Multimodal Transportation Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting September 23, 2015

Attending:

Commission Members: Jim Grode, Chair; Bruce Emory, Vice-Chair; John Ridout, Mary Weber, Terri March, Julie Mayfield and Kristy Carter and Till Dohse.
Commission Members Absent: Philip Lenowitz and Don Kostelec.
Council Liaison:
Community Members: Mariate Echeverry, Martha McGlohon and Janet GeorgeMurr

Called Meeting To Order: Jim Grode opened the meeting and welcomed members, staff and public.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:
September 23, 2015 – Agenda: Board Member Till Dohse motioned to approve; Board Member Bruce Emory second and carried unanimously.
August 26, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes: with a minor correction on the abbreviation of "SACEE", Board Member Bruce Emory motioned to approve, Board Member Till Dohse second and carried unanimously.`

Public Comment I: Jim Grode, Chair, invited the public to comment; and also suggested if the public would like to wait to make a comment until after Mariate and Just Economics presentations regarding the management company.

Presentations:
1. Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager, presented on the contractual relationship with the management company for Asheville Redefines Transit (ART.) Explaining the reason why there is a management company due to federal and state regulations. Mariate discussed the contractual agreement with First Transit to include a list of what would be provided; contract fees; Resident General Manager; and management support team to provide; operating budget; monitoring; monthly reports; quarterly meetings with VP; yearly financial and inventory audits; FTA Triennial Review; and contractual options with First Transit.

Staff stated there are three options regarding the current contract:
1. Extend current contract until June 30th 2016 and release RFP Process takes about 9 months-new contract in place by July 1, 2016;
2. Exercise option to renew for one more year and release RFP in March 2016 to have a new contract beginning January 1, 2017;
3. Exercise Option to renew for two more years (one each year) and release RFP in March 2017 to have a new contract in place beginning January 1, 2018. Issuing a RFP at this point is required by current contract.

2. Vickie Meath of Just Economics presented on the accountability for Transit Management listing questions on the process in how to hold the management company accountable to its contract with the City. Just Economics is asking the City to hold First Transit accountable to any management practices or patterns that jeopardize public safety per the Contract with the City; and requesting answers through an accountability process whether an RFP or adequate accountability measure.

After a discussion among Commissioners, staff, Just Economics, ART union president, the following motioned was made:
-Chairman, Jim Grode stated that a motion on the floor by Till Dohse to exercise the option to renew for one more year; release an RFP in March, 2016 to have a new contract beginning January 1, 2017 and during that time to work to develop an understanding and plan to address the issues that are seen now through resources and management practices and potential amendment to the existing contract.

-John Ridout opposes and would like to see more documentation about very specific issues come before him before making a recommendation for Option 2.

-Motion passes 6 to 1 vote.

-There will be member of the Transit Committee that will be on the RFP committee for the management company.

MMTC thank everyone for their participation.

Jim stated that due to time constraints the following items to discuss:

New Business:

1. Resignation of Steven Obremski from MMTC. City Clerk will post the notice and deadline is 11/4/15.
2. Endorsement of four new Greenway Committee to bring 11 members on the committee. Mary gave a brief overview of the 4 candidates. Board Member Mary Weber motioned to approve the 4 candidates to the Greenway Committee; Board member Julie Mayfield seconded the motion; carried unanimously.
3. MTP update – Bruce – did succeed with NCDOT in changing wording on couple of projects that was objected to on the I26 project where the description mentions 8 lanes even though it has not been determined if it will be 6 or 8 lanes to have more flexible language; on the Amboy and Meadow Road widening to back off on the language.

Unfinished Business:

1. Neighborhood Sidewalk Program and Proposed Policy – Jim stated MMTC recommended adoption of the policy at the last meeting. Since that time we have presented it to the Planning and Economic Development Committee of City Council which recommended that it be submitted to City Council for approval at the 10/13/15 meeting.
2. NCDOT pedestrian safety study update – Mariate stated that she has not received anything about the study from NCDOT yet.
3. AIM – Mariate stated that she and the consultants of Kimley-Horn are in the process of developing a priority matrix. Julie stated that Rick Tipton stated that the EIS on I26 due at any day and the public meeting may be in November.
4. Social Event after this MMTC meeting at Hi-Wire.

General Committee Updates:

1. Julie stated that Transit Committee needs applications from potential candidates.
2. Mary stated that the Greenway Committee will have a field trip on 10/1/15 at 3:30pm to tour the French Broad West Greenway (Duke property) with the Riverfront Redevelopment Commission and invited MMTC.
3. Till will announce the bike count at the next meeting.

Staff Updates

Mariate announced:

1. The public meeting for the RADTIP project 9/24/15 4-7pm at Pack Library; consultants will be available.
2. Staff was told that Council wants to have policy recommendations from the Commissions by December, 2015. Council wants to come to retreat with the recommendations made by the Commissions. Council did not specify but to take into considerations strategic goals this year. The last opportunity to advance any policies will be December 2.

Public Comment II: None

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Meeting Adjourned: 5:05pm