

FINAL

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING November 27, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Jaha Howard
Ken Marlin
Cherie Newton
Mark Riggans
Forrest Shealy
Thomas Shibley
Jeff Souther
Matt Stigall

TAB Members Not Present

Allison Bickers
LaSandra Boykin
James Darden
Walter Kolis

Cobb County and Others Present

Drew Raessler, DOT
Theo Letman, DOT
Marcia Lankford, DOT
Anthony Lamptey, Public
Connor Manthey, Public

I. Call to Order:

Vice Chair Ken Marlin called the TAB meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum of members present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes: **Chair Marlin** requested approval of the October 22, 2023 meeting minutes. All TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the October 22, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted.

Other TAB Business

Mr. Riggans reported that there were 1,300 kids registered for the Stuff-A-Bus Christmas 2024 toy give-away in December.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Connor Manthey from District 2 in Smyrna stated that he was a regular rider of Route 10 for 2 years to the Airport and to Midtown. Mr. Manthey wanted to express concerns of minor issues like the problems with the transit signal, to address the SPLOST, and to learn how the County operates.

Mr. Anthony Lamptey from Smyrna had a customer service issue with a bus driver on Route 50 and reported the driver for potentially unsafe driving condition in August. **Mr. Lamptey** stated that the driver retaliated against him physically and verbally the next the driver saw him. **Mr. Lamptey** complained to **Ms. Antoinette Grant** and received no satisfactory response. **Mr. Lamptey** also spoke with **Mr. Robert Zuco** who he stated was very nice.

Vice Chair Marlin expressed that everyone should feel safe within the County and asked **Mr. Letman** to respond to **Mr. Lamptey's** complaint. **Mr. Letman** said he was just made aware of **Mr. Lamptey's** complaint and that **Robert Zuco**, Customer Service Manager, is investigating it.

Mr. Raessler reiterated that Cobb County monitors the contractor, and that **Mr. Zuco** audits all complaints and will provide a response to **Mr. Lamptey's** complaint.

Mr. Stigall and Vice Chair Marlin added that **Mr. Lamptey's** complaints have been escalated to DOT and CobbLinc's management due to the nature and duration of the complaints.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mobility SPLOST

Mr. Raessler provided an update of the MSPLOST Program of Projects and shared the top 3 priorities. **Mr. Raessler** provided a presentation overview of what will be presented to the public - Goals, Key Transit Connections within the County; Resource: Cobb County Strategic Plan; Resource: CobbForward Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP); Resource: MSPLOST Public Outreach; Program of Projects; High-Capacity Transit (proposing bus rapid transit); Microtransit Service (dedicated zone); Transit Operations (expansion of services); Vehicles, Facilities, and Amenities; Transit Technology; Transit Supportive Projects; Additional Considerations (transit coverage, parking demands, MSPLOST funding); Next Steps. **Mr. Raessler** shared that DOT needs TAB to authorize submission of revised projects to the Atlanta-Region Link Authority and explained the necessary steps prior to the anticipated Referendum.

Dr. Howard inquired if the Microtransit service has access to Fixed-Route zones.

Mr. Raessler stated that where there is no access, the Microtransit service would be allowed to extend to the Fixed Route zones, or it could be a premium trip.

Mr. Raessler shared that some of the projects included are aspirational.

B. DOT Department Update

Customer Engagement Update - Mr. Letman reported that the MTC is continuously updated and ongoing with physical improvements yielding positive results from fewer police involved incidents.

Travel Training for high school special needs students will occur on December 8, 2023.

Stuff-A-Bus is scheduled for December 12-14, 2023.

Operations Data and Ridership Reports Update – Mr. Letman reported on the ridership for the Fixed, Xpress, Paratransit, and the Flex Routes, as well as the Circulator Routes.

Mr. Stigall commented that ridership on Routes 40 and 45 is declining and Route 10, that normally connect to MARTA, is full of riders.

Mr. Letman discussed the upgrade of the farebox with TAB members and reported that upcoming agenda items to the Board are to purchase new systems and software.

Upcoming Agenda Items – Mr. Letman reported that the 2024 Title VI Program Update, Paratransit Software Procurement, CAD/AVL Procurement, and Microtransit Implementation Public Hearing are upcoming agenda items for BOC meetings in 2024.

Ms. Laura Beall reported the timeline and content of the Title VI Program Update which includes the site selection studies for the transfer centers (South Cobb, Marietta, and Cumberland, with anticipated completion by Spring 2024) and the microtransit pilot.

C. TAB Annual Report

Secretary Souther reported that he had emailed the pre-final 2022 Annual Report to TAB members for review on November 12, 2023.

Mr. Riggans made a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Report as presented on November 12, 2023, and **Dr. Howard** seconded the motion. **Vice Chair Marlin** requested a vote, and the 2022 Annual Report received a unanimous vote of acceptance by all TAB members present.

D. NEW BUSINESS

TAB Meeting Schedule

Mr. Shealy requested for discussion of the TAB 2024 meeting schedule and **Vice Chair Marlin** opened the floor for discussion. **Secretary Souther** commented that due to the large Referendum in 2024, he thinks it would be important for TAB to meet monthly. **Mr. Stigall, Dr. Howard, Mr. Riggans, Mr. Shealy, Ms. Newton, and Secretary Souther** discussed specific months to meet as well as special call meetings. **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Secretary Souther** seconded for TAB's 2024 meeting schedule to include the 8 months of January, February, April, June, August, September, October, and November. There will be no TAB meetings in 2024 for the 4 months of March, May, July, and December. All TAB members present voted unanimously for the 2024 TAB meeting schedule as presented and motioned.

E. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next Joint TAB/AAC meeting is on January 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

January 22, 2024

Approved