

## Minutes

### Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

February 23, 2009

Place: Room 204, County Administration Building  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:02 p.m.  
Others Present: Eric Cook-WMU Public Radio; Vivian Dobbins-MRC Industries; Carol Fricke-TAB Chairperson; Dale Hein; Adam Knott-CFCT; Gabrielle Russon-Kalamazoo Gazette; Claudette Reid-Millage Committee Co-Chair; Steward Sandstrom-Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce; Bill Schomisch-Metro Director; Jack Urban-County Commissioner & FOT; and Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Ecklund, Diane Kempen, Terry Kuseske, Jack Mekemson, Greg Rosine, Char Sumney, Linda Teeter, and Jan VanStratt

Members Absent: None

A quorum was present.

#### 2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two items were added to the agenda: an additional citizen's comment time as item #3, and another resolution as item #5. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made, supported and approved by a voice vote.

#### 3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Carol Fricke, Chairperson of the Transit Authority Board, reported that the TAB voted unanimously for the Proposed Plan as designed by Mr. Battani and Mr. Collard. They anticipated successful passage of the KCTA millage, and they planned to place a .6 millage on the November ballot. They were taking under advisement the proposed fare increase. She stated that the TAB would do what they could to make sustained transportation a reality in the County. Chairperson Teeter thanked Ms. Fricke for coming.

Steward Sandstrom from the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce gave the official statement from the Chamber's Regional Board of Directors as follows:

The Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce recommends the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority adopt a resolution setting a countywide millage rate at 0.4, to operate MetroVan, Care-A-Van and some bus routes, and requests the County Clerk to place the millage question on the May 5, 2009 ballot.

The Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce also recommends the Metro Transit bus fare be set no lower than \$1.50 and adjust other transit fares correspondingly as soon as possible, and no later than August 24, 2009.

With approval of the May 5 ballot question, and the adoption of the \$1.50 Metro Transit fare, the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce will support the Kalamazoo Transit Authority Board's recommendation to adopt a millage question setting an additional millage rate in the city of Kalamazoo at 0.6 to operate current Metro Transit routes in Kalamazoo on the November 3, 2009 ballot.

Mr. Sandstrom also stated that the Chamber surveyed over 200 of their members. More than 80% indicated that helping the local transit system was either 'important' or 'very important'. Nearly 30% responded that some of their employees used transit to get to work, and 33% of their customers used public transit.

He said they were proud to support the May ballot initiative, and the following steps as well. Ms. Teeter thanked him for coming, and said the KCTA would consider the Chamber's suggestions.

4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Rosine and supported by Mr. Mekemson to approve the minutes from January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup> as presented. The motion was duly supported and approved by a voice vote.

5. MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MAY 5, 2009 TRANSPORTATION BALLOT INITIATIVE

Chairperson Teeter read the resolution into record. (A copy of the resolution will be on file with the minutes.) A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Kuseske and supported by Ms. Sumney.

Vice-Chair Rosine stated that the main emphasis of the resolution was to say that over three-million rides had been provided, and since the importance of public transportation to real people's lives was sometimes hidden, the resolution helped to remind the Board of how the transit system impacted the community and economy, as supported by the study results the Chamber of Commerce reported on earlier that evening.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present          Nays: None          Absent: None

The motion carried.

6. MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SETTING THE MILLAGE RATE AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY CLERK TO PLACE THE MILLAGE QUESTION ON THE MAY 5, 2009 BALLOT

Mr. Hein read the resolution into record. (A copy of the resolution will be on file with the minutes.) A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Mekemson and supported by Mr. Rosine.

In reference to a comment by Ms. Kempen, discussion ensued regarding the clarity of the ballot language. Legal Advisor Ms. Foster stated that the wording was consistent with wording that had been used on previous ballots. Mr. Kuseske said he was hesitant to change the language due to the legal requirement to have the resolution to the County Clerk the following day. Ms. Foster stated that no further changes could be made after that evening. Further discussion took place.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Ecklund, Kuseske, Mekemson, Rosine, Sumney, Teeter, Van Stratt

Nays: None

Abstained: Kempen

The motion carried.

7. MOTION TO APPROVE KCTA FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Kuseske and supported by Ms. Sumney to accept the report as presented. Mr. Hein clarified that the Contractual Services line item amount was for CPA services. The motion carried by a voice vote.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

9. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch stated that Metro Transit had opened the bid process for demand response vehicles. The resulting fleet would be using 17 C-A-V vehicles and 15 MetroVan vehicles owned by Metro, and it would be supplemented by over a dozen vehicles owned by PrideCare. He hoped that in the future Metro would have ownership of the fleet, but it wouldn't happen under the current budget.

10. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Hein reported that his functions of the last month had been focused on Public Awareness. He listed 14 presentations and area meetings that he had attended. The website had been regularly updated and the PT/HS plan was being drafted. He added that he would not be present for upcoming meeting. Ms Teeter stated that their thoughts and support would be with him during his leave.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive – There was nothing to report.

B. Budget and Finance – There was nothing to report.

C. Public Transit/Human Services – Mr. Mekemson stated that the PT/HS plan development was on track, and that once they had a draft the committee would meet again.

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report.

13. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Teeter stated that the KCTA Administrative Assistant would be working additional hours in Mr. Hein's absence.

14. CITIZENS' TIME

There were no comments made.

15. MEMBERS' TIME

-Ms. Sumney suggested that the KCTA be mindful to keep informed those without access to the internet.

-In response to a question from Mr. Rosine, Mr. Schomisch stated that the Federal Stimulus package included 122 million in transit capital project funds the first year, which was based on 140% of the current 5307 dollars coming into the state. He thought it would be a good idea to move forward on planned capital projects because they would be 100% funded, and wouldn't be dependent upon a state/local match. The STATE CTF Budget Proposal would decrease capital from 9.3 to 4.2 million. Grant applications would be written for specific projects.

-Chairperson Teeter commented that the KCTA would remember to keep people informed through all lines of communication.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02.

  
KCTA Chairperson

  
KCTA Secretary

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