



CAPITAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC HEARING
2910 East Fifth Street Austin, TX 78702

~ MINUTES ~

Executive Assistant/Board Liaison Gina Estrada
512-389-7458

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

5:00 PM

Capital Metro Board Room

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm on April 6, 2010 at Capital Metro Board Room, 2910 East Fifth Street, Austin, TX.

II. Presentations:

1. August 2010 Service Change

Todd Hemingson, VP, Strategic Planning & Development & Roberto Gonzalez gave briefing on the August 2010 Fall changes. (see attachment)

Todd discussed the Public involvement process and what they heard from citizens about the timing of our Public Hearings verses the Public Meetings process and some other legitimate concerns. We are taking steps to remedy that situation so we are having another Public Hearing next week and having a briefing with our two committees CSAC and AAC. For subsequent service changes we are going to tighten up our process so we can have clearly defined steps to our process and be more consistent. Chair Martinez - What route services the Craigwood and King Henry neighborhood east of Ed Bluestein?

Gonzalez - That will be the example in the next slide.

Chris Riley - Regarding the left turn, we are eliminating the route to the left on the chart?

Gonzalez - Yes.

Riley - Is that a protected left on to MLK?

Gonzalez - Yes, this is a signaled intersection.

John Langmore - It would be helpful when you do these maps to show the routes and color code land uses for people that don't know the area, whether it's commercial or residential, this may be more helpful to understand what we are impacting.

Norm Chafetz - The road extension for Research/183 could you tell me what those are?

Gonzalez - Route 383 travels from US 183 to the North Lamar Transit Center up toward the Arboretum area, it currently travels on the frontage road of US 183 and travels through the Anderson Mill neighborhood ultimately to the Lakeline station. The other changes are realigning the service along Pond Springs Rd.; the limitation of operating on this frontage road because there are no good pedestrian access points.

Chafetz - Do you anticipate an increase in ridership?

Gonzalez - Yes we do, we look to increase ridership because we will have access to apartment complexes and by making these changes people can have better access to come to and from their destination.

Ann Stafford - Route 243 will eliminate the eligibility of about 15 MetroAccess customers? What are our plans?

Doug Allen - One of the issues we will bring forward to the Operations and Planning Committee is an analysis we were asked to put together regarding the issue of grandfather in current MetroAccess customers. We will be bringing forward data and cost estimates to the Board, ultimately we need to make a policy decision.

Stafford - The realignment of Route 37, the elimination of the bus stops that serve the Day Labor, Legal Aide etc...

Gonzalez - Over the past two weeks we have met directly with each one of those members and we have come up with a compromise and we sent that to them in writing. We will work together with them and monitor.

Stafford - Can I get a copy of that proposal?

Gonzalez - Yes.

Riley - Regarding the bar graph, why is this limited to Radial Routes?

Gonzalez - They are applied to all of our routes this is just one example.

Riley - Would we see something similar?

Gonzalez - You would see the ones that are the lowest performing that are being addressed now whether they are being eliminated or restructured.

Riley - That would be a useful graphic to have.

Gonzalez - We can provide that with the other areas.

Riley - Route 323, do you have a graphic of 300, just wanted to get a sense of how they compare roughly?

Gonzalez - Route 300 travels on Springdale Rd., same general direction just a different format. What most people do is transfer down at Berkman where there is a shopping center which is a major transfer point. We are trying to create a service where they can get a one ride service or the use the same transfer in a different zone, then combine all those high activity points.

Riley - Issue of the MetroAccess customers being affected by the changes, being grandfathered in, can you give us an update of the status of that?

Gonzalez - There are a number of staff members working on it.

Allen - Inez Evans is working with members of Todd's staff and they are putting together that information, what the cost implications are etc...

Riley - When is that?

Allen - We are planning to bring to the April Operations/Planning Committee. We anticipate at least about a month or two of dialogue. We want to make sure you are getting enough information from us to make a policy decision.

Chair Martinez - I assume that will go through Audit/Finance Committee as well?

Allen - Yes it was requested that we take to the Audit/Finance Committee as well.

Stafford - Are we looking at other community resources we may be able to partner with, other alternatives?

Allen - I don't think that we are but we can throw that into the analysis and consideration. We can include that in the discussion.

Stafford - We could use every option to make a determination to make sure people's livelihood is not in danger.

Stafford - Back to the chart with the analysis, why was Bullcreek, Route #19 not determined to be a candidate?

Gonzalez - That one will be coming up next year. Still some changes that need to be made.

Chafetz - Regarding the MetroAccess policy - I asked to look at other cities, peer cities and how they look at this particular issue. Is that being done?

Allen - Yes sir it is.

Chair Martinez - The issue for folks that may potentially lose MetroAccess, at some point we as a Board will have to make a policy decision and we will continue to evolve and change as an agency and routes won't stay the same as our community grows. I caution you when we start down this road it will be very hard to unwind that policy

because every 6 months, every year we will be re-routing services based on demand and based on our growth patterns.

Public Comment:

1. Will McLeod - opposed to the research for Route 383, this will take jobs away from people, 392 - Jollyville Rd. - maybe reduce frequency or add to the route. I commend you on Route 350 and the 243 and you need to extend Wells Branch.
 2. David Patterson - I have a suggestion on hearings and service changes. The decisions that were made by senior management are costly to the agency. What would be the impact of approving in May instead of April? Also, issues with the way the Public Meetings are conducted, meetings are divided.
 3. Lee Hill - Issues regarding service changes, reducing the 243. I would suggest pamphlets be placed on buses, it's not fair not hearing about changes. Mr. Hill read an email from another rider. Delay at least 6 months to a year.
 4. Joseph Thornton - Lives in Barton Hills neighborhood, prefer for it to stay the way it is, but understands the problem. I hope you are not overloading with changes.
 5. Chris Slugerman - I have two points, how the public is engaged in these limited meetings and the locations are not easy to get to. Let the people know of the drastic changes, understand your goal and offer alternatives. Go to the concentration of where the people are.
 6. Mary Lynn Zoler - Regarding Route 9 - main objective not frequent enough, also there are a lot of blind riders on that route. What buses are going to fill in for Route 9? Also, no information on Route 9, a lot of people depend on that route.
 7. Jerry Dewes - President of Goodwill Industries - Is Route 339 going to be eliminated? I have concerns regarding people with disabilities accessing 323. Hopefully we can come up with a solution for 323.
- Chair Martinez - I am familiar with this route making the change from North Cross Dr. as opposed to Rutherford behind the Walmart, would that be an option?
- Gonzalez - Yes, there is a connection to Rutherford, it's just not in finite detail.
- Mary Lynn Zoler - There was no information on Route 9, no pamphlets, they were on Route 7 & 331, and I don't understand that. I have a car, I choose to ride the bus, and lots of people depend on the bus.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.

ADA Compliance

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez, Chairperson; John Langmore, Vice Chair; Beverly S. Silas, Board Secretary; Council Member Chris Riley; Mayor John Cowman; Frank Fernandez; Ann M. Stafford and Norm Chafetz. Board Liaison: Gina Estrada 389-7458, email gina.estrada@capmetro.org if you need more information.

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under Section 551.076, for deliberation regarding the deployment or implementation of Security Personnel or devices, arising regarding any item listed on this Agenda.

Date: April 6, 2010

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Legal/Board Support Specialist II