage friends, colleagues, etc. to attend and take part. Also assist in the promotion of these events through other web sites, newsletters, etc. Board members their cities, or other appropriate organizations have available to them.

Mayor Heartwell believes this is a positive move for Board interaction with the community.

Mr. Lawless mentioned that if you would like to feature The Rapid in your community to please let staff know.

Mr. Hoffman suggests we have a list of speaking opportunities. Ms. Kalczuk noted that she could provide a list, however, if a member has an opportunity in mind to please let her know and she would work with you on speaking to the group or finding the person who is best suited to speak to that group.

Mr. Varga noted that as opportunities arise he will contact you and customize the presentation.

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by VerHeulen, to approve the Board Engagement Guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force-Additional Members:

Ms. Haynes reported that staff is requesting Board approval to appoint the following individuals to the Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force:

Ann Marie Bessette
Mayor Jim Buck
Daryl Delabbio
Lynne Ferrell
Fred Keller
Bill Kirk
Francisco Vega.

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by VerHeulen, to approve the appointees to the Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force. Motion passed unanimously.

Governance Committee

9. FY 2010 Priorities & Work Plan:

Mr. Lawless noted that there have been two minor revisions made to the FY 2010 Priorities & Work Plan since the September Board meeting.

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by Holt, to approve the FY 2010 Priorities & Work Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO's REPORT

10. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga reported that there is a delay with the Reauthorization Bill resulting in a 6-month extension. He explained that this would also delay the Appropriations Bill and any special requests we have for funding.

He mentioned that The Rapid's fiscal year ended with a preliminary contribution to fund balance of \$874,318. Lower than expected fuel costs contributed to this.

He noted that he would be out of town for the November committee meetings.

Please inform Robin Crothers of any conflicts that Board members may have with next year's meeting schedule.

He explained that the Transit Master Plan is a very exciting process and a great opportunity for community involvement. He hopes that every Board member will share in the excitement.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lawless commented that it is exciting to be working on something that is so future focused.

He thanked Ms. Kalczuk for her help with speaking engagements.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Watchdog Miller commented about some meetings in Grand Rapids that were inaccessible by bus and once again commented that he feels we are reporting incorrect ridership numbers.

Mr. Varga noted that Casey Dutmer was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Mobile Metro 2030 Task Force.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There was no discussion on the following information items.

- A. Minutes of 10-14-09 Governance Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of 10-21-09 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
- C. Communications

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary

