

DRAFT

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD Meeting May 23, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Allison Bickers
Neil Fusillo
Walter Kolis
Mark Riggans
Forrest Shealy
Jeff Souther
Matt Stigall

TAB Members Not Present

Dania Aponte
LaSandra Boykin
James Darden
Ken Marlin
Cherie Newton
Ron Roberts

Cobb County and Others Present

Karl Von Hagel, DOT
Marcia Lankford, DOT

I. Call to Order:

Chair Allison Bickers began discussion with TAB members and less than a quorum present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TAB: Due to lack of quorum present, approval of April 26, 2022 meeting minutes was delayed for a later time.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. DOT Department Update

MSPLOST - Mr. Von Hagel provided an update on MSPLOST and stated that there is a work session on May 24, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the 2024 Referendum for Cobb County Transportation Improvements. **Mr. Von Hagel** invited TAB members to view the meeting (or to view the recording later). DOT will not be making a presentation at the work session.

Mr. Shealy encouraged all TAB members to work with their respective Commissioners and provide information from community comments.

Chair Bickers encouraged TAB members to view the recording of the work session if they are not able to view it live. **Chair Bickers** also encouraged TAB members to discuss regional cooperation on transportation with their respective Commissioners, which was heavily discussed at the ARC Link Meeting in Austin, TX.

Advertising and Shelters - Mr. Von Hagel reported that he sent preliminary numbers to TAB members, indicating a benchmark of 10 riders per bus stop. **Mr. Von Hagel** confirmed that the GIS maps are to be updated. He reported that the cost to install new shelters, to replace existing shelters, to refurbish old shelters, and to remove unused shelters is estimated at \$3M. **Mr. Von Hagel** reported

that the future advertising RFP is developing and advertisers would provide advertising only and that the County will assume responsibility for the bus shelters.

Mr. Stigall expressed concern that reduction of bus shelters will have a direct impact on ridership dropping. **Mr. Stigall** suggested keeping in mind that bus shelters have an impact on the transit rider and consider the impacts of cutting bus shelters will have on growth in ridership.

MCI Replacement/Paratransit Fleet Options – Mr. Von Hagel reported that the Paratransit fleet has been supplemented with 3 borrowed Senior Services buses through June 30, 2022 to total approximately 9 vehicles. Also, on May 24, 2022, the BOC is to vote to approve an Amendment to the First Transit Agreement to lease 14 vehicles for Paratransit, arriving June 1, 2022. There are 22 new Paratransit vehicles on order with a 3-year total delivery schedule. **Mr. Von Hagel** reported that 12 new CNG buses are on order for Fixed Route and are 18 to 24 months from production. There are 17 commuter buses that are currently being refurbished two at a time.

ATL Logo on CobbLinc Buses – Mr. Von Hagel reported that ATL is paying for the ATL Regional Partner logo to be placed on CobbLinc buses.

Operator Agreement RFP – Mr. Von Hagel reported that the one-year operator extension agreement with First Transit was approved by the BOC, effective July 1, 2022 and to continue through June 30, 2023. The draft Transit Operator Agreement RFP is under development. **Mr. Von Hagel** stated that he is no longer considering removing customer service from the operator contractor, but that a County customer service manager be hired to provide oversight to the contractor's customer service.

Transfer Center Alternative Analysis – Mr. Von Hagel reported that DOT Planners are working to provide the scope to the Consultants with the negotiation of an agreement to potentially go on the second BOC meeting in July for approval. The Alternative Analysis Study will be fully completed in approximately twelve (12) months. **Mr. Von Hagel** announced that Congressman David Scott notified Cobb County that the application for funding of the Austell/South Cobb Transfer Center has been submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations for further consideration as one of his congressional earmarks.

Greyhound Bus Operations – Mr. Von Hagel reported that Greyhound Lines, Inc. requested use of the Marietta Transfer Center as a pickup/drop-off point for three of their bus arrivals per day, for which Greyhound will pay the County a rental fee.

Planning Report – DOT was awarded \$14,375,000.00 for Transit ADA Sidewalk Improvements.

Mr. Stigall inquired as to the process required to have sidewalks and bike lanes included in road projects.

Mr. Von Hagel stated that he will look into the policy for bike lanes and sidewalks and will present at the next TAB meeting.

Upcoming Agenda Items – Mr. Von Hagel reported on and explained the upcoming Transit agenda items scheduled for May 24, 2022 and June 14, 2022.

Customer Complaints Review – Mr. Von Hagel reported on the customer service complaints for March 2022, with the highest number of complaints being with Paratransit service. **Mr. Von Hagel** reported that the Ridership Report is being revised to produce more accurate numbers.

Mr. Kolis asked if First Transit is prepared for staffing with the addition of Paratransit vehicles.

Mr. Von Hagel stated that Paratransit is a priority and that First Transit is utilizing creative means to attract and hire bus drivers.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Bickers and the other TAB members present suggested to have a separate meeting outside the monthly TAB meeting to discuss the 2024 Referendum for Cobb County Transportation Improvements and other transit issues at length and develop recommendations to submit to the BOC. **Chair Bickers** will send email to all TAB members regarding the separate meeting. **Mr. Stigall** will coordinate the separate meeting.

V. ACTION ITEMS

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next monthly TAB meeting is June 27, 2022. **Chair Bickers** adjourned the gathering of TAB members.

Approved