



**Transit Committee
Minutes - Draft**

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

Attending:

Committee Members: Adam Charnack, Chair; Valarie Macklin; Anthony Mitchell; Gary Ray; Lauren Noto; Bruce Emory; Calvin Allen; Charlton Owens; Edward Johnson; Tom Tomlin; Kim Roney

City/ART Staff: Rose Christian; Mariate Echeverry

Community Members: Amy Cantrell, Dwain Cosby, Lisa Freeman, James Gambrell, Vicki Meath, Sabrah n'ha Raven

3:35 PM – Opening of meeting

Adam opened the meeting.

Review agenda – Charlton Owens motioned, Gary Ray seconded. Unanimous in favor.

Approval of 1 March 2016 Minutes – Charlton Owens motioned, Gary Ray seconded. Unanimous in favor.

3:40 PM – Public Comment

No public comment received.

3:45 PM - TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Kim rode W1 and noted that it was running seven minutes late and everyone was friendly. Lauren said that most buses seem to be running more on time this month than last month. Bruce noted several late buses. Seeing a lot of out of date posters. Rose replied that they are working on new posters for the buses. Tom said that E1 was running 20 minutes late. Ed said there was a problem the preceding Friday at the transit station with the glass. A sign led people to turn away in frustration not receiving help when there was in fact someone in the station to assist them.

3:51 PM New Business

Transit Priorities – Mariate: Transit asked to put together a group of priorities to give council an idea of what could be funded with an additional \$600,000. These ideas came from the transit master plan, and some came as something that has been identified since. Adding one bus on S3 to the airport, extending S4 to Biltmore village, to extend W3 to Enka-Candler area. Extended hours – 8 hours between morning and night, depending on ridership. Two non-ranked priorities were City Transportation Planner Position and Transit Master Plan Update. Staff did not rank.

Transit Priorities – Just Economics: Amy Cantrell – Representing People's Voice for Transportation Equality (PVTE). Supportive of another bus on S3 as first priority. Would like to recommend that priorities two and three be switched, to make #2 extended hours and #3 an S4 extension. Feels that evening service is a crucial priority. Believe that transit could go to the city to ask for additional funding sources, as W3 expansion is an expansion out into the county. Evening service was the second most important priority on PVTE. 100% of Fall 2015 surveys said evening service was important.

Discussion, Transit priorities: Mariate said that until funding is available transit department would not identify specific routes. Council has not firmly decided on additional \$600,000 yet. New service would not be implemented before January 1, 2017, and depending on availability of staff might take more time. Mariate also noted that Sunday service was about prioritizing what routes were vital on main corridors. Anthony noted that he spoke with Asheville Independent Restaurant members and they were interested in increasing transit hours so that their back of house and some front of house staff could have an easier time of getting to work. Calvin noted that routes through Patton and Tunnel run late and do so to most low-income neighborhoods. Adam said that top two priorities should be extended hours and additional service on S3 route, opened up the floor to how the TC chooses to rank priorities. Mariate noted that unless there is another transit position added, things would continue to move slowly. Mariate said if additional funding is received, still highly unlikely that full time position will be funded.

Sabrah N’Ha Raven, community member: S4 bus runs on the hour versus North buses running every half hour. It is often late and leaves people, so she is concerned about how that would work. Increased frequency would be ideal.

The priority order that the Transit Committee endorsed, 9-1, were:

- 1) Addition of bus to S3
- 2) Extending hours
- 3) City planner position
- 4) Extension of S4

MMTC Minutes Update – Bruce: Update on Beaucatcher Greenway – will be discussed at City Council meeting next week. Not sure what action they will take.

Drivers Meeting Update – Tom: No driver’s meeting.

4:21 PM Unfinished Business

Adam noted that we would talk about some old business during staff updates.

Next Transit Retreat:

Mariate suggested June or July as the position Yuri vacated would be filled and it would be the beginning of a new fiscal year.

4:37 PM Staff Updates

AIM Update - Mariate: In the final stages. One action they took was to prepare a video to be put together with the report as the report is dense. Mariate showed the video and estimated online availability by Monday, ___ to be placed on Open City Hall. Kim asked why the bus symbol was always last in the video. Mariate answered that the symbols were in order of time of trip.

Complaint Process Timeframe: Last word was that Mariate and Rose would have a draft before the federal audit in May. Rose said that the triennial began June 2, but wasn’t sure of feasibility of draft before then. Adam echoes that having something, even if it was just a complaint card, before June would be ideal. Vicki Meath, Just Economics, reiterated their offer to help support the complaint draft process.

Transit Management Contract/RFP update: Mariate - received two proposals. Are in Blackout period where we cannot discuss, will have information soon. Currently in the second year of a 5 year contract. Gary noted that he would like to see products other than NextBus that are more blind friendly.

Transit Master Plan (TMP) Update: Mariate asks the committee to be patient because of loss of staff. Suspension policy update timeframe: Adam said that the city attorney has reviewed potential policy. Still waiting on draft.

List of Projects – Attached: Nothing transit related this month. Mariate asked the committee to read about the Beaucatcher Greenway, which will be at the council meeting next week.

ART Monthly Operating Statistics: Rose – had no changes. Having conversation with National Transit Database to work on statistics that show huge increase of ridership. Mariate and Rose are working to make sure that the numbers are accurate so that there is justification for additional funding.

4:54 PM - Public Comment:

Vicki Meath, Just Economics: Thrilled about potential additional funding, willing to help in any way possible. Might be argument that Tourism Development Association could fund transit system as better transit creates more heads in beds. Just Economics is committed to finding additional funding over the long haul.

4:58 PM Future Agenda Items

Advertising Policy

Transit Committee Goals

Try Different Meeting Times – one meeting pushed back time-wise, or another Tuesday of month.

5:05 PM Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: May 3, 2016, 3:30 PM, City Hall First Floor Conference Room