

INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

APRIL 27, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Charis Austin
Tim Cochran
Ira Hart
Lisa Haynes
George Heartwell
Jack Hoffman
Barbara Holt
Steve Kauffman
Don Lawless
Rick Morris
Richard Root
Terry Schweitzer
Rob VerHeulen
James White

Staff

Robin Crothers
Alan Hartley
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Meegan Joyce
Jennifer Kalczuk
Bill Kirk
Linda Medina
Nick Monoyios
Brian Pouget
Liz Schelling
Peter Varga
Conrad Venema

Board Members Absent

Tammy Hopman

Others

Jeff Ammon, Miller Johnson
Scott Atchison, Michigan Flashcard
Rob Carter, Passenger
David Doyle, FOT
Dan Fox, MV Transportation
Andy Guy, Wondergem
Richard Jackson, ATU Local 836
Kyla King, Grand Rapids Press
Frank Lynn, DAKC

MINUTES OF
INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
AS RECORDED ON APRIL 27, 2011

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

Rob Carter questioned if the millage does not pass if we would have a millage proposal next year without the Silver Line option. He would like to see the proposed improvements address the overcrowding issue on Route 9 and provide Sunday service on West Leonard. He believes improvements like these would get us more support from Walker residents.

Scott Atchison thinks we should get an application that can be used with smart phones to help riders locate the exact location of the bus. He believes we should have a sub-station in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Police Department at the Woodland Mall.

1. Minutes of the March 30, 2011 Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Kauffman, supported by Cochran, to approve the March 30, 2011 Board meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Morris, supported by Hart, to approve Consent Agenda items 2 & 3. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Performance Oversight Committee

4. February 2011 Ridership & Productivity Report:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that fixed route ridership increased 3.0% in February 2011. Contracted ridership increased 1.7%, demand response ridership decreased 0.7% and total ridership increased 2.4%.

Total ridership increased 6.7% for fiscal year 2011 compared to fiscal year 2010.

A motion was made by White, supported by Morris, to approve the February 2011 Ridership & Productivity Report. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Tax Rate Certification:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that approval is requested of a resolution authorizing collection of 1.29 mills in July 2011 if the May 3, 2011 millage passes and approval of a resolution authorizing collection of 1.12 mills in July 2011 if the May 3, 2011 millage does not pass.

He explained that the Board is being asked to approve both actions at this time. Only one of the two actions will be taken depending on the outcome of the May 3, 2011 election. We need to certify the millage for the July 2011 collection with the six cities by May 15, 2011, necessitating this action at the April Board meeting.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Austin, to approve a resolution for collection of 1.29 mills and a resolution for collection of 1.12 mills, depending on the outcome of the May 3, 2011 millage election. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO's REPORT

6. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga reported that U.S. House and Senate leaders negotiated a deal to fund government operations through the remainder of FY 2011. This agreement reduces spending by \$38.5 billion from FY 2010 levels. Under the agreement, transit formula programs will remain at the FY 2010 level of \$8.34 billion.

He reported that he did sign a contract with the state of Michigan for the Amtrak relocation project and that he will be attending APTA Presidential Task Force conference calls and meetings in May.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce legislative priorities include improving the performance of Michigan's transportation system. They would like to double the investment of Michigan roads and public transportation with federal, state and local funding. This is a positive statement from the Chamber which was restated at the "Not Your Average Speaker" series.

He also mentioned that he spoke at the Michigan Energy Conference on federal and state funding for transportation and how over time it has been diminishing.

Mr. Varga announced that this May he will enter his 32nd year working in transit. The Board applauded his lengthy career in the transit industry.

Item 7 will be taken last due to the need for Executive Session.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lawless pointed out that the Chamber information shows that we are a donor state and throughout history we have never received any funding while other states have received billions in funding for fixed guideway projects. He noted this is a great value proposition.

He recognized Mr. Hoffman who will receive the distinguished service award from the local bar association.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Advisory Committee reports.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. White noted that he is getting a good response for support from the third ward regarding the millage.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There was no discussion on the following information items.

- A. Minutes of 4-13-11 Governance Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of 4-20-11 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of 4-20-11 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- D. Communications

7. Labor Negotiations:

Executive Session –Labor Negotiations:

A motion was made by Root, supported by Austin, to close regular session and go into executive session to discuss labor negotiations. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. (4:21 p.m.)

Yes: Austin, Cochran, Hart, Haynes, Heartwell, Hoffman, Holt, Kauffman, Lawless, Morris, Root, Schweitzer, VerHeulen, White
No: None

A motion was made by Austin, supported by VerHeulen, to adjourn executive session and return to regular session. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. (5:26 p.m.)

Yes: Austin, Cochran, Hart, Haynes, Heartwell, Hoffman, Holt, Kauffman, Lawless, Morris, Schweitzer, VerHeulen, White
No: None

No action was recommended in Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary