

# FINAL

## TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING August 28, 2023 REVISED MEETING MINUTES

### TAB Members Present

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

### TAB Members Not Present

James Darden

### Cobb County and Others Present

Karl Von Hagel, DOT  
Theo Letman, DOT  
Ron Forrest, DOT  
Marcia Lankford, DOT

### I. Call to Order:

**Chair Allison Bickers** welcomed everyone and called the TAB meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of TAB members present.

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**July 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** **Chair Bickers** requested approval of the minutes. With no corrections, all TAB members present voted to approve the July 24, 2023, meeting minutes as read, with one member abstaining.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Committee Reports

##### (1) Officer Elections Update

**Secretary Souther** reported that he received one response for a slate of officers from the Nominating Committee. **Secretary Souther** reported that the slate of officers received was for Chair – Allison Bickers, Vice Chair – Ken Marlin, Secretary – Jeff Souther. Per the TAB Bylaws, the Chair may appoint a Treasurer.

**Dr. Howard** made a motion to close the nominations. **Mr. Shealy** seconded. TAB members present voted unanimously to close the nominations.

**Dr. Howard** moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. **Mr. Shealy** seconded. The motion passed and the slate of officers were voted into office for the next 2 years.

##### (2) MSPLOST Committee Update

**Mr. Stigall** reported that **Mr. Drew Raessler** shared updates to the MSPLOST in a presentation to TAB at the July 24, 2023 TAB meeting for next year.

(3) TAB Bylaws Committee Update

**Mr. Shealy** reported that the TAB Bylaws were approved at the July 25, 2023 BOC Meeting.

(4) Public Comment

None.

B. DOT Department Update

**MSPLOST Update – Mr. Von Hagel** reviewed the highlights of **Mr. Raessler’s** presentation on HB930 which can be found on YouTube. He stated that **Mr. Raessler** presented two example scenarios to the Board – 1) a 10-year program up to one cent sales tax referendum and 2) a 30-year program. The alternatives showed the differences that could be constructed in the first ten-years with each alternative.

**Dr. Howard, Ms. Boykin, Mr. Shealy, and Chair Bickers** requested DOT to provide more clear, less complicated information about the project list to present to the public.

**Mr. Von Hagel** stated that DOT is on the path to develop a final project list considering all the feedback received including TAB’s. The next phase will be inviting community comment.

**Transit Operator & Maintenance Contract – Mr. Von Hagel** reported that the Board approved a 3-year Agreement with Transdev Services, Inc. with 2 one-year options, as Transdev won the bid based receiving the highest score on the RFP criteria.

**Transit Staffing – Mr. Von Hagel** introduced **Mr. Ron Forrest**, the new Transit Assistant Manager, who will be handling Operations. **Mr. Forrest** provided his background and experience to TAB.

**Marketing Outreach Update - Mr. Von Hagel** reported that Transit’s new Customer Service Manager is spearheading offering travel training programs, describing various travel options, etc. The website will be updated, the Marietta Transfer Center will be painted, the CCT signs will be rebranded to CobbLinc signs, and updating of the Cumberland Transfer Center will follow.

**Mr. Stigall** opens a discussion regarding the up upcoming milestone for Mobile Breeze Release 2.0 on October 1st and questioned about a program or campaign to do outreach for milestone for early October release.

**Mr. Letman** stated that the agreements are with MARTA.

**Mr. Stigall** asked to confirm soft release on October 1st as a soft launch date.

**Mr. Letman** stated that October 1<sup>st</sup> is the potential date and working on all buses in January 2024.

**Mr. Von Hagel** discussed the timeline to replace all fareboxes and Kontron is short inventory due to supply chain issues. Once there is a hard date for rollout, it will be communicated with riders

**Quarterly KPI/Ridership Reports Update – Mr. Von Hagel and Mr. Letman** reported that the ridership is up on many of the Fixed Route, Xpress, Paratransit, and Flex services, as well as the Circulator. Overall ridership is down from the previous year. The Transit Customer Service Manager is working diligently to resolve valid customer complaints.

**Mr. Von Hagel** reported that Cobb DOT/Transit has CobbLinc to join ATL’s Return to Service Study and the results should be available this Fall.

**FTA Triennial Audit Update – Mr. Von Hagel** reported that per the FTA, DOT/Transit had no deficiencies identified, FTA stated that rarely there are no deficiencies, and FTA stated that everything was organized and perfect. **Mr. Von Hagel** credits the Transit staff with the good work.

**Upcoming Agenda Items – Mr. Von Hagel** reported that the TAB Bylaws passed on 7/25/23. The thermal event funding was reclassified on 7/25/23. Approval of Transdev contract on 8/22/23. Another thermal event of refunding the FTA on 9/12/23. Approval of renewal of Cubic Transportation Breeze Fair Agreement on 9/12/23. Approval of a grant for ADA sidewalks on 9/12/23.

**Miscellaneous Updates – Mr. Von Hagel** announced his retirement on 9/22/23.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Chair Bickers** announced that TAB will have a guest speaker to present on the BRT at the TAB September meeting.

**V. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next TAB meeting is on September 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

October 23, 2023

---

Approved