

Minutes

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

April 26, 2010

Place: Room 204, County Administration Building
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
Others Present: Dale Hein, Bill Schomisch, Lori Pyatt

Vice-Chair Rosine called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Diane Kempen, Jack Mekemson, Greg Rosine, Char Sumney, Jan VanStratt, David Worthams.

Members Absent: Paul Ecklund, Linda Teeter

A quorum was present. A motion to excuse Mr. Ecklund and Ms. Teeter was made by Mr. Mekemson, supported by Mr. Worthams and approved.

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Worthams, supported by Ms. VanStratt and approved.

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the April 12 Minutes as presented was made by Mr. Worthams, supported by Ms. Kempen and approved.

4. ADOPT RESOLUTION TO LEVY 2010 TRANSPORTATION MILLAGE

Vice-Chair Rosine explained that the resolution would levy .4 mills and that a public hearing had been held on April 12, 2010. Mr. Hein read the resolution into the record (a copy will be on file with the minutes).

A motion to adopt the Resolution to Levy the 2010 Transportation Millage was made by Mr. Mekemson, and supported by Mr. Worthams. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present Nays: None Absent: Mr. Ecklund, Ms. Teeter

The motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hein stated that Portage Community Center had contacted him to explain that if the COA Recommendations were approved 'as is', there would no longer be a bus stop at their location. He informed the Center that before the changes were enacted several steps would take place including a review of the recommendations and a public hearing; furthermore the changes would have to be approved by the City, TAB and KCTA before going into effect.

6. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch reported on the following:

-Ridership –

- line haul ridership dropped in March by 9.4%; other transit systems in the State were experiencing decreases in ridership as well
- ridership in Portage and on the East Main Route had increased in February
- the economy was most likely causing these changes in ridership; Portage residents may be considering alternatives due to gas price increases

- Metro County Connect ridership increased by 12% in March
Mr. Rosine asked Mr. Schomisch to draft numbers on the decreased ridership's financial impact for the upcoming Budget Review Committee meeting.
- Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA)** – The final report was printed, but did not differ significantly from its draft version. If the Board Members wanted a copy, they were asked to let Mr. Hein know.
- State Gas Proposals** – The MDOT 2011 Budget Proposal was at a standstill; there was nothing new to report.
- Diesel Fuel** – The 2010 price per gallon averaged \$2.17 compared to a budgeted \$2.80.
- Shelter Replacement** – Using Federal stimulus dollars, bus shelter replacements would begin after bids were opened for the installation contract.
- Grocery Bag Assistance Program** – The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was recommending a program to help demand/response passengers on grocery trips; TAB had unanimously approved the program at its last meeting. (The program description will be on file with the minutes.) Mr. Schomisch outlined the fare, operating hours, weight limitations, etc., for this enhanced service. The increased fare was to cover the extra time, effort, and space that shopping trips required. Posters and pamphlets would be placed on the buses, and could be sent to area agencies. Discussion ensued on the increased fare, number of bags, and hours the service was available; the service times were chosen because they were lower usage hours, giving the drivers more time to complete the trips. It could prove to be revenue neutral, but would be monitored over time.

Mr. Schomisch recognized that there was a need look at how the TAB, LAC and KCTA could work more closely together. Mr. Rosine agreed, citing the fact that KCTA had just passed a resolution to levy a millage to provide demand/response Countywide and to provide three line-haul routes. A few Board Members expressed hope that a protocol would be developed outlining what the respective roles were for the TAB, LAC and KCTA.

Discussion turned to KCTA's need for its own LAC; it was stated that the current LAC held jurisdiction over all of Metro County Connect for policies, and the LAC was required to work with the operator of the Demand/Response system, not necessarily transit boards. Ms. Kempen recognized Mr. Schomisch for his work with the LAC, adding that many communities' advisory committees weren't as committed or involved.

Mr. Rosine felt satisfied that the LAC, made up of users, supported the new Grocery Bag Assistance service and entertained a motion of support.

A motion to support the Grocery Bag Assistance Service was made by Ms. Kempen, supported by Ms. Sumney, and unanimously approved. Mr. Schomisch thanked the Board for their support.

7. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Hein said that he would be happy to work with Mr. Schomisch to develop the set of protocols previously discussed. He added that speakers were still needed to present the Annual Report to area jurisdictions. He asked the members to contact him to sign up.

Mr. Hein stated he may begin attending the meetings of CATA, AATA, and ITP, and drew their attention to the news release on the Ann Arbor system's budget cuts (a copy will be on file with the minutes); AATA was considering moving from an Act 55 to an Act 196 Authority.

Disability Network was looking for a volunteer to head up the Adopt-A-Bus Shelter program. The Gazette would run an article on the program in the future.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive – A meeting was held the previous Wednesday. Small group meetings would occur in the near future in order to hear more about the Transition work with Mr. Fallon
- B. Budget Review – There would be a meeting the following Friday.
- C. Public Transit/Human Services – There was nothing to report.
- D. Legislative – There was a meeting held the previous Friday. Attorneys at Miller Johnson were asked to draft language regarding the formation of two 196 Authorities. In order to address the larger transit advocacy issues, the committee was considering increasing participation with the MPTA (Michigan Public Transit Association) to raise the awareness of transit issues in the State Legislature.

9. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

11. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nothing was reported.

12. CITIZENS' TIME

There were no comments made.

13. MEMBERS' TIME

There were no comments made.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

KCTA Chairperson

KCTA Secretary