INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MAY 25, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

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

Staff

Robin Crothers
Alan Hartley
Jennifer Kalczuk
Bill Kirk
Linda Medina
Brian Pouget
Liz Schelling
Peter Varga
Kevin Wisselink
Carl Woodson

Board Members Absent

Lisa Haynes
Tammy Hopman
Rob VerHeulen

Others Present

Timothy Broekhuizer, Citizen
David Bulkowski, FOT
Rob Carter, Passenger
Zane Corriveau, MLCV
Jeff Deason, Indian Trails
David Doyle, FOT
Dan Fox, MV Transportation
Richard Jackson, Local ATU 836
Gopal Ji, CCIT
Kyla King, Grand Rapids Press
Watchdog Miller, Citizen
Sgt. Wayne Moore, GRPD
Robert Peterson, Citizen
Phil Skaggs, MLCV
Becky Verzi, Passenger
John Verzi, passenger

MINUTES OF

INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

AS RECORDED ON MAY 25, 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

Timothy Broekhuizer commented that he is supportive of service to Ferris State University.

Watchdog Miller commented that the west side voted against the millage and suggests making the west side happy by using the bus. He recommends running Route 50 east on Pearl to Division to give GVSU students access to downtown. Running east of Division and back west of Fulton will give Route 50 direct transfer to many routes. He said that starting a new downtown route to Big Rapids is insulting to residents living on the south side and the west side of Grand Rapids. It is also insulting to many of the suburbs at the table. He believes we should first bring the buses we have back downtown. The high monthly pass prices that we offer are unsustainable and anti-competitive and he mentioned various cities that offer lower prices for senior passes.

Jeff Deason with Indian Trails believes that The Rapid should have notified all willing and able private operators that Ferris State University was interested in contracting for commuter service. He is requesting that the Board table the approval for this contract until further investigation is completed. He would like to have a meeting with Rapid staff to further review this opportunity.

Mr. Lawless referred Mr. Deason's request to Mr. Varga to address and noted that service to Ferris State University is not on today's agenda.

Rob Carter congratulated us on the passage of the millage but thinks we could make information more transparent. He supports the route to Big Rapids. He wonders if using a 60-ft. bus on the Alpine route would help with the overcrowding issue.

1. <u>Resolution of Appreciation-Friends of Transit</u>:

   Mr. Lawless noted a resolution of appreciation for the work done by Friends of Transit on the May 3, 2011 millage campaign.

   Mayor Heartwell offered his gratitude to Friends of Transit for the amount of work that was done on promoting the millage. He mentioned how important the millage was for the community both socially and economically.

   Mr. Hoffman agrees with Mayor Heartwell's thoughts and recognized all who worked on the campaign.

Mr. Lawless thanked Mr. Doyle and Mr. Bulkowski for all their hard work with the millage campaign. He noted that Phil Skaggs did so much with the limited time he was given.

Phil Skaggs recognized Zane Corriveau for his efforts as well.

Mr. Varga thanked all who were involved for their passion and dedication.

Mr. Doyle mentioned that Mr.Wege has been a great supporter for transit and deserves a thank you for all his help. He thanked Mayor Heartwell and Mayor Root for their help promoting the millage.

Mr. Bulkowski commented that Mayor Root showed real passion for transit during this millage and that the Rapid Revolution that Mr. Hoffman inspired was a great event that helped make the millage campaign a success.

Phil Skaggs thanked Mayors Heartwell and Root for all their help with the campaign. He noted that it has been a pleasure to run a campaign for such a great organization. Additional thanks to former Congressman Vern Ehlers for all of his support.

A motion was made by Holt, supported by Hart, to approve the resolution of Appreciation for Friends of Transit. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Root commented that this is a strong organization and we are doing remarkable things. He is grateful for every vote received.

2. Board Member Retirement - Rick Morris:

Mr. Lawless recognized Mr. Morris for his service on the Board.

Mr. Morris commented that Mr. Schweitzer does a great job running the Performance Oversight Committee, staff does an excellent job providing information to the Board and Mr. Varga does a fantastic job with the overall operation of The Rapid. He thanked all the Board members and noted that it has been very fulfilling being on the Board.

Mr. Varga thanked him for his service on the Board.

3. Minutes of the April 27 2011 Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by Morris, to approve the April 27, 2011 Board meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Root, supported by Heartwell, to approve consent agenda items 4-8. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Performance Oversight Committee

9. FY 2011 Second Quarter Report Card-Fixed Route:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that in January we implemented upgraded performance standards for fixed route service. We have met the higher standards showing all green lights for the second quarter for fixed route.

Mr. Hoffman mentioned that the cost effectiveness category shows cost per passenger is down to $2.09 per passenger. He believes this proves that getting the fare percentage up and the cost down is increasing ridership.

A motion was made by Morris, supported by Holt, to approve the FY 2011 Second Quarter Fixed Route Report Card. Motion passed unanimously.

10. FY 2011 Second Quarter Report Card-Paratransit:

Mr. Schweitzer noted that paratransit performance continues to meet the new standards as well, with green lights in all categories for the second quarter.

A motion was made by Morris, supported by Holt, to approve the FY 2011 Second Quarter Paratransit Report Card. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Purchase of Fixed-Route Buses for Expansion:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that authorization is requested to purchase a total of twenty-one (21), 40-foot, low-floor buses from Gillig Corporation, at a cost not to exceed $8,787,000.

He noted that, based on the Transit Master Plan that was approved by the Board in June 2010 and the recent millage approval on May 3rd of this year, staff needs to place orders for these 21 buses to allow the programmed service expansion to occur in August 2012.

The procurement of these vehicles is through a consortium procurement that The Rapid partnered with Akron Transit on last fall. That contract, which was awarded to Gillig in December of 2010, provides The Rapid with up to 76 buses for both expansion and replacement purposes.

Mr. Varga explained that discussion took place at the committee meetings about the purchase of the expansion vehicles. He noted that the capital plan only allows us to buy 21 buses. If we want to enhance up to two buses to alternative fuel buses we would have to defer the ITS program. Staff is looking at how we can maximize the service that we promised to the public and pursue opportunities with alternative fuels. He explained that staff would like to investigate compressed natural gas (CNG) buses because hybrid electric vehicles are more than we can spend at this point.

Mayor Heartwell mentioned that the analysis from GVSU on the hybrid vehicles is not yet available. He believes there is value beyond the potential cost savings in fuel with purchasing alternative fuel vehicles. He commented that there is value to the environment and believes it is important that the transit system shows its commitment to the community by purchasing alternative fuel vehicles. He stated that he will not support any bus purchase that does not include alternative fuel vehicles.

Mr. Hoffman is requesting more education on the issue of alternative fuel vehicles. He supports this purchase and understands that we need more buses to provide the increased service that was promised to the public.

Mr. Schweitzer noted that it is important to expand the fleet in order to meet the demands of service. He does not believe that purchasing alternative fuel vehicles should be at the expense of the ITS program. He supports trying to purchase CNG buses and stay within the budget.

Mr. Morris commented that an increase in service equates to less cars on the road which leads to a green community.

Mr. Root noted that based on return on investment and operating cost per mile associated with hybrid vehicles, he supports this purchase of diesel buses. He hopes the hybrid option becomes more affordable and is interested in exploring the option of CNG vehicles.

Mr. Lawless noted that we had a great opportunity that allowed us to purchase the 5 hybrid buses that we currently have. He believes that at this point we should buy additional diesel buses as opposed to spending ITS funds on hybrid buses.

Mr. Varga reminded Board members that if CNG vehicles are possible we will bring back a recommendation to the Board with any additional cost for approval.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Morris, to approve the purchase of 21 fixed route buses for expansion. Motion passed, with 11 in favor and 1 opposed (Heartwell).

12. Purchase of Up To 8 Minivans for Vanpool Program:

Mr. Schweitzer reported that authorization is requested from the ITP Board to approve the purchase of up to eight additional vans for vanpools in the RapidVan program. The vans will be used for commuters entering the counties of Kent, Allegan, and portions of Ottawa County that have chosen to participate in the RapidVan program.

He reported that the RapidVan program has experienced substantial demand over the past two months, and there is a need to expand the fleet to meet the increased demand. The purchase of eight vans in the RapidVan program will allow the fleet to return to a maximum of 21 vans, still below the 28 vans

previously authorized by the Board. CMAQ and state funding will be used to purchase the vans.

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by Root, to approve the purchase of up to 8 minivans for the vanpool program. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO's REPORT

13. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga reported that recent meetings of the Conference Committee resulted in supporting the Governors Budget. This is good news for transit. We are still waiting for a resolution about how they will move with the authorization bill for federal transportation. At this time, he believes there will be a limited 3-year bill.

He noted that we had a visit from John Porcari, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation, on May 12, 2011. He spoke to Board members and staff, as well as toured Rapid Central Station, a portion of the proposed Division Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project and the Wealthy Operations Center expansion project which will open in December 2011.

He noted that in January 2012 we will implement all enhanced services that do not require additional buses and implement service that requires additional buses by August 2012. The BRT is dependent on getting the Project Construction Grant Agreement (PCGA).

He noted that he has been working with APTA Board members and other transit CEO's to help select the next APTA President.

14. Planning Meeting Discussion:

Mr. Varga reported that we usually have a planning meeting in May, however, this year we have decided against having one. At the last planning meeting in May 2010 we discussed the 2011 service plan, potential of a millage, the TMP and we scheduled the Board retreat. At this point we do not have any major plans to discuss but we do need to schedule the Board retreat. He explained that we have a governance procedure that calls for a May planning meeting, however, he recommends only having the Board retreat and schedule it for sometime in April. This would help us develop the budget formulation guidelines. He mentioned Monday, April 16, 2012, as a tentative date for the retreat.

Mr. Lawless recommends we discuss this item at the next Governance Committee meeting.

Mayor Heartwell commented that he would like to continue scheduling meetings on Wednesdays.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Advisory Committee Reports.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hoffman asked if Mr. Varga could give us some insight into what we are waiting for with the Project Construction Grant Agreement for the BRT. Mr. Varga noted that we are waiting for the FTA to assign a project construction oversight consultant for the project. We can't execute the grant until a consultant is assigned. He explained that normally after you get your FONSI you can get your PCGA within 6 months, however, it can take longer.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There was no discussion on the following information items.

A. Minutes of 5-11-11 Governance Committee Meeting
B. Minutes of 5-18-11 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
C. Minutes of 5-18-11 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
D. Minutes of 5-19-11 External Relations Committee Meeting
E. Communications

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary