

DRAFT

Minutes – 3/1/2016 Transit Committee Meeting

Attending:

Current Transit Committee Members: Adam Charnack, Chair; Valarie Macklin; Gary Ray; Bruce Emory; Calvin Allen; Charlton Owens; Tom Tomlin

City/ART Staff: Rose Christian, Yuri Koslen, Kelly Whitlock

Community Members: Wayne Blackwell, Sabrah n’haRaven, Tim Sadler, Kimberly Roney, Ray Bartlett

Opening of Meeting

Adam opened the meeting.

Review agenda: Adam added new business item re fare-free day; Bruce motioned, Charlton seconded; unanimous in favor.

Approval of 2 Feb 2016 Minutes: Adam motioned to approve and Tom seconded; unanimous in favor.

Public Comment

Sabrah n’haRaven: Regarding possible changes in Transit Committee meeting times: she generally prefers the current schedule, but understands that it may be desirable to shift occasional meetings to a later time.

Transit Committee noteworthy transit experiences in riding the bus

Tom reported no problems on N and N3. Valarie commended a driver on route N (Kevin) who woke her at her stop after she dozed off. No noteworthy comments from other members.

Old Business

- **Follow-up with Wayne Blackwell:** Mr. Blackwell commented that he still does not feel that the staff fully appreciates the difficulty he had in obtaining a discounted pass. Adam observed that staff is working on improving the complaint process. Yuri agreed that there needs to be a better follow-up process for complaints. He also observed that staff will now call a doctor’s office for verification, rather than making the applicant go back to the doctor’s office.

New Business

- **Fare-free day for election:** Bruce described the request from City Council to the Multimodal Transportation Commission to consider a fare-free day for the March 15 primary election. MMTC thought it would not be very effective, since most residents vote in their own neighborhoods, and there is little time for publicity. MMTC did not endorse the proposal, and recommended that the Transit Committee and city staff study the concept for future elections. Transit Committee did not take any action, pending consideration by Council at March 8 meeting. Adam stated that fare-free days would be a good topic for the potential Transit Committee retreat.

Transit Committee Business

- **MMTC Update – Bruce:** Last meeting was February 24th. MMTC received a report on TIGER projects: River Arts District improvements and related greenways; Yuri pointed out status reports in the List of Projects. Received report from Ken Putnam re I-26: 1,500 comments were received by NCDOT; City and NCDOT are working on structuring a working group to address design issues. MMTC reviewed applicants for vacant transit-interests seat and made a recommendation to Council.
- **Drivers Meeting - Tom:** No meeting in February; next meeting March 24th.
- **Recommendation for transit-interests seat on MMTC:** Bruce described the process for receiving applications, and for MMTC and Transit Committee making recommendations to City Council. Applicant Kimberly Roney addressed the Committee regarding her desire to be appointed. Adam allowed time for members to review the applications. Gary and Charlton commented favorably on applicants Adam and Kimberly. Members voted by paper ballot for one or two applicants: Kimberly Roney received six votes, Adam Charnack five votes, and Mike Zukoski one vote. Committee resolved (Gary motioned, Charlton seconded) to recommend Adam Charnack and Kimberly Roney for consideration by City Council.

Staff Updates:

- **AIM:** Yuri distributed and discussed transit excerpt from draft consultant report. Recommendations include premium service routes and downtown circulator. Report will go to MMTC March 24, then to public.
- **Complaint Process:** City staff and First Transit are continuing to work on this – target completion June 1st.
- **Transit Management Contract RFP:** Due date for proposals is March 14th. Five companies attended the pre-proposal meeting.
- **Transit Master Plan (TMP):** nothing new since last report.
- **Guidelines:** Transit staff is working with Kelly Whitlock to address some remaining items: making suspension policy consistent with other City policies; weapon guidelines; carrying groceries. Sabrah n’haRaven commented on need for consistency in enforcement of guidelines, both among different drivers and among different neighborhoods. Charlton commented on need to keep weapons off buses.
- **List of Projects :** Yuri described the new format for this report (included in agenda package).
- **ART monthly operating statistics – attached:** Rose described revisions in reporting of accidents.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: April 5, 2016 – 3:30-5pm – 1st Floor