

FINAL

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING March 27, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Allison Bickers
James Darden
Walter Kolis (virtual)
Ken Marlin
Mark Riggans
Ron Roberts (virtual)
Forrest Shealy
Thomas Shibley
Jeff Souther
Matt Stigall

TAB Members Not Present

LaSandra Boykin
Neil Fusillo
Cherie Newton

Cobb County and Others Present

Karl Von Hagel, DOT
Theo Letman, DOT
Laura Beall, DOT
Marcia Lankford, DOT
Scott Brown, DOT
Shelly Simmons, AAC
Jeff Jones, Public

I. Call to Order:

Chair Allison Bickers called the TAB meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a quorum of TAB members present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 27, 2023 Minutes: **Mr. Souther** requested a correction to the February meeting minutes that “the TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes, as submitted” to state that “Mr. Souther abstained to vote for the January meeting minutes, as he was not present at the January meeting.” With the correction noted, **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Mr. Darden** seconded to accept the minutes. **Chair Bickers** requested a vote, and the TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the February 27, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected. It was confirmed that the Addendum to the January meeting minutes was sent to TAB members and posted for public view on the County website.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

(1) TAB By-laws Committee Update

Mr. Shealy reported that the draft of the TAB By-laws returned with edits made by County Legal included a couple of substantive changes that need to be discussed with DOT. **Mr. Von Hagel** shared that one of the substantive changes to the By-laws is inclusion of a new State law requiring that TAB’s public meetings must be in person, with the exception of an individual(s) member may attend through virtual who has a doctor’s excuse of a health issue or if a member is out of town, etc. Additionally, **Mr. Von Hagel** explained that only members present may be counted towards the quorum. **Mr. Darden** expressed concern of DOT having input on the TAB By-laws. **Mr. Von Hagel** suggested that the TAB By-laws Committee and DOT meet to discuss the edits to the By-laws.

(2) Community Engagement Committee

Vice Chair Marlin attended the BOC meeting on February 28, 2023 for the recognition and appreciation of the TAB and AAC members. **Vice Chair Marlin** reported that there were organized presentations from members of the public during the Public Comment section of the meeting, and they expressed negative comments about transit and about the BOC's position on the MSPLOST. **Chair Bickers** requested the Community Outreach and Engagement Committee to help TAB members to know what is coming up at public meetings and when to have TAB representation at those meetings. **Chair Bickers** reported that she, **Vice Chair Marlin**, and **Mr. Stigall** attended a meeting held by Chairwoman Cupid of all Boards in the County. The next such meeting will be next quarter and TAB members were encouraged to attend. **Mr. Stigall** stated that the BOC meetings are held every second Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and every fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

(3) Officer Elections

Chair Bickers stated that the officer elections will be delayed until May in order to form a nominating committee and for TAB to attend a workshop on MSPLOST.

(4) Public Comment

Mr. Jeff Jones commended the bus driver of Route 20, bus #1626, at 5:30 for an act of kindness displayed to passengers. **Mr. Jones** asked for consideration of a monthly pass for seniors, students, military veterans, and those with limited income, which he said would be appreciated.

Mr. Von Hagel will look into monthly bus passes. **Mr. Letman** stated that the Breeze Card is available and can be used to ride the CobbLinc bus. The Breeze Card may be obtained at the Paratransit building where the TAB meeting is held. **Mr. Von Hagel** added that the kiosk will be available within 2 weeks.

B. DOT Department Update

Cumberland, South Cobb, and Marietta Transfer Centers - **Mr. Scott Brown** provided an overview for three planned multimodal transit centers. Phase 1 (Systemwide Needs Assessment) and Phase 2 (Site Selection) for Cumberland, South Cobb, and Marietta Transfer Centers. In Phase 1, onsite (on the buses) and online surveys were conducted on desired improvements/amenities. The system analysis showed where there was a transit propensity, a facility program needs for each transit center. Phase 2 will begin in April and will be completed in early 2024.

Vice Chair Marlin and **Mr. Shealy** inquired if the evaluation criteria include the potential for light or heavy rail. **Chair Bickers** indicated that the presentation is foundational for the acquisition of funds. **Mr. Darden** inquired about the cities in the South Cobb area that did not appear on the evaluation map and expressed concern that the location of the South Cobb Transfer Center would not be accessible to the people in the area.

MSPLOST Update - **Mr. Von Hagel** informed TAB members that **Mr. Drew Raessler**, DOT Agency Director, has been meeting with city mayors and major stakeholders to gather information from the community to develop a draft list of projects. **Mr. Von Hagel** asked if TAB members would like an MSPLOST workshop at the April 24, 2023 TAB meeting to provide an opportunity for TAB Members to offer each Member's vision and project ideas to be considered. The schedule of 2023 and 2024 activities leading up to the referendum was provided.

Mr. Shealy made a motion that TAB conduct a regular meeting in April without a DOT presentation and that TAB call a special meeting for DOT to give a presentation on MSPLOST. **Mr. Darden**

seconded the motion. **Chair Bickers** called for a vote of TAB members present, with Mr. Souther – yea, Mr. Stigall – nay, Mr. Shibley – nay, Mr. Shealy – yea, Mr. Darden – yea, Mr. Riggans – yea, Vice Chair Marlin – yea, Chair Bickers – nay, Mr. Kolis – abstained, and Mr. Roberts did not vote. With a majority of yea votes, the motion passed.

Mr. Von Hagel confirmed that DOT would provide regular DOT updates at the TAB regular meeting in April.

Mr. Von Hagel provided updates (1) Transit Operator and Maintenance RFP that 3 proposals were received and continues to move forward (2) Transdev acquired First Transit, (3) Chairwoman submitted Comment Letter of support of FRA 2022-0031 for passenger rail Atlanta to Chattanooga, Birmingham, and Athens. **Mr. Von Hagel** provided the Ridership Report update and reviewed draft list of Key Performance Indicators to TAB for input. KPIs will be r provided to TAB quarterly. **Mr. Von Hagel** will add the farebox data and the 2019 data to the KPI Report. Mr. Von Hagel will email the KPI draft being presented to TAB members. **Mr. Von Hagel** reported on the February 28, 2023, March 14, 2023, and April 11, 2023 agenda items. **Mr. Von Hagel** reported on the potential for a Mobile Breeze (Kontron Contract). **Mr. Von Hagel** provided Transit staff updates with the onboarding of a new Accountant, offer made for the Customer Service Manager position, and advertising of the Contractor/Inspector position.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

V. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next TAB meeting is on April 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. TAB and DOT discussed potential dates for a special call meeting for DOT to conduct a work session on MSPLOST and each will follow up with the dates for the meeting to be held in May. With no further business, **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Vice Chair Marlin** seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

April 24, 2023

Approved