

Minutes

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

May 24, 2010

Place: Room 207-A, County Administration Building
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:31 p.m.
Others Present: Tim Fallon, TSI Consulting Partners; Dale Hein; Bill Schomisch; Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order at 5:30pm; since there was not a quorum the meeting stood at rest until a quorum could be met. The meeting resumed at 5:33pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Ecklund, Greg Rosine, Char Sumney, Linda Teeter, Jan VanStratt, David Worthams

Members Absent: Diane Kempen, Jack Mekemson

A quorum was present. A motion to excuse Ms. Kempen and Mr. Mekemson was made, supported and approved. Earlier, Mr. Worthams had indicated he would be late to the meeting.

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the April 26 Minutes as presented was made, supported and approved.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hein indicated that the communications that had been received were operational in nature and were forwarded on to Metro Transit.

5. FINAL REPORT FROM TSI CONSULTING PARTNERS, INC.

Chairperson Teeter thanked the Board for their trust they had placed in Vice-Chair Rosine and herself to represent the KCTA in the meetings with City and County administrators. She added that the final report's approval would be on a June agenda. Mr. Fallon of TSI Consulting Partners, Inc. was introduced.

Mr. Fallon stated that the Final Plan was a result of a series of meetings between the City, County and KCTA; he recognized a very strong working relationship between the entities in striving toward a unified system. He then covered the following in the document (a copy of which will be on file with the minutes):

- Introduction and a brief history
- The Goals for the Transportation System:
 - Create an integrated, county-wide transportation system.
 - Optimize the transit system's operating efficiency.
 - Ensure – to the extent possible—the sustainability of the system.
- The parties involved agreed that an integrated County-wide system had the potential to:
 - Better serve the community
 - Increase the value of the system
 - Provide an opportunity for strong leadership to speak with a unified voice in advocating for the need for and value of the system.

- The assumptions that guided the plan:
 - He pointed out that, even though the current system was not operating at the optimum level, it *was* providing a significant level of service, and that current level of service was not to be put in jeopardy. This would be accomplished by managing risks and minimizing downsides.
 - Securing future funding with both 2013 millages would be achieved through the current Authorities.
- Summary of Issues to be Resolved (p. 3):
 - Securing Future Leadership for the County-Wide Transportation System
 - Governance Leadership
 - Executive or Strategic Leadership
 - Operational Leadership
- Phases of the Plan:
 - Phase 1(5/2010-3/2011): Secure future leadership of the county-wide Transportation System
 - Phase 2 (4/2011-5/2013): Securing future funding & area support
 - Phase 3 (6/2013 and beyond): Continue to develop an integrated county-wide system.

He admitted that the timeline was a bit slower than may have been anticipated, but this was to ensure the program was built on strong leadership and support from other jurisdictions. He also noted that Incompatible Offices Legislation prevented a single Board serving on two Act 196 Authorities in an area. Chairperson Teeter stated there would be a meeting on Friday with the area State Legislators to explore that particular issue. (Mr. Worthams arrived at 5:54pm.)

Vice-Chair Rosine commented that ensuring that the transit system's future was sustainable, supported in the County, and built upon a strong foundation was more important than meeting a speedier timeline. Other board members concurred.

KCTA would take this plan before the County Board of Commissioners, the City Commission, the City of Portage, KATS, TAB, FOT, and possibly the Kalamazoo Editorial Board. The Board was to get with Mr. Rosine or Ms. Teeter with questions; the plan would be on the June 14th agenda for approval.

Mr. Rosine commented that the City and County leaders were very clear that a unified system continued to be the goal. Chairperson Teeter thanked Mr. Fallon for his work with the KCTA; he offered his assistance to the members for questions or comments.

6. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch reported that, as a result of a prior meeting, he produced a template for reporting system information. He asked if there were any questions or suggestions to contact him. He stated that, logistically, timing was an issue regarding when information went to different boards, but he would put together a number of recommendations.

Mr. Rosine stated that this was a good start, but he clarified that he had a concern about who took action on policies and programs and who had responsibility. Mr. Schomisch said that issue was being worked on. Chairperson Teeter added that information sharing would help the Board to have a stronger leadership role, as Mr. Fallon's Plan had suggested. Ms. Sumney noted that Ms. Lewis was doing a good job with the budget.

7. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Hein reported that the previous month's duties included:

- Taking 2009 KCTA Annual Report to area jurisdictions
- Arranging for citizen input on the COA – Portage Community Center would open up a dialogue with residents on the COA recommendations for that area
- Visiting the Performance Oversight Committee of the ITP Board
- Arranging the meeting with Kalamazoo's legislative delegation on May 28th
- Sending the formal levy documents to townships and cities
- Arranging committee meetings
- Attending Project Connect
- Organizing Adopt-A-Shelter publicity in the Gazette, which resulted in another shelter being adopted

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive – There was nothing to report.

B. Budget Review –

- A meeting was held on April 12 where the following were discussed:
 - Property tax revenues which were expected to decline.
 - The 2011 Budget Process Timeline: The public hearing on the budget was changed from August to September, as fewer citizens would be away on vacation.
 - Ridership issues and their impact on the budget.
- A summary of the budget process timeline was given. Mr. Hein added that a meeting would be held with Ms. Bradshaw regarding transitioning the County Finance functions.

*A motion to adopt the 2010-2011 Budget Process Timeline was made by Mr. Worthams, and supported by Ms. Sumney. The roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes: All Present Nays: None Absent: Kempen, Mekemson
The motion carried.*

C. Public Transit/Human Services –Metro would be applying for grants through the Job Access/Reverse Commute program (JARC); having a PTHS Coordinated Plan was a prerequisite for qualifying. Mr. Schomisch stated, as a transit provider, he would be attending a meeting held by the Area Agency on Aging regarding their "Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)" in which transit would play a large part.

D. Legislative – Mr. Worthams updated the Board on the State's transportation budget: the Senate bill was passed establishing major cuts in order to ensure that Federal funds were still accessible; those cuts would be felt across the board. The House version didn't have the cuts, but included language on a gas tax, which caused it to remain in second reading.

Mr. Worthams may recommend language on a resolution in support of the Senate bill. Mr. Schomisch noted, however, that since highway maintenance was cut almost in half, the coalition supporting the TF2 recommendations was against the Senate version. Furthermore, the cuts made did not raise the 30 million needed to secure the Federal transit dollars. Locally Metro's specialized services (community van program) would be impacted.

Chairperson Teeter asked Mr. Worthams to work with Mr. Hein and Mr. Schomisch to get legislative information out to the Board on a regular basis. Mr. Schomisch and Worthams stated they could, yet they expected this particular issue remain stalled. Discussion ensued on the State transportation budget.

9. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

11. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Teeter reiterated that Kalamazoo's legislative delegation would be met with later that week. She also wished Ms. Kempen well.

12. CITIZENS' TIME

There were no comments made.

13. MEMBERS' TIME

-Mr. Ecklund hoped that the quality of leadership that had carried the KCTA over the recent years' hurdles would be taken into consideration.

-Ms. Sumney was impressed at the quality of the report, but hoped for rapid movement. Ms. Teeter added that this plan was still in review.

-Mr. Worthams noted the passing of a previous member of the Gazette Editorial Board.

-Mr. Hein mentioned the Gazette article on the Adopt-A-Bus Shelter program.

-Mr. Schomisch clarified that with the two millages in place, Metro was not currently facing the hard decisions that many transit agencies had to make. Ms. Teeter stated that would be an important fact to bring to the Editorial Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm.

KCTA Chairperson

KCTA Secretary