

FINAL

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING April 24, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Allison Bickers
LaSandra Boykin
James Darden
Jaha Howard
Walter Kolis (virtual)
Mark Riggans
Forrest Shealy
Thomas Shibley (virtual)
Jeff Souther
Matt Stigall

TAB Members Not Present

Neil Fusillo
Ken Marlin
Cherie Newton

Cobb County and Others Present

Drew Raessler, DOT
Karl Von Hagel, DOT
Theo Letman, DOT
Marcia Lankford, DOT
Tyler Bigler, Public
Jeff Jones, Public

I. Call to Order:

Chair Allison Bickers called the TAB meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with a quorum of TAB members present. **Dr. Jaha Howard** was recently appointed by Chairwoman Lisa Cupid as a new TAB member. **Dr. Howard** introduced himself and shared his background with the TAB members.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 27, 2023 Minutes: **Mr. Riggans** made a motion and **Mr. Souther** seconded to accept the minutes. **Chair Bickers** requested a vote, and the TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the March 27, 2023 meeting minutes, with one abstention by the new TAB member, **Dr. Jaha Howard**.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

(1) TAB By-laws Committee Update

Mr. Shealy reported that TAB ensure that the Bylaws reflect that Transit is a part of DOT Transportation and the few changes/edits by the County Legal and DOT be discussed by the Bylaws Committee.

Mr. Darden expressed concern that the full TAB has not been involved in the TAB Bylaws discussions. **Chair Bickers** clarified that the Bylaws Committee would meet with DOT to review, discuss, and edit the draft to blend the language and then the committee would present the recommended edited Bylaws to the full TAB to review and discuss the changes/edits for 10 days.

(2) MSPLOST Committee Update

Mr. Stigall reported that the main issue of the MSPLOST Committee is to align on the project list and the overall goal of the referendum and determine how the project list can accomplish that goal. **Chair Bickers** has called a special meeting for DOT to conduct an MSPLOST workshop on May 8, 2023.

Mr. Von Hagel stated that **Ms. Laura Beall** of DOT Planning will be sending TAB members a questionnaire prior to the May 8th meeting. **Mr. Raessler** stated that workshop is to obtain high level or level of specificity of goals and objectives from TAB members as individuals to provide to the BOC. **Mr. Raessler** stated that the mayors and other stakeholders were requested to provide what they would like to accomplish in Transportation.

(3) Officer Elections

Chair Bickers will be reaching out to TAB members to form a nominating committee for election of officers.

(4) Public Comment

Mr. Darden expressed concern that a 5-minute time limit was placed on public comment without the TAB discussing or voting on it and it was not in the Bylaws. **Chair Bickers** agreed and affirmed there is not a time limitation currently in place for public comment and **Mr. Von Hagel** would not include on future agendas.

Mr. Jeff Jones shared concerns and observations as a regular bus rider: 1) there is no bus route to Canton Road; 2) suggested bus pick up riders at Engle's or Park & Ride lots to promote ridership; 3) 50% of time **Mr. Jones** was waived by when attempting to board a bus because there was no ability to accept fares. **Mr. Jones** added that he enjoys the transit system, that the buses are usually on time or close to being on time, and he likes the routes offered.

Mr. Von Hagel stated that DOT will look into **Mr. Jones'** comments/observations.

Mr. Tyler Bigler commented that he is very interested in transit expansion for Cobb County.

B. DOT Department Update

CobbLinc Total Ridership - **Mr. Von Hagel** provided summary updates of KPIs and ridership of the CobbLinc Fixed, Flex, Express, and Paratransit bus routes through 1Q2023 compared to 2022. **Mr. Von Hagel** also provided a summary update of operations, including Paratransit, Customer Service, and NTD updates. **Mr. Von Hagel** acknowledged farebox issues and will provide updates at a later date.

Miscellaneous Updates – (1) The Transit Contract Manager and Transit Assistant Manager positions are vacant and posted. The new Customer Service/Safety Manager starts May 1, 2023. Interviews for Contract/Project Inspector position are being scheduled. (2) 12 Gillig vehicles have been delivered. (3) ATL-Cobb MOU for Breeze Mobile installation agenda item scheduled for 5/9/23 BOC meeting to help with farebox issue. (3) CAD/AVL proposal due April 27, 2023. (4) Scheduling software proposal due April 27, 2023. (5) Bus Shelter Replacement RFP under development has slowed. (6) Bus Route Timing Study RFP has slowed. (7) **Mr. Von Hagel** provided the status of the April and May 2023 agenda items as well as future 2023 agenda items.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shealy requested an official answer regarding HB930.

Mr. Von Hagel requested that **Mr. Shealy** bring up the HB930 question at the May 8th Special Called Meeting.

V. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next TAB meeting is on May 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. **Mr. Stigall** made a motion and **Mr. Shealy** seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

May 22, 2023

Approved