

FINAL

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING October 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Allison Bickers
LaSandra Boykin
James Darden
Walter Kolis
Ken Marlin
Cherie Newton (telephone)
Mark Riggans
Forrest Shealy
Thomas Shibley
Jeff Souther

TAB Members Not Present

Jaha Howard
Matt Stigall

Cobb County and Others Present

Drew Raessler, DOT
Theo Letman, DOT
Marcia Lankford, DOT

I. Call to Order:

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

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 28 and September 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes: **Chair Bickers** requested approval of the August 28, 2023 meeting minutes. All TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the August 28, 2023 meeting minutes. **Chair Bickers** requested approval of the September 25, 2023 meeting minutes. All TAB members present voted unanimously to approve the September 25, 2023 meeting minutes.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mobility SPLOST Committee

Chair Bickers presented to TAB members the development of a Vision Statement: ***Building connectivity to promote a thriving community for all.*** The MSPLOST Committee also developed a name for the Transit service: *ConnectCobb* which provides connections to Key Elements like MARTA System, Truist Park and the Battery, Cobb Galleria, Cobb County Hospitals, Dobbins AFB, Kennesaw State University, Cumberland and Town Center Malls, Acworth, and the cities of Acworth, Austell, Kennesaw, Mableton, Marietta, Power Springs, and Smyrna. **Chair Bickers** also provided the Key Connections for *ConnectCobb* that were also developed by the MSPLOST Committee.

Secretary Souther expressed that there is no mention in this language of this Vision Statement being fiscally sound or fiscally constrained and he stated that there would be concerns from Cobb voters for a substantial financial investment. TAB members discussed the inclusion of FTA grants and other funding, etc. **Secretary Souther** suggested the inclusion of Cobb attractions, etc., and to include the word valuable or valuable as it relates to the Cobb community.

Mr. Darden suggested the inclusion of the Belt Line.

Chair Bickers recommended that the MSPLOST Committee communicate the final language of the Vision back to **Mr. Drew Raessler**. The Vision could be deployed to the Cobb community via

business leaders and community leaders besides DOT to educate the community on what MSPLOST is and what it is not.

B. Disability Access and Virtual Public Access to TAB Meetings

Ms. Newton reported that she is now getting a designated ride to and from the TAB meetings which makes it equal access as with other TAB members.

Chair Bickers shared that the County Manager is discussing how the Public with disabilities can have access to TAB meetings. **Chair Bickers** sent **Mr. Raessler** a copy of Gwinnett County's accessibility for the Public to their board meetings.

C. Stuff-A-Bus

Mr. Riggans announced the annual Cobb Christmas Stuff-A-Bus campaign is to take place on December 12, 13, and 14, 2023. **Mr. Riggans** explained that a CobbLinc bus is used to receive toy donations at various locations for those 3 days. Volunteers can sign up with the Cobb Christmas, Inc. and can assist to distribute the toy donations on December 16 and 17, 2023 to the families who are registered.

D. TAB Bylaws – Proxy Vote

Secretary Souther reported that Mr. Raessler went to the BOC regarding the Proxy for TAB members. It was determined that a Proxy does not count for a quorum of members in attendance and if a Proxy is submitted, a quorum is still needed. **Secretary Souther** explained how the Proxy works and the subject name has to already be on the agenda in advance. TAB members must submit their Proxy with the subject name on which to be voted. The TAB Bylaws state that the Secretary has the ability to create a Proxy process.

E. TAB Joint Meeting Gwinnett County Transit Advisory Board

Chair Bickers discussed for TAB to tentatively to meet jointly with Gwinnett County Transit Board in January or February 2024.

F. DOT Department Update

Customer Engagement Update - Mr. Letman reported that marketing of the Circulator Routes has been implemented via targeting hotels and placing signs in the bus shelters. On-Demand Study Report of analyzing the various CobbLinc services to determine how to make them more efficient.

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. Darden requested that DOT look into why the ridership is flatlining.

Upcoming Agenda Items – Mr. Letman reported that the 2024 Title VI Program Update, the Douglas County Bus Stop Agreement, and potentially the Non-Revenue Vehicle Procurement Contract agenda items are scheduled for the November 14, 2023 BOC meeting.

Mr. Letman clarified for **Mr. Shealy** and **Mr. Darden** that the MARTA breeze card is used to transfer onto the MARTA system. The Douglas County Bus Stop Agreement covers the use of a transfer onto the bus at the CobbLinc bus stop.

(1) Annual Report

Secretary Souther reported that he has requested comments from TAB members on the draft of the 2022 Annual Report by will provide the draft of the 2022 Annual Report to TAB members at the November meeting. The goal is to have a draft of the 2023 Annual Report to discuss in January 2024.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

V. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next TAB meeting is on November 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

November 27, 2023

Approved