

**Minutes**  
Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority  
June 28, 2010

Place: Room 204, County Administration Building  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:34 p.m.  
Others Present: Rachel Foster, Dale Hein, Bill Schomisch, Jon Start and Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Ecklund, Diane Kempen, Jack Mekemson, Greg Rosine, Linda Teeter, Jan VanStratt and David Worthams.

Members Absent: Char Sumney

A quorum was present. A motion to excuse Ms. Sumney was made, supported and approved.

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 June 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes as presented was made, supported and approved.

4. EXCUSE MS. VANSTRATT'S JUNE 14 ABSENCE

A motion to excuse Ms. VanStratt from the previous meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> was made by Mr. Mekemson, supported by Mr. Ecklund and approved.

5. UPDATE: COA AND ROADMAP INPUT SESSIONS

Mr. Hein drew attention to the "Upcoming Meetings" document<sup>1</sup> and gave an overview of what the meetings would entail. He explained the following:

- The COA meetings would occur at all jurisdictions that received line haul service; a letter would be sent out to the areas that received only demand response indicating KCTA would present to them if they wished.
- Two of the meetings on the schedule would be posted as special KCTA meetings following standard protocol. The COA Input Sessions that would occur on other jurisdictions' agendas would be posted as a list.
- The COA input meetings would be advertised on the buses serving that area.
- The information gathered at the COA sessions would be provided to the Board and to Metro as they occur; if the input changed the initial COA recommendations, Metro would inform the Board. The approval would happen late August.
- All the lawmakers said they would be able to attend the meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hein noted that members would be needed to sign up for the presentations.

Chairperson Teeter thanked staff for putting the schedule together and asked that the schedule be sent to the Transportation Authority Board.

6. ADOPT RESOLUTION WITHDRAWING CEO/GENERAL MANAGER APPOINTMENT

Chairperson Teeter read the resolution into the record<sup>1</sup>.

*A motion to adopt the Resolution Withdrawing CEO/General Manager appointment made by the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority to William Schomisch on June 23, 2008 was made by Mr. Rosine, and supported by Mr. Mekemson.*

Chairperson Teeter thanked legal counsel for their help, and then explained the resolution was largely due to the failure of the November 2008 millage, which shifted KCTA's focus. Legal Counsel suggested the resolution be in place. Vice-Chair Rosine explained the following:

“This should not be taken as anything against Mr. Schomisch; we're just going on to new activities. When we started this process we thought we had a millage that would pass—we thought this would be a fairly easy thing to do. We were mistaken, and from that a lot of lessons were learned to change some of our direction, change some of our scope with more outreach to the townships and communities than we've ever done before. We needed to put together a much more inclusive process, so all stakeholders and parties involved in transit should be involved in this discussion. It's really where we are, and hopefully members understand that and take it in that vein.”

*The roll call vote was as follows:*

*Ayes: All Present      Nays: None      Absent: Ms. Sumney*

*The motion carried.*

Chairperson Teeter explained that she and Mr. Rosine had met with Mr. Schomisch about the issue before the resolution went out in the Board packets.

7. ADOPT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING KCTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mr. Hein read the Resolution into the record<sup>i</sup>.

*A motion to adopt the Resolution Establishing KCTA Executive Director Search Committee was made by Ms. Van Stratt, and supported by Mr. Rosine.*

After short discussion in which legal counsel Rachel Foster spoke on the process of changing then voting on the resolution after a motion had already been made, it was agreed that the wording “*negotiate a contract with*” would be replaced with the word “*recommend(ing)*”. The length of duration was then discussed.

Mr. Hein read the amended resolution into the record<sup>i</sup>.

*A motion to adopt the amended Resolution Establishing KCTA Executive Director Search Committee was made by Ms. VanStratt, and supported by Mr. Rosine.*

Concern was raised over whether another ‘whereas’ clause or an additional ‘resolve’ clause could be added to make clear that there was nothing negative leading to the failure of negotiations and that Mr. Schomisch could apply for the position. Chairperson Teeter stated the actions that evening were not to reflect on Mr. Schomisch at all, Ms. Foster concurred, saying Mr. Schomisch would be free to apply for that position, but who could apply didn't need to be addressed in the resolution.

Mr. Worthams expressed further concern over what citizens might deduce from the resolutions, and asked if wording could be added to the resolution clarifying that neither KCTA nor Mr. Schomisch was to be faulted for the breakdown in negotiations. Chairperson Teeter stated citizens could read Mr. Rosine's comments in the minutes, and an addition to the resolution was not needed. It was agreed that staff would make sure Mr. Rosine's comments were reflected in the minutes. Ms. Teeter thanked Mr. Schomisch for his patience with the KCTA.

*The roll call vote was as follows:*

*Ayes: All Present      Nays: None      Absent: Ms. Sumney*

*The motion carried.*

8. APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE AND ESTABLISH TERMS OF OFFICE

The slate of members:

- Peter Battani, Kalamazoo County Administrator
- Jerri Barnett-Moore, Deputy City Manager for the City of Kalamazoo
- Jim Greene, Director of Douglass Community Association and Vice-Chair NAACP
- Claudette Reid, Portage City Council
- Paul Ecklund, KCTA Board Member
- Greg Rosine, KCTA Vice-Chairperson
- Linda Teeter, KCTA Chairperson
- Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Oshtemo Township Supervisor

Ms. Foster stated a generic placement could be on the motion to address the fact that one more member needed to be appointed, which would happen by action at a later meeting. Chairperson Teeter stated the ninth member would be from the business community. Mr. Worthams supported the idea of adding a generic placement on the list. Ms. Teeter stated that the term of office would expire after a recommendation was brought to the KCTA Board.

Ms. Foster added that either she or Mr. Ammon could attend the first meeting of the Search Committee in order to communicate the requirements under the Open Meetings Act, and etc.

Mr. Mekemson asked if the term of office should expire after a recommendation was made to the board or until the hiring process was complete. Chairperson Teeter agreed that it was until the hiring process was complete.

*A motion to adopt the slate of members to the Search Committee as amended was made by Mr. Ecklund, and Supported by Mr. Mekemson.*

*The roll call vote was as follows:*

*Ayes: All Present      Nays: None      Absent: Ms. Sumney*

*The motion carried.*

9. COMMUNICATIONS

There had been a letter to the City Commission, et. al., from Ms. Teeter answering a question that had come up during the presentation of the Roadmap to that body. The letter answered Commissioner McKinney's question about how the 2010 census would affect the dispersal of federal funds.

Mr. Hein explained a letter to Commissioner Frank Thompson regarding his request for a bus shelter. The request would not be granted by Metro because ridership fell short of the standard of 25 "on-and-offs" a day. Discussion ensued on that standard. Mr. Schomisch thought that the shelter replacements, made possible by ARRA dollars, could increase the number of shelters instead of just replace them.

10. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch reported that the Memo "May Ridership Analysis Report"<sup>i</sup> document had been brought to the TAB which showed a substantial (16.6%) drop in line haul ridership. Mr. Schomisch said the ridership decline was due somewhat to fare increases and the economy. Another factor may be the more effective transfer system that came into affect with the new fareboxes. He was disturbed by the decline and would do further research. Discussion ensued.

The numbers also went to a reporter at the Gazette who researched the figure with the ATA, who was seeing declines across the country but not necessarily to this extent. Mr. Ecklund noted that Demand/Response ridership had again increased.

11. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Hein reported that the bulk of his work had been scheduling the COA/Roadmap meetings. He had also been working on the issue of finding an accounting firm to handle KCTA's payroll and financial books; RFQ's would go out later that week.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive – There was nothing to report.
- B. Budget Review – Mr. Rosine stated that at the last meeting the 2011 Budget line items were examined individually and the accounting firm RFQ's were discussed. The next meeting would firm up the numbers, including a five-year plan. The draft budget would be brought to the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting with a recommendation. He mentioned the notes from that meeting<sup>i</sup>, and gave an overview of revenue projections. Mr. Hein added that the next meeting would be July 15<sup>th</sup>, so a draft budget would not be brought to the Board until the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- C. Public Transit/Human Services – Mr. Mekemson stated that there would be a meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Metro Transit to look at the status of progress on the Coordinated Plan.
- D. Legislative – Mr. Worthams mentioned that the bills reported on at previous meetings were stalled, and didn't seem like they would be moved on before the recess. Senate was expected to resume session July 21<sup>st</sup> and would meet every Wednesday in July and August; he was not sure when the House would be meeting.

13. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Kempen asked about the status of the DHS dialysis patients through DHS. Mr. Schomisch explained the situation and stated that a letter had been sent to them regarding the new rate. They in turn refused to pay the rate. They asked for a waiver from Lansing, but had not heard anything back. Mr. Schomisch sent a letter asking for payment for past due amounts, but they had not responded. DHS had gone with another provider. Mr. Schomisch would send another letter in the near future. He hoped to have more information at the next meeting.

In answer to a question from a previous meeting, Metro's research indicated that three Saturdays in May and three Saturdays in June showed a 15 trip per day decrease. Chairperson Teeter indicated there was a bigger question about the KCTA providing dollars for Demand/Response Service, yet the City was operating those services and riders' needs weren't getting met. She asked how KCTA could get involved in the negotiations. Mr. Schomisch stated that since the fare increase had already been approved, he was not in a position to renegotiate a contract. He was concerned about the validity of the information from DHS, and also was reaching out to the department overseeing DHS.

To answer a question from Ms. VanStratt, Mr. Schomisch clarified that DHS was over \$75,000 in arrears.

To answer a question from Ms. Kempen, Mr. Schomisch clarified that notice was sent prior to the fare increase adoption. They hadn't responded.

Mr. Mekemson brought up the question of whether the expansion of hours for early morning service should be revisited due to this decreased ridership. Mr. Schomisch said he would consider that option. Chairperson Teeter further stated that KCTA was paying for a service that wasn't being used for those hours, which is why she hoped KCTA could be involved in the discussion.

Mr. Schomisch, in response to a comment to Ms. Kempen, stating he was sensitive to the vulnerable population affected by the issue. Chairperson Teeter asked that more information be brought to the next meeting.

14. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

15. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Teeter reported that the City Commission had glowing remarks about the dedication of KCTA's Board Members. They asked her to carry back a "Thank You" to the Board for their work. The City was looking forward to talking to KCTA about administrative services and relocating KCTA's office to Metro Transit; details would be worked out over time.

16. CITIZENS' TIME

There were no comments made.

17. MEMBERS' TIME

-Mr. Ecklund reported on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He would bring back a proclamation confirming their commitment to people with disabilities for consideration and inclusion in the board package.

-Ms. VanStratt asked for an excuse for the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

-Mr. Rosine asked for an excuse for the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

-Ms. Teeter thanked Ms. Foster and Mr. Schomisch for being there.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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KCTA Chairperson

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KCTA Secretary

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<sup>i</sup> A copy of these documents will be on file with the minutes.