

INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MARCH 24, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Charis Austin
George Heartwell
Tammy Hopman
Don Lawless, Chair
Rick Morris
Terry Schweitzer
Barbara VanDuren
Rob VerHeulen
James White

Board Members Absent

Randy Gelderloos
Ira Hart
Lisa Haynes
Jack Hoffman
Barbara Holt
Richard Root

Staff

Robin Crothers
Alan Hartley
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Meegan Joyce
Jennifer Kalczuk
Chris Leighty
Nick Monoyios
Brian Pouget
Liz Schelling
Peter Varga, CEO
Conrad Venema
Scott Walsh
Kevin Wisselink

Others Present

Daniel Fox, Grand Rapids Press
Richard Jackson, Union 836
Shandra Martinez, Grand Rapids Press
Michael Kode McKede, ITT
Dean Peterson, MDOT
Alan Schwartz, Miller Johnson

**MINUTES OF
INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
AS RECORDED ON MARCH 24, 2010**

Commencing at 4:04 p.m. Mr. Lawless called the regular meeting of the Interurban Transit Partnership Board to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

1. Minutes of the January 27, 2010 Board Meeting:

Mr. Lawless noted an amendment to the January 27, 2010 Board meeting minutes on page 4 under item 13. He would like to add that "Mr. Lawless expressed his disappointment that the Barclay option was not given more study."

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by VerHeulen, to approve the January 27, 2010 Board meeting minutes, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Morris, supported by White, to approve items 2-5 as consent agenda items. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Performance Oversight Committee

6. Monthly Financial Statements for January and February 2010:

Mr. Schweitzer reported on the January and February financial statements. He noted that we finished the fifth month of our fiscal year in very good shape when compared to our budget. Our bottom line is approximately \$750,000 ahead of budgeted expectations. With the notable exception of property taxes a number of things have gone positively for us so far this year including state operating assistance, fuel prices, demand response and purchased transportation.

Mr. Lawless inquired if there was any discussion about a possible budget amendment in April or if the surplus indicates otherwise. Mr. Varga noted that it does not appear that we will need a budget amendment.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Morris, to approve the January and February 2010 Monthly Financial Statements. Motion passed unanimously.

7. FY 2010 First Quarter Report Card:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that the committee felt we should highlight the positive First Quarter Report Cards. He mentioned that for fixed route service we had all green lights with the exception of productivity which received a yellow due to a small increase in total ridership that was below the standard. He also noted that fixed route ridership is down slightly. The first quarter report card for paratransit service had green lights in all categories.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by VerHeulen, to approve the FY 2010 First Quarter Report Card and the FY 2010 First Quarter Paratransit Report Card. Motion passed unanimously.

8. FY 2010 First Quarter Paratransit Report Card:

Discussed and approved under item 7, above.

9. FY 2010 First Quarter Rideshare Report:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that during the quarter, two vehicles were lost due to employment changes, while three vanpools were added, leading to an overall increase in the program. He commented that efforts are being made to work with employers and individuals to start new vanpool groups.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Morris, to approve the FY 2010 First Quarter Rideshare Report. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO REPORT

10. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga commented that he and Mr. Jaiyeoba went to Washington DC to have meetings with legislators' staff on upcoming projects. He informed the Board that the House Republican Conference has voted not to support any funding requests this year. Congressman Ehlers'

office informed us that they will not be able to support any allocations for us as they have in the past. Support for our projects will have to come from our U.S. senators. He noted that previously Congressman Ehlers has supported funding allocations for transportation in the authorization bill and we are hopeful that this will continue with the reauthorization bill.

Mayor VerHeulen inquired if the consequence of the Congressman not supporting the earmark would impact the support of the Senators. Mr. Varga replied that we usually have large requests in different areas. The Congressman picks one and the Senators pick another, however, in this instance we have only one large request on the bus and bus facilities side which the Senators will push for. The other request is for \$100,000 in additional funds for the Streetcar Refinement Study from the Section 5339 program.

Mr. Varga noted that there will be a notice of funding availability for additional urban circulator grants because there are unexpended funds in the TIGER program, federal formula program and New Starts. We will continue to watch for these funds.

He reported that at the APTA Legislative Conference he asked how many transit systems have had to cut service and increase fares and about half raised their hands. When asked how many were doing both about a third raised their hands. Many were also concerned about losing funding opportunities due to the downturn. Many transit systems are suffering, however, we have not had to do this due to the conservative nature of our budgeting process.

Mr. Morris questioned if we could request that the Press highlight that we have a conservative budget and have not had to cut service and raise fares when the majority of transit agencies are doing this. Mr. Varga noted that he would look into this.

Mr. Varga reported that various bills have been introduced in the House or Senate committees regarding some of the funding and reform proposals in the TF2 report. We continue to monitor these bills and nothing significant has moved other than SB 262, Diesel Parity bill. We have been working to tie the reform bills and the revenue bills together to achieve the recommendations of the TF2 Task Force.

Ms. Hopman inquired what percentage would go to transit if the gas tax bill was approved. Mr. Varga noted that it would be 10%.

Mr. White questioned if the Diesel Parity bill is passed would all funds would go to transit or only a percentage. Mr. Varga noted that usually 90% is allocated for roads and bridges and up to 10% goes to transit.

11. Wellness Program Update:

Mr. Varga reported that this update on the Wellness Program was put together by the consultants at McCahill Group.

Mr. Lawless appreciates the continued updates and believes this will be a critical component of the overall health of our employees. He would like to encourage professional staff to look at opportunities to create financial incentives in our health program, but realizes that due to the union contract we are not able to make changes mid-term.

Mr. White commented that they tried this with the City and found that if you reflect back to people how we are doing as a whole group they respond positively.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lawless mentioned his interest in the Employer Transportation Association Proposal that was brought forward and encourages staff to have fun with this and see if we can get broader interest from employers in the community. He believes this will be very worthwhile.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There was no discussion on the following information items.

- A. Minutes of 2-10-10 and 3-10-10 Governance Committee Meetings
- B. Minutes of 3-17-10 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of 3-17-10 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- D. Minutes of 3-18-10 External Relations Committee Meeting
- E. Communications

A motion was made by Austin, supported by VerHeulen, to go into Executive Session to discuss Land Acquisition at Woodland Mall. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. (4:35 p.m.)

Yes: Austin, Heartwell, Hopman, Lawless, Morris, Schweitzer, VanDuren, VerHeulen, White

No: None

A motion was made by VerHeulen, supported by White, to adjourn Executive Session and return to regular session. Motion passed unanimously. (4:55 p.m.)

Mr. Lawless reported that no action will be taken on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary

