

(On behalf of the TAB, reviewed and edited by the TAB Secretary)

FINAL

COBB TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

February 24, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

TAB Members Present

Allison Bickers
Cherie Newton
Forrest Shealy
Thomas Shibley
Jeff Souther

TAB Members Not Present

LaSandra Boykin
James Darden
Ken Marlin
Mark Riggans
Matt Stigall

Cobb County DOT & Others Present

Drew Raessler, DOT Director
Morgan Simmons, DOT Deputy Director/Intermodal
Theo Letman, DOT Division Manager
Mark Lambert, DOT Business Manager
Eric Mercier, DOT Contracts Manager
Robert Zuco, DOT Customer Service & Safety Manager
Marcia Lankford, DOT Admin.
Blanca Peralta, Transdev General Manager
Matt Bristol, Transdev Assistant General Manager/Fixed Route
Earnesha Scott, Transdev Assistant General Manager/Paratransit Operations
Latosha Ford, Public Comment

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Allison Bickers called the TAB meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. With a quorum of TAB members present, **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Mr. Shibley** seconded to approve the Joint TAB/AAC January 27, 2025, meeting minutes; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

None. Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) requested Appeals to be added to the meeting agenda for the next AAC quarterly meeting. The No-Show Policy will also be added to the meeting agenda for the next AAC meeting.

Chair Bickers recommended restructuring of the TAB MSPLOST Committee and implementation of goals and objectives for each TAB committee for 2025.

Old Business

Chair Bickers presented word cloud graphics from the 2024 Goals and Objectives Exercise. The graphics were presented for discussion only. **Chair Bickers** asked the TAB what the 2025 vision and next step should be. **TAB members** discussed a vision for the next step for TAB without revenue stream of the defeated MSPLOST referendum, a shift in TAB focus from a closed think tank and move to getting data to the community, and more

interaction with other agencies to obtain information such as information regarding the Redefining the Ride (RTR) of the ATL Regional Commuter Service.

Secretary Souther agreed to draft a list of recommended 2025 goals that were discussed (5 or less) and to begin circulating them among the TAB for discussion and refinement.

The AAC was given the charge to make recommendations for new members to its committee. The TAB Nominating Committee will assign chairs to each committee.

New Business

Mr. Shealy read a proposed recommendation to be submitted to the Cobb County Board of Commissioners indicating that data on transit services be made available to TAB and the public via the CobbLinc website in an easy-to-use format. **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Mr. Souther** seconded to open the proposed recommendation for discussion.

Mr. Raessler and **Ms. Simmons** discussed some of the data requests in the proposed recommendation and requested TAB to refer the proposed recommendation to a TAB committee and that DOT will respond accordingly.

Mr. Souther made a motion and **Mr. Shibley** seconded and TAB members voted to refer the discussion of the proposed recommendation to the TAB Ridership Committee for review and discussion.

Chair Bickers reported that she attended the State of MARTA event that showed the replacement and upgrade of MARTA's train fleet and new buses with increased technology. More information regarding the MARTA event can be accessed on MARTA's website: "Your Ride, You Decide".

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Latosha Ford voiced a complaint about an incident that occurred on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at approximately 9:30 am, stating that a CobbLinc bus driver on Route 50 did not lower the ramp for her to board the bus and that the driver was verbally abusive to her, harassed her, made terroristic threats, and committed ADA violations. **Ms. Ford** wanted to know who is responsible for and who holds bus drivers accountable. Both **DOT Management** and **Transdev Management** (CobbLinc's transit contractor) spoke with **Ms. Ford** and assured her that the incident would be investigated and that someone would follow up with her.

DOT Department Update

Ms. Simmons presented the DOT Department Update:

- Department Focus Items
 - Launch of MyStop App
 - Transit Advertising Contract Update
 - Complaints Process – Substantiated vs Unsubstantiated
- DOT Staffing Update
- Program and Project Status
 - Capital & Operating
- Operational Review
- Outreach and Communication
 - Latest Travel Training & Outreach Events
- Upcoming Agenda Items

TAB members inquired about the status of federal grants in consideration of recent actions by the current administration. **DOT staff** confirmed they are monitoring the matter and will keep the TAB abreast if anything drastic occurs.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next TAB meeting is on April 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. With no further discussion, **Mr. Shealy** made a motion and **Mr. Souther** seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

April 28, 2025

Approved