

DRAFT

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING June 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Allison Bickers
Jaha Howard
Walter Kolis
Ken Marlin
Cherie Newton (telephone)
Mark Riggans
Forrest Shealy
Thomas Shibley
Jeff Souther
Matt Stigall

TAB Members Not Present

LaSandra Boykin
James Darden

Cobb County and Others Present

Karl Von Hagel, DOT
Theo Letman, DOT
Marcia Lankford, DOT
Dorita C. Price, Public
D. Jones, Public

I. Call to Order:

Chair Allison Bickers called the TAB meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. with a quorum of TAB members present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes: **Mr. Souther** requested a correction of his title on the May 22, 2023 meeting minutes from Dr. to Mr. **Mr. Souther** made a motion and **Vice Chair Marlin** seconded and **Chair Bickers** requested a vote, and the TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the May 22, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

(1) Officer Elections Update

Chair Bickers reported that she appointed a Chair for the Nominating Committee, and the prospective members are communicating.

(2) MSPLOST Committee Update

Mr. Stigall reported from attending the Cobb Chamber of Commerce event where transportation projects were presented. **Mr. Stigall** reported that 41% of the public was in support of HB930. **Mr. Von Hagel** explained that DOT is developing a project list for the August BOC Work Session.

(3) TAB Bylaws Committee Update

Mr. Shealy reported that the TAB Bylaws Committee provided a redlined draft copy of the Bylaws with the committee's edits/changes as well as a clean copy of the draft redlined copy and emailed

them to the full TAB Board for review and approval to move forward. **Mr. Shealy** reviewed the edits/changes of each section of the Bylaws with the TAB members.

Ms. Newton expressed concern that members with disabilities cannot meet the TAB Bylaws requirement to attend the TAB meetings in person and requested ADA accommodations to attend meetings virtually.

Mr. Von Hagel will submit **Ms. Newton's** ADA accommodations request to Cobb County Legal. **Mr. Von Hagel** will continue to have **Ms. Newton** to participate in the TAB meetings via the telephone until told otherwise.

Chair Bickers opened the floor for acceptance and vote on the Bylaws report as submitted. **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Dr. Howard** seconded to close TAB Bylaws discussion. **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Dr. Howard** seconded to accept the Bylaws as reported. All TAB members presented voted unanimously to submit the TAB Bylaws as presented to the BOC for approval.

Chair Bickers asked the TAB body if **Ms. Newton's** ADA concerns for attending the meeting in person be submitted to the Board.

Mr. Von Hagel recommended that **Ms. Newton's** ADA concerns be presented to Cobb Legal first.

(4) Public Comment

Ms. Dorita Price stated that she would like to request more bus shelters at the bus stops on the routes and updates be made to the existing bus shelters.

B. DOT Department Update

Operations Data and Ridership Reports - **Mr. Von Hagel** provided summary updates of Monthly Ridership of the CobbLinc Fixed, Flex, Express, Paratransit, and Circulator bus routes through April 2023.

Mr. Stigall recommended CobbLinc service be marketed/promoted better to riders.

Chair Bickers recommended that TAB request DOT to provide a marketing strategy.

Mr. Von Hagel stated that the new Customer Service Manager is tasked with investigating opportunities.

Mr. Von Hagel stated that Transit will put a marketing strategy together to address many of the issues of concern and make a presentation to TAB of same.

Mr. Von Hagel provided a comparison of total ridership by various transit operators in the region.

Mr. Shealy stated that DOT is fundamentally misdirected with the TAB's vision of the Mobility SPLOST referendum and recommends a bigger authority like MARTA.

Miscellaneous Updates – (1) **Mr. Von Hagel** reported that DOT is looking to replace all fareboxes throughout the entire transit system. He provided a preliminary schedule of the anticipated dates of Kontron's installation of Breeze Mobile, replacement of the magnetic tickets with disposable tickets, and the replacement of fareboxes which is targeted to begin in January 2024. (2) DOT is beginning Procurement of Contract Security (Off Duty Police Officers and Patrol) between CTC and MTC, as well as coordination with Marietta and Cobb PD. (3) Transit staffing – Contracts Manager and the Operations (Transit Assistant Manager) positions are still vacant. The Customer Service Manager and the Fixed Route/Contract Inspector positions are filled. The Task Order Authorization for the Consultant Staff Support Services is in signature process. (4) Agenda Items – **Mr. Von Hagel** provided the status of 6/13/23 and 6/27/23 agenda items as well as future Transit agenda items.

Mr. Stigall expressed disappointment that Transit was not mentioned in the Safety Action Plan, especially due to 2 vehicle deaths of CobbLinc riders after they had exited the buses (with no fault of the CobbLinc drivers).

Mr. Von Hagel will follow up on the Safety Action Plan relating to **Mr. Stigall's** comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shibley requested the status of the study that DOT was going to have done to evaluate all of Transit’s services.

Mr. Von Hagel reported that the On-Demand Services Study is already underway by WSP USA, Inc. to review CobbLinc’s current services and to develop programs, processes, and coordination that will provide a better customer experience.

Mr. Shealy requested that TAB engage in a discussion about HB930 and the MARTA Act for the 2024 referendum.

Mr. Stigall stated that he would meet with the MSPLOST Committee to determine if there could be a recommendation.

Vice Chair Marlin suggested that TAB obtain data, understand the vision, and requested DOT to provide the information necessary for TAB to be for or against the referendum.

Mr. Von Hagel will take TAB’s ideas and requests forward to DOT for input and will report back to TAB.

V. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next TAB meeting is on July 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. With no further discussion, **Chair Bickers** adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Approved