

INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

January 27, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Charis Austin
Ira Hart
Lisa Haynes
George Heartwell
Jack Hoffman
Barbara Holt
Tammy Hopman
Don Lawless, Chair
Rick Morris
Terry Schweitzer
Rob VerHeulen
James White

Staff

Robin Crothers
Alan Hartley
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Chris Leighty
Linda Medina
Nick Monoyios
Brian Pouget
Liz Schelling
Peter Varga, CEO
Scott Walsh

Board Members Absent

Randy Gelderloos
Richard Root
Barbara VanDuren

Others Present

Robert Carter, Passenger
Julie Connors, Heritage Hill
Pat Duperron, BDO Seidman
Jan Earl, Heritage Hill Association
Tammi Jackson, Bus Operator
Sgt. Wayne Moore, GRPD/The Rapid

MINUTES OF
INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
AS RECORDED ON JANUARY 27, 2010

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Julie Connors thanked the Board for listening to Heritage Hill residents' concerns and stated that she supports the recommendation for the Bus Rapid Transit alternative routing.

1. Minutes of December 2, 2009 Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Hoffman, supported by Morris, to approve the December 2, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Haynes, supported by Hart, to approve consent agenda items 2-10. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Mr. Lawless welcomed Tammy Hopman, the new Board member from Grandville.

Performance Oversight Committee

11. FY 2009 Audit Report:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that overall the audit was positive with no significant findings and we received an unqualified opinion.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Holt, to approve the Audit Report for FY 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Varga commented that this was an excellent audit and a good financial year putting \$1.09 million into the fund balance.

Mr. Morris noted that it is rare to have an audit report that does not include a letter to management recommending change. He believes this is an example of what a great job staff is doing.

Mr. Schweitzer noted that in addition to the Audit Report, the Committee had an update on the actuarial report on the pension plan. Rick Zweering with Watkins Ross explained that the value of the fund amounts have decreased due to the condition of the financial markets in the last year. He noted that there has been a rebound in the last quarter. The rebound, in combination with the plan contribution for the upcoming year, should keep the pension in good shape.

12. FY 2010 Report Card Standards:

Mr. Schweitzer explained that overall ridership in FY 2009 increased from FY 2008, however, there has been a consistent decline in monthly ridership in the latter half of FY 2009. Though no new services are slated for implementation, there is a potential for an increase in fuel prices and new employment opportunities which may increase ridership. Therefore, staff recommends the standard for this category in FY 2010 be reduced to a 2.5% increase, a 2.5% decrease from the FY 2009 standard of 5.0%.

He reported that there was an average of 1.13 preventable accidents per 100,000 revenue miles in FY 2009. Since preventable accidents were 33.08% lower than FY 2008, staff recommends we reduce the current standard of 1.50 to 1.40 preventable accidents per 100,000 revenue miles.

Cost per passenger average was \$2.85 in FY 2008. This resulted in \$0.19 below the FY 2009 standard of \$3.04. Calculating the FY 2010 fixed route operating budget with a projected ridership increase of 2.5% adjusts this standard to \$3.05 per passenger.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Morris, to approve the FY 2010 Report Card Standards. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Recommendation for Revised Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA):

Mr. Hoffman reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is recommending a modification to the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit system using Bostwick/Ransom instead of Lafayette.

He recognizes that Grand Valley State University is not supportive of this revision. He commented that Grand Valley has been an outstanding friend to transit and a very forward looking team member in regards to community responsibility.

Mr. Jaiyeoba noted that we are working with the City of Grand Rapids for station placement that could be helpful to GVSU.

Mr. Varga mentioned that we had a meeting with officials from Spectrum Health, GRCC, and Van Andel Institute regarding station placement.

A motion was made by Hoffman, supported by Hart, to approve the recommendation for the revised Bus Rapid Transit Project's Locally Preferred Alternative. Motion passed, with 11 in favor and 1 opposed (Haynes).

Mayor Heartwell believes there was a general agreement at the Task Force meeting that the best option would be the Barclay option if it were not for the fact that there is a one-way street causing counter flow traffic. He noted that if, in the future, there was a way to create a two-way street on Lyon perhaps we could revisit this option.

Mr. Varga noted that it would have to be after the environmental assessment is complete. In the future, if the City reconsidered traffic patterns for this street, it would open opportunity to provide service, however, we would have to do an environmental study for the change. He would not encourage doing this during the environmental assessment process.

Ms. Haynes commented that she still believes that the original Lafayette route is the best alignment. She believes that out of the four options proposed the recommended alternative was given more research and study than the other potential routes. She explained that GVSU is strongly committed to public transportation and has eliminated the need for additional parking ramps through support of public transportation and the tremendous ridership they have created. She believes that the timing of the Urban Circulator Grant puts the Board in a tough predicament.

14. Urban Circulator Grant Program for BRT Project Implementation:

Mr. Hoffman reported that staff is requesting Board authorization to submit a grant application to the FTA in the amount of \$25 million for the Urban Circulator Grant Program.

Mr. Varga noted that if we are awarded the Urban Circulator Grant we would be securing funds for a project that still requires public support. The timing of the millage would be more flexible than in the New Starts Program. He noted that there is no assurance that we would be awarded the grant, however, if we are awarded the grant state match funds have been confirmed. He explained that applying to this program means that the original \$40 million project will be revised to fit within a \$31 million project cost.

A motion was made by Hoffman, supported by Heartwell, to authorize submittal of a grant application for Urban Circulator Grant Program funds in the amount of \$25 million for the Silver Line BRT project. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO REPORT

15. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga reported that the External Relations Committee will be informed of many impending bills this year. He mentioned that Senate Bill 862 amends the Motor Carrier Fuel Tax Act by increasing the rate of taxation on motor fuel usage paid by commercial vehicles from 15 cents per gallon to 19 cents beginning January 1, 2010. This is referred to as the "diesel tax parity". Diesel tax parity was recommended in the TF2 report.

He explained that if these initiatives fail there is likelihood that state match funds for federal road projects and transportation projects would become unavailable. He encourages Board members to talk to legislators.

He announced that his term as Chamber of Commerce Board Chair has expired. He will continue for the next two years to serve as Past Chair on the Board.

He noted that there is an update on ridership trends in comparison to peer groups on a national level included in his report. He hopes this information is helpful.

16. Short Video-Wealthy Operations Center Expansion Groundbreaking:

A short video was shown on the groundbreaking of the Wealthy Operations Center.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lawless congratulated Mr. Varga on his service as Chamber Board Chair.

He thanked Board members for time and attendance at the strategic planning retreat in January.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments.

INFORMATION ONLY:

- A. Minutes of 1-13-10 Governance Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of 1-20-10 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of 1-20-10 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- D. Minutes of 1-21-10 External Relations Committee Meeting
- E. Communications

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary