

Minutes

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

January 25, 2010

Place: Room 204, County Administration Building
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:22 p.m.
Others Present: Rachel Foster, Dale Hein, Claudette Reid, Bill Schomisch, Jon Start, Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: David Worthams

A quorum was present. Chairperson Teeter asked that the roll call remain open in order to allow the remaining board members time on their commutes. (Both Ms. Kempen and Ms. VanStratt arrived a couple minutes after the meeting started. At the end of the meeting, a motion to excuse Mr. Worthams was made by Mr. Mekemson, supported by Mr. Rosine and approved.)

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made, supported and approved.

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the January 11 Minutes as presented was made, supported and approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. P.A. 196 -

Mr. Hein summarized the document and history of the issue (a copy of the document will be on file with the minutes). The question at hand was how to proceed – the options included:

1. Forming a new 196 authority covering the city with the same board or a separate board, transitioning the system to the countywide 196 authority.
2. Keeping the structure the same as it was currently.
3. Transition the system to the KCTA and keep the Act 55 Authority in place while switching roles with it.

Many questions still needed answering. Chairperson Teeter clarified the issue for a Board Member, stating the goal from the beginning was that one authority would house the entire system. If the system transitioned, the KCTA would become the grant recipient and would place a second millage on the ballot in place of the TAB's millage. Ms. Teeter thanked Mr. Hein, Mr. Ammon and Ms. Foster for their work on the issue.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING CONSULTANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Chairperson Teeter explained that, in a meeting with the County Administrator and the City Manager the previous December, it was recommended that the KCTA seek a consultant to determine the road map for the transition, and assess the capacity of the KCTA Board. Three Requests for Proposals were sent out; the KCTA received two proposals which were reviewed closely.

Ms. Teeter explained that it was the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Board approve the agreement with TSI Consulting Partners, Inc. Tim Fallon, the president of the company, would be the main contact person.

Mr. Hein explained the timeline/phases, deliverables, and fees as outlined in the contract (a copy of which will be on file with the minutes). The final deliverables would be handed over by March 22. Mr. Rosine confirmed that there were funds in the budget to cover the cost.

Mr. Hein indicated that the Amalgamated Transit Union would be contacted as a stakeholder, even if not listed on the documents.

B. APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT CONTRACT:

A motion to approve the contract between KCTA and TSI Consulting Partners, Inc. was made by Ms. Kempen and supported by Mr. Mekemson.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present Nays: None Absent: Worthams

The motion carried. Mr. Hein agreed to inform Mr. Fallon the following day.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

7. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch explained the memo named “Bi-Partisan Funding Bills Ready for Introduction” saying new State bills would be introduced that week to help fund transportation and stop the loss of Federal dollars via: an increase in gasoline taxes. He would keep the board informed of further developments.

In response to a Board Member, Mr. Schomisch said he would check the TF2 Report for that committee’s recommendations. Then he would communicate back to the Board through Mr. Hein. Ms. Teeter asked the Board to review the “Bi-Partisan Funding Bill” memo after the meeting.

Mr. Ecklund asked about the status of the electronic passes. Mr. Schomisch stated that the vending machine which would dispense the value added cards was delayed; the vendor had been contacted, but there was no date set for delivery. The ride card for seniors and the disabled would be available by March first.

The COA report on the demand/response system would be presented to the Board on February 8 (the report would be delivered to the Board for review before then).

The fourth quarter inspections on the demand/response vehicles had been completed. For the first time since Metro had taken over the operation of Care-A-Van, there were no major changes to report. Mr. Schomisch felt this reflected well on Apple Bus and its maintenance routine.

8. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

A. PROJECT CONNECT REPORT

Mr. Hein handed out a flyer on Project Connect (a copy will be filed with the minutes) stating communications had been held with Jeff Brown, the Director of Poverty Reduction Initiative, regarding the provision of transportation to the event at the County Fairgrounds. The following ideas were communicated:

- Community Service Van usage (at least two vans had since been reserved for the event),
- The Comstock route had a stop in that area; tokens and passes would be needed (area agencies and groups were being contacted for their support).

Mr. Schomisch added background information on how Metro had been involved in the past. He then listed several current contributors:

- ATU 1093
- Director of Metro Transit
- City Commissioner, Terry Kuseske, had committed his next check to help cover these costs.

The event would be held May 12th, 1-6pm. Ms. Teeter asked the Board members who were interested in volunteering to contact Mr. Hein. He agreed that the KCTA could have materials at the event.

B. ADOPT-A-BUS SHELTER UPDATE

Mr. Hein summarized the Adopt-A-Bus Shelter document. Much of the early leg work had been done by Michele McGowen of Disability Network of Southwest Michigan. He listed the Organizations which were adopting shelters near their facilities, as well as the tasks yet to be completed (a copy of the document will be on file with the minutes). Mr. Schomisch suggested to Chairperson Teeter to roll this information into the Annual Report presentation to the City Commission.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive – Chairperson Teeter thanked Mr. Rosine and Mr. Mekemson for their time on the recent RFP/consultant selection process.
- B. Budget Review – A meeting would be held February 12.
- C. Public Transit/Human Services – Mr. Mekemson summarized the topics covered at the first meeting of the Coordinated Plan Oversight Committee which had been held January 21st. The next meeting would probably be in July, yet communications would continue with the members until that time. The group agreed that the groups that needed to be represented in the community were well represented on the committee; any replacements would be from the same group or area of the community. Ms. Teeter said she looked forward to hearing the report after their July meeting.

10. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson Teeter gave the following dates and locations for annual report presentations:

Feb 2, 7pm- County Board of Commissioners Feb 15, 7pm – Kalamazoo City Commission

Feb 23, 7:30pm – Portage City Council Other jurisdictions would be visited as well.

Mr. Hein and Ms. Pyatt would work to get a presentation outline to the Board members who would be presenting. Ms. Teeter had asked Mr. Hein to add information to the annual report regarding ridership numbers.

11. CITIZENS’ TIME

-Ms. Claudette Reid, Portage City Councilwoman, reported that a rider was very pleased with the new system for transfers. She also stated that there were citizens in the Portage area who would be interested in Project Connect and hoped Portage would be included in transit considerations for the event. She suggested that publicity for the event could be displayed at the Portage Community Center. She had sent the COA information to her colleagues on the Portage City Council and had received good feedback. A couple of instructors at KVCC had stated they would like to see the route changes begin before the fall semester.

12. MEMBERS’ TIME

-Ms. Kempen had received zero complaints about Metro County Connect at the YMCA since Apple Bus began operating.

-Mr. Mekemson stated the Annual Report had been taken to the last KATS meeting.

-Chairperson Teeter addressed Mr. Worthams’ absence (as previously noted). Ms. Teeter also thanked Mr. Mekemson for representing the KCTA at KATS.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.

KCTA Chairperson

KCTA Secretary