

MINUTES OF
INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
As Recorded on April 26, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present: Charis Austin, David Bilardello, Rosalynn Bliss, Dave Bulkowski, Gary Carey, Tim Cochran, Jack Hoffman, Barbara Holt (Chair), Stephen Kepley, Terry Schweitzer, Paul Troost, Mike Verhulst

Committee Members Absent: Randy Gelderloos, Mark Huizenga, Amna Seibold

Staff Present: Kathy Anderson, Ali Brown, Michael Bulthuis, Robin Crothers, Judy DeVries, Rod Ghearing, Meegan Joyce, Jennifer Kalczuk, Jeremy Mlaker, Nick Monoyios, Brian Pouget, Peter Varga (CEO), Conrad Venema, Mike Wieringa

Others Present: Allan Klepadlo (MV Transportation), Asher Lockwood, Watchdog Miller, Bianca Nunn (MV Transportation), Zoe Pentaleri, Jeff Schilling (Schilling Consulting Services)

Ms. Holt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Watchdog Miller stated that The Rapid lied to the public claiming that e-fare will not increase fares. The e-fare system will raise fares by 63%. There will be less use on a transfer and riders should get more time. We shouldn't operate a route to Ferris State. Drivers complains that dispatchers have never drive a Rapid bus which causes problems. He stated that The Rapid is not smart enough to operate a smart card system based on problems that The Rapid is not addressing with Routes 12, 19, 20, 21 and 50. He did not feel it was appropriate for The Rapid to spend money on pensions. He objected to Chair Barb Holt's canceling of the contract-critical July Governance Committee meeting.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of March 29, 2017 Board Meeting:

Ms. Holt asked for corrections to the minutes. None were offered. The minutes stand approved as written.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were placed on the Board's Consent Agenda by the Performance Oversight Committee at their April 19 meeting:

2. Monthly Financial Statements for March 2017
3. February 2017 Ridership and Productivity Report

4. February 2017 Paratransit Ridership Report

A motion was made by Cochran, supported by Verhulst, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Certification of 2017 Public Transportation Millage Levy:

Mr. Schweitzer stated that this certification is provided for Board authorization to collect 1.47 mills with the July 2017 tax bills. The tax revenue will be used for The Rapid's FY 2018 budget year beginning 10-1-17.

A motion was made by Schweitzer, supported by Hoffman, to authorize the collection of 1.47 mills in the six member cities with the July 2017 tax bills. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. Laker Line Progress Report

Mr. Monoyios gave a progress report on the Laker Line BRT project. He noted that we are waiting for the federal appropriations process regarding a grant for the Laker Line. The project consists of several improvements and/or conceptual plans along the corridor, including at GVSU Kirkhof Center at the Allendale Campus, a TOD plan in the Standale area, mixed use development at Fulton and Straight in Grand Rapids, at Pew Campus stops under the 131 overpass, and the turnaround at Michigan and Lafayette. All of these improvements involved cooperation from other parties including GVSU, the City of Walker, the Standale DDA, the City of Grand Rapids, MDOT and Spectrum Health.

In response to a question from Mayor Bliss, Mr. Monoyios stated that the park and ride lot on Maynard is on hold.

Mr. Varga commented that the land for the Maynard lot is GVSU property. Mutual agreement from all parties is necessary before a park and ride lot can be built. He indicated that The Rapid is looking at another solution on Cummings St. in Walker for a park and ride lot, but we need to wait for a decision from GVSU on what they want to do. The Rapid has CMAQ money to contribute to a park and ride project which can be used at any location.

Mr. Varga discussed the issues regarding federal funding for the Laker Line. We are waiting for appropriations to pass in Congress and hopefully our project will be in the bill. It is possible that another Continuing Resolution (CR) will be put in place. The State of Michigan has provided a commitment letter for the 20% state share. They have \$5 million toward the state share in the General Fund which will only be available this year. Mr. Varga noted that he is optimistic that we will get the grant for the Laker Line BRT.

Mr. Monoyios mentioned that we working with the Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC). The PMOC is selected by FTA to review and refine plans, cost, and schedule for the project.

He indicated that if the Laker Line stays on the current schedule, construction should begin late in 2017. We will purchase 16 articulated, 60-foot buses for the Laker Line freeing up 16 40-foot buses which provides a great deal of flexibility.

Mr. Varga noted that the total 20% state share is \$14 million.

Mr. Monoyios informed the Board that the Laker Line operating costs are 15% higher than Route 50 with 50% increased capacity and an average travel time savings of 5 minutes per passenger trip. This operating agreement with GVSU will provide enhanced BRT without a millage increase.

Mr. Carey discussed the plans for the Standale area that are expected to stimulate growth.

7. Governance Study Presentation: Structural and Procedural Recommendations:

Ms. Holt informed the Board that this is the second step in the governance study process. The next step will come to the Board in May. Final approval of the governance study recommendations is scheduled for June. The full report on Structural and Procedural Recommendations, presented by Mr. Jeff Schilling at today's meeting, will be sent to the Board and more detailed discussion will take place at the May committee meetings.

Mr. Schilling stated that The Governance Primer presented in March was the first piece of the study. The Balanced Scorecard portion of the study will come to the Board at their May 2017 meeting.

The Structural and Procedural Recommendations included three objectives: 1) great governance work for The Rapid, 2) meaningful work, and 3) efficiency. The self-assessment survey had mostly favorable responses, with room for improvement.

Mr. Schilling reviewed his recommendations for Board organizational structure based on information from minutes, Board agendas, and other means. Two standing committees were recommended – Governance and Strategic Planning. A recommended charge for each of the standing committees was also provided. The full Board would meet at a reduced frequency of six scheduled meetings per year. The Board would function as a Committee of the Whole for policy guidance and approvals related to Finance and Human Resources matters. A CEO Evaluation and Succession Planning Task Force was recommended. It was also recommended that we maintain the current Consumer Advisory Committee for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities and that they should meet every other month. There were other recommendations included regarding process.

Mr. Bilardello noted that having fewer meetings provides less opportunity for public comment. He expressed concern about the impact of this less frequent meeting schedule on financial oversight.

Ms. Holt stated that Board members would need to be communicative, engaged and active.

Mr. Bulkowski commented that the Consumer Advisory Committee is a state requirement.

Mr. Schweitzer mentioned that an advisory council for employment transportation would be beneficial. Mr. Varga noted that the Employers Advisory Council that The Rapid formed several years ago was very successful for a long time and we should look into re-establishing that process.

Mr. Varga stated that he felt the necessary business of The Rapid could be accomplished with the less frequency meeting schedule. Maintaining a good Board/staff relationship is key to our success and did not want to see that diminished.

Mr. Schilling noted that there would need to be discussion regarding how to allocate Board members to the committees.

An implementation schedule was included with the recommendations to gradually get the new organization structure in place.

CEO REPORT

8. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga stated that we are staying focused and waiting to see what Congress will do regarding our Laker Line grant. We have put in a lot of work on the project so far. We will keep working with legislators.

He indicated that we will continue to work with the business community to keep them engaged through the chambers or other means. The business community has been very supportive along with the riders. He expressed confidence in moving The Rapid forward.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – No report.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Holt congratulated Paul Troost on his appointment to the Grandville City Council.

There had been discussion by the Board regarding the need for a Board meeting in July with the amount of work that is in process. Ms. Holt stated that she did not feel that a July Board meeting was necessary. We can schedule a meeting if the need becomes apparent as we get closer to July.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Holt asked for any comments from the Board. There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Crothers, Board Secretary