From: Kim Roney <mskimroney@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/5/2018 10:02:40 PM
To: Adam Charnack <charnack@gmail.com>,Edward Johnson <ejohnson1869@gmail.com>,Calvin Allen <ca.allen1973@gmail.com>,Bruce Emory <emory22@charter.net>,Gary Ray <gary.hubert.ray@gmail.com>,Sabrah n'haRaven <wnchomeless@gmail.com>,West, Angi <angi.w
Cc: Elias Mathes <EMathes@ashevillenc.gov>,Janet GeorgeMurr <JGeorgeMurr@ashevillenc.gov>,Dianna Martinez <dmartinez@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Draft TC Minutes 19 June 2018
Attachments: 19 June 2018 Minutes.docx (1).pdf

Adam, Ed, TC Members, and Staff,

The draft TC minutes for June are attached and available in their entirety here:Â

Transit Committee ÂÂ ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂ Regular Meeting
**Minutes - Draft ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂ

- Bruce: What kind of improvements?
- Walter: Passenger restrooms are private/lockable. Opening up with stalls to make them not lockable. Working on waiting area design.
- Bruce: Same footprint?
- Walter: Yes, 900k doesnâ€™t go very far.
- Walter: Wifi, wayfinding, furniture, benches, and land updates.
- Ely: Have stories of the sink being ripped off the wall in the bathrooms. Talking about more durable materials.
- Angi: Exterior?
- Walter: Not there yet.
- Ely: Will have input session at the TC asking for smaller improvements. Heard request for changing stations, which hadnâ€™t previously been considered.
- Sabrah: Talking to HHS/Post Office for what to do while bathrooms are being renovated?
- Walter: under consideration.
- Sabrah: Assume solar panels will power bus station itself?
- Bridget: Panels will generate more energy than station needs. Donâ€™t have batteries, so power will be sold back via grid.
- Walter: Will effectively be a net positive?
- Sabrah: How much money?
- Bridget: 8k post array.
- Angi: Revenue line item for transit?
- Ely: Coming from and returning to Sustainability Dept.
- Walter: Will return in Aug/Sept with visuals.

4:15 New Business

- Electric Bus Wrap Design w/ Ely: Emissions language tied to tailpipe. Planning trip to Protera in the next month with staff and bus drivers for training. Talking about bringing TC members along so will give update.
  - Angi: Where is the factory?
    - Ely: Nice factory in Greenville. Thereâ€™s no oil, itâ€™s super-clean. Bringing marketing team to make video of buses being built.
  - Bruce: Current schedule for delivery?
    - Ely: Still on track for January, though perhaps earlier.
  - Gary: Interior design?
    - Ely: Focus on getting as many seats as we can. The seats donâ€™t have fabric cushions, os they might not be as comfortable, but theyâ€™re easier to clean/maintain.
  - Gary: Wheelchair access?
    - Ely: Still kneel the same way. Donâ€™t know if they have rear ramps, but do in front.
  - Sabrah: Suggest edit of wrap design to remove Asheville Redefines Transit. Would like us to discuss, and this is the time, that redefines shouldnâ€™t be in our name anyway.
    - Adam: Considering redesign, there are somewhat significant changes in service, so curious if looking to rebrand. Echo Sabrah that thereâ€™s nothing â€œredefined.â€
    - Ely: Not specific plan to rebrand, but donâ€™t see issue with taking â€œAsheville Redefines Transitâ€ off the buses.
    - Kim: Sounds wise.
    - Adam: I donâ€™t know if there was a different kind of design planned. Only comment is that, if thereâ€™s going to be a new design, it should be for all the buses. If considering exact same design, maybe change the â€œRâ€ from â€œredfines.â€
    - Sabrah: Spoke with Ely - May not need to replace everything, just a soft launch. Can phase old stuff out, but the only problem is the bus wraps. If we just took out those letters and words, could be more more centered and aesthetically pleasing.
    - Adam: Could put the website and number together on both the back and sides. If youâ€™re sitting behind the bus, donâ€™t see someone calling the number.
    - Ely: The thinking was - if youâ€™re behind the bus and see an issue, you can find the number to call for complaint. If itâ€™s going past you, the number may not be memorable, but â€œridetheart.comâ€ is more so.
    - Adam: So number for complaints, but website to encourage riders. Teasing but it makes sense. Kim: I think you could get information about complaints from website, but people know itâ€™s standard to have a number on the back of large vehicles.
    - Adam: If someone is in traffic behind the bus, the website might be a place for drivers to get information about getting out of their cars.
    - Kim: â€œride the artâ€ is more memorable than a phone number. Not inclined to suggest both because of the cluttered design and requirement for smaller font size.
    - Thomas: What about those without internet access?
    - Ely: Phone number is on all the bus stops. Decision to be made right now? Just the website? Weâ€™re going to be looking at these for the next 12 years.
    - Adam: Motion to replace number with website on wrap, Angi 2nd.
    - Kim: Thomas, what are your thoughts on that? If we donâ€™t have the phone number anywhere on the bus, people who donâ€™t have internet access wonâ€™t have access to contact info.
    - Thomas: Weâ€™ve talked a lot about it, and if the number is on all the stops and at the station, I donâ€™t know how much people pay attention anyway, so donâ€™t want to get over-worked about it.
    - Angi: Find it funny to think about how hard it is to communicate with dispatch, to expect someone to take a message regarding complaint is the only expected response.
    - Passes unanimously.
    - Ely: Confirming that ART will remain, perhaps useful for â€œAsheville Regional Transitâ€ but the words â€œAsheville Redefines Transitâ€ will be removed from wrap.

- NCPTA Update w/ Ely: Does awards every year, and one is a transit advocate award. Submitted Amy Cantrell and she won! She does a ton of work in advocacy, and I appreciate that sheâ€™s an activist whoâ€™s working with staff, and itâ€™s leading to positive action.
  - Sabrah: And right now, sheâ€™s out there at a rally trying to push for a better budget.
  - Ely: Sheâ€™s not here today, so will present later.

- Transit Committee Appointment Renewal w/ Adam: Roster not attached, but Kim Roneyâ€™s seat up is up for renewal expiring July 1st.
  - Ely: Clarify that itâ€™s connected to your term on MMTC.
  - Adam: This is the time to talk about renewing membership.
  - Kim: I guess Iâ€™ll just add that - we got a lot of work done, and I really love my neighbors here. Even though it feels like thereâ€™s a point where you have to let things go, and Iâ€™ve seriously considered that, we have to implement this TMP and itâ€™s going to require a great deal of work on funding and advocacy. Thereâ€™s still a lot more to be done, and Iâ€™d be honored to continue serving with you.
- Gary: Motion recommending Kim to MMTC for reappointment of Kimberly Roney, 2nd from Sabrah, passes unanimously.
- Gary: Reviewed the minutes. Mr. Miller did not show up after elected. Had to go back to application, called encouraging him to be here. Concerned that we pushed him through and then we didnâ€™t see him anymore.
  - Kim: Thank you for calling him Gary. I contacted Eric as well, and he said he had hoped that his job could be flexible, but it is not, so he cannot attend at this time. Asked him to reach out to Adam, but asked to share with yaâ€™ll. Noticed that the SACEE page has notice regarding consideration to change meeting times for new applicants. Something we might consider in the future, but for now, itâ€™s my job as secretary to note that he is at 100% non-attendance, which means we may need to make his seat open.
  - Thomas: Does he know thatâ€™s whatâ€™s coming?
  - Kim: I did talk to him about that and shared the email with the chair. Expressed that he might be removed from committee, and asked him to attend since we were excited to serve with him and understand that he was eager too.
  - Sabrah: Erick was at TMP plan meeting last night.
  - Ely: Spoke with him too.
  - Bruce: Puts him right at 75%.
  - Adam: If heâ€™s relayed to you that heâ€™s not able to attend at allâ€¦
  - Thomas: Reluctant to act on it now.
  - Gary: If we donâ€™t act, may be monkeying with our quorum.
  - Kim: confirming Ericâ€™s message regarding work conflict.
  - Angi: If there was any communication that we could adjust time, it could be misleading.
  - Kim: That was on the SACEE website, but there is precedent. I was told when I applied and couldnâ€™t originally make the meetings that the times were set by the seated members. The only option I have is that we could poll another time.
  - Bruce: Had that discussion months ago and decided it was a good compromise. If we push it later, have a hard time attending via bus.
  - Sabrah: I think moving the meeting should be considered if someoneâ€™s already on the board and attending well.
  - Thomas: First time weâ€™re talking about it. We were clammering for representation from someone whoâ€™s on his exact route. Want to be super clear and it wasnâ€™t on the agenda.
  - Adam: Agree.
  - Gary: Will you put that on the agenda for next month?
  - Adam: Yes. Would someone like to volunteer to call Eric? Happy to do it myself.
  - Gary: Frankly, at this point, it needs to come from our Chair. Iâ€™ve reached out, Kimâ€™s reached out, Elyâ€™s talked to him. Itâ€™s time to be more official.
  - Ely: Erickâ€™s emails are bouncing, so consider calling.
  - Sabrah: Not sure if heâ€™s open to this, but if he has to step down, perhaps he might be willing to help recruit another representative from his route.
  - Kim: Missing opportunity to talk about this system. Hard to participate, even for the person whoâ€™s just the representative needed to bring experience. When something happens that makes it challenging to participate, what do groups like ours do? We canâ€™t possibly be the only committee with this situation.
  - Thomas: Open to changing day/time of meeting if thereâ€™s someone who canâ€™t make it.
  - Adam: Happy to consider meeting time and rather not revisit terribly often. Maybe annual review would make sense.
  - Sabrah: Intending to bring it up again. When we changed our date, it forced us out of City Hall. I think thatâ€™s hurt the effort to get more members of the public coming. Worth revisiting.
  - Kim: Offering to add to motion and create poll. This may be the most accessible time, and have to consider staff accessibility.
  - Angi: Has to be during the work day. Whatâ€™s the possibility?
  - Ely: When we add hours next Summer, could have more accessibility for bus riders.
  - Adam: Doesnâ€™t need a motion.

- 4. Recognition and Thanks to Jacob Stein with Adam: Expressed thanks to Jacob Stein for committed internship.
  - Jacob: Exciting to attend this meetings, to hear committee and public input in addition to staff perspectives.
  - Angi: Whatâ€™s next?
  - Jacob: Feelers out for jobs, likely going to pursue my Masters in Transportation Planning in England.
  - Group expression of gratitude.

- 5. I-26 Connector FBMPO funding update w/ Adam: Represent urban transit constituency. Twenty voting members, mostly town mayors and county heads. Most of I-26 projects are approved with plans going back to 1989. The Brevard Rd - Haywood Rd (I-240) didnâ€™t get funding at the state mobility level, so NCDOT looking to cascade funding from local and regional projects to state projects. Have vote on that board, though majority of votes are expected to be in favor of the cascading, which would accelerate this project, more or less guaranteeing the project will be completed. Trying to persuade others to vote against cascading. There are a lot of reasons to not approve this project, and I take a different approach than most, which is philosophical. Weâ€™re making an either/or decision here in funding highways vs. attracting people to other forms of transportation, particularly with the added negative impact of ripping away some of our most valuable property in West Asheville. It goes against the ideals of our city and values for accessibility and walkability. Bringing this topic to yaâ€™ll because Iâ€™m curious in the TC interest to support for me, declaring its position on cascading funds. Itâ€™s a hot-button issue, and Iâ€™m okay if it doesnâ€™t pass. Â
  - Ely: That process of cascading moves state funding to local, which means less funding for smaller, local projects.
  - Gary: The money has been approved for everything but the piece between famous Amboy Rd to Downtown? I heard they would start letting the contracts by 2021. Does that mean it would kill contracts?
  - Adam: No, would use existing contracts.
  - Ely: Ensure it would move forward the same time as the other sections do.
  - Sabrah: Would be happy no money going to it.
  - Gary: Hear Adam not wanting to encourage cars for transport. Only thing is, Ashevilleâ€™s financial basis is on bringing people to Asheville in those cars.
  - Bruce: Complicated issue. Not sure this committee has enough info to make an intelligent decision on it. Normally we make recommendations to MMTC.
  - Adam: We do, and thatâ€™s fair. Nevertheless, the TC vote is something Iâ€™d be happy to share with elected leaders and the FBMPO. If anyone objects or it isnâ€™t going to pass...
  - Bruce: From what Iâ€™ve seen of the project list, the projects getting deferred are not bike or pedestrian projects, but other highways.
  - Adam: The MPO has a cute way of describing their projects, such as â€œmodernize and improveâ€ to describe, so itâ€™s not usually clear what that means. Consideration of complete streets is typical language.
  - Gary: Just donâ€™t have enough information.
  - Adam: Based on complexity of the issue, going to drop it.
  - Kim: I went to the most recent I-26 Connector meeting to hear the presentation from Sam Schwarts, then went to the FBMPO meeting and used all my language as a small business owner who wants to protect neighborhoods, and was surprised to see our 2 County Commissioner seats vote for the cascading. Iâ€™m still trying to dig into why. Iâ€™ve asked them not to cascade the funding since it allows NCDOT to push through a design we donâ€™t want. I encourage my fellow TC members to get informed and ask questions.
  - Angi: Thanks to Adam for bringing this to our attention with the timeliness of the decision.
  - Thomas: Still taking public comment?
  - Adam: Yes, FBMPO website has information and at the meeting on 6/28. Will include TC if I send email. Also considering opinion piece for the paper, but havenâ€™t decided yet. The meeting is Thursday at 1pm at the FBMPO headquarters.

4:54: TC Business

- MMTC Minutes update w/ Bruce: Special meeting in coordination with all sub-committees, so our meeting included focus on Greenway. Had status presentation of GC, projects update. TC meeting coming up in August. Had presentation on tactical urbanism with contract to implement on Coxe/Lexington. There will be a meeting Thursday to present project. Other major thing was to endorse the TMP to Council.
- Kim: Having experienced Bike/Ped and Greenway presentation, happy to assist Adam and Ed with presentation.
- Sabrah: Suggest bike/ped and transit should have shared meeting since we share so many users in our scopes.

4:57 Staff updates

- Ops with Joe: Still getting a lot of the information. Questions?
  - Bruce: Total system expenditures - curious about variations. Possible our accounting software is off. Thereâ€™s a lot of information on this report, likely more than we need. Recognize it was inherited. Would like to see year-to-year comparison of ridership for trends and new service comparison.
  - Ely: Try not to get obsessed with previous years because I know thereâ€™s going to be a lot of improvements that will increase ridership.
  - Kim: Need to know how bad it was when weâ€™re comparing how it got better, just like OTP.
- Weapon Policy w/ Erick: Implemented weapons policy, suspension, and service animals.
  - Sabrah: Not attached, printed, or online.
  - Ely: The way the new system works, theyâ€™re the management company policy.
  - Erick: Not the Cityâ€™s policies, ours. Service animal policy includes rabies tags. Suspension is 30-60-90 with written notice and opportunity to meet with staff.
  - Group convo: Need to see policy and have posted.
  - Ely: Clear appeal process.
  - Erick: Will send to Ely for distribution. Â

5:07 Public Comment:

- David: Available in case thereâ€™s any interest in community input on how to make transit accessible

Adjourned 5:10. Next meeting: July 17th, 3:30pm in Municipal Building.

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Kim Roney - Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Piano Teacher
Asheville City Multi-Modal Transportation Commission & Transit Committee Member