



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

Wednesday, November 1, 2017
5:30 PM

5:34 PM Meeting Called To Order
7:25 PM Meeting Adjourned

I. Presentations:

1. Proposed June 2018 Service Changes.

Lawrence Deeter, Planning Department, shared the following routes have been adjusted after receiving extensive and repeated feedback from the community: Routes 339, 271, 383, 243 and 490. He provided background information on Connections 2025 and noted Connections 2025 is Capital Metro's Board approved transit plan for a more reliable, more frequent and better connected transportation network. The plan, which is designed to address declining ridership and better meet community needs was adopted in February after more than a year of public input and board direction. Connections 2025 also guides three times per year service changes.

Deeter next presented highlights of the proposed June 2018 service changes, with the most significant change being that half of the Capital Metro routes would be changing. Deeter noted the Board is scheduled to vote on the Proposed June 2018 service changes at the November 15 BOD meeting. If approved the changes will take effect June 3, 2018. Lawrence concluded with the public outreach process, comments, and recommended changes based on comments and requests received. The potential impact on MetroAccess customers was also discussed, with Board member Kitchen requesting additional information on the total number of MetroAccess customers that will be impacted by the proposed service changes.

Throughout the discussion on the recommended changes, Board members had remarks regarding Routes 333 and 490.

II. Public Comment

Gus Peña, does not support changes to Routes 331, 300 and 17.

Heiwa Salovitz, with Adapt of Texas, supports the proposed service changes. He is in favor of more frequency and more routes. He feels it will be a more useable system. In addition, he thanked the Board for supporting MetroAccess.

Mike Gorse, spoke in favor of the proposed service changes. He considers the changes an overall improvement and acknowledged buses will be part of a frequent network that will run every 15 minutes. Mr. Gorse believes bus transfers will also be more efficient.

Rothko Hauschildt, resident of Bouldin Creek, is concerned about elimination of Route 5. She heavily depends on this bus to go to and from work. She asked the Board to reconsider eliminating this route.

Geneo, East Austin resident, had remarks regarding Routes 17, 300, 320, 3 and 325. He feels a decision has already been made regarding these routes. He believes not enough public outreach was done regarding the proposed service changes and stated we are taking transit away from people that need it the most.

Sonya Williams, Springdale resident, asked the Board to reconsider making changes to Routes 2, 6, 300. She believes changes to these routes are a disservice to those individuals who need transit the most. Ms. Williams stated her mother is a diabetic who will not be able to walk the ½ mile to the next closest bus

stop. There are other individuals who also have a physical impediment that does not allow them to walk far to catch a bus.

Yvette Roe, commuter, works for the City of Austin and takes the train from Howard Station to downtown. Ms. Roe then walks from the Convention Center to 5th and San Jacinto to catch the 21/22 to her job at RBJ. She does not want her bus stop eliminated.

Linda Krueger, thanked the Board for having a meeting in the evening which allows her and others to comment. Ms. Krueger is a regular transit user on the numbers 18, 20, 801 and 803. She does not support any changes to Route 18. Ms. Krueger also uses the *PickUp* service and is overall happy with the service. However, she feels the location services software needs some improvement. Ms. Krueger supports the changes of the 323 to the 339 route.

Justin Erwin, representing Manos de Cristo, located on 49th street near I-35, spoke in favor of bus stop 37 and 320 located in front of the building. This bus stop is essential to the multitude of people that access Manos de Cristo services. If eliminated people will have to walk from either the bus stop at Airport or the one on the other side of the highway. Mr. Erwin is concerned about their safety, in particular those individuals who are mobility impaired and will be coming from the direction with no sidewalks.

Albert Metz, with Adapt Texas, supports the changes. He would like to see the 803 go all the way down Manchaca because he lives behind the HEB on Manchaca and Slaughter. The number 3 runs every half hour and if he misses it he has to wait 30 minutes to catch the next one.

Sharon Flounay, believes Route 21 that runs on Exposition is a major route and should not be eliminated. People that work in that area depend on this route as well as indigent individuals that come to Good Sheppard Episcopal church for different services. Ms. Flounay supports the proposed 15 minute frequency.

Debbie Locklear, former bus operator, does not want any changes to Route 37. She stated she has spoken to many people who are in favor of this route and who are worried about how they're going to get to their jobs if the route is eliminated.

Kyle Holland, would like to see more east-west service and vice-versa. He believes canceling Route 392 before it gets to 183 and Braker will create a huge problem for people who live near Tech Ridge and have to get west to work. He would like coverage to expand to Cedar Park and Georgetown but understands those cities have to opt in. He would like public restrooms at all transit centers; internet access on all buses; bus service to the new library; shelters for all buses; and 803 service to Lakeline.

Chase Holdridge, would like to see public bathrooms at all transit centers. He appreciates the reduced rate for the 803 and 801 and wishes it was the same for the MetroExpress.

Jennifer McPhail, with Adapt, stated she has heard positive feedback from the frequent routes. However, changes to route 2 will have people walking almost a mile to get to a bus stop and sometimes the environment is not safe. Ms. McPhail also suggested that when purchasing new buses we need to make sure the fare box is accessible to people in wheelchairs. She believes we are making too many service changes at one time and recommended we have another public hearing to explain the changes in greater detail. She also suggested everyone should ride the bus to better understand transit.

Maria Vela Munoz, bus rider since 1986 is concerned with the proposed changes to Route 21/22. She lives off Pleasant Valley and takes the 20 to downtown to catch the 21 to get to Exposition and Windsor where she works. If this route is replaced by 335 how many transfers will she need to make to get to work? She asked the Board to not eliminate bus Route 21/22.

Inez Garcia, advocated for Route 240. She stated elimination of this route would be cutting off services to a hospital/medical complex in the Mopac/Cedar Bend area.

Patricia Crow, is concerned about senior citizens losing a bus stop they've become dependent on and having to walk to a different bus stop. She wants to understand the rationale for the service changes, in particular Route 300.

David Knoll, on behalf of The Reserve at Springdale, asked the Board to consider modification to route 300 to continue serving mixed use at the Reserve at Springdale and our low income residents.

Robin Orlowski, agrees with the proposed changes to routes 383 and 392. She is not in favor of eliminating route 18 as it cuts service to ACC. She suggested Route 803 should be extended to the Arboretum and to Seton Northwest hospital. Ms. Orlowski also feels Route 240 should not be eliminated as it will cut service to the North Austin Vocational Rehabilitation office. She suggested staff's salaries should be cut in order to keep some of the routes that are proposed to be eliminated.

Zenobia Joseph, asked the Board to look at Route 325 which she stated serve 23 riders under Connections 2025, but we are losing \$584k on that route. This is the only east west connectivity in the far Northeast area. Ms. Joseph also asked that we look at Route 323 and compare it to 392. Route 323 was created to go northwest but it generates fewer rides than the current 392. In addition, she asked that we look at Title VI - equitable distribution of resources, when comparing action taken on Routes 333 and 392. Lastly, she asked the Board to recognize the number of buses that have been removed from the northeast area of town.

III. Items for Future Discussion:

IV. Adjournment

ADA Compliance

Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Please call (512)389-7458 or email gina.estrada@capmetro.org if you need more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Wade Cooper, chair; Delia Garza, vice chair; Juli Word, board secretary; Terry Mitchell, Pio Renteria, Ann Kitchen, Rita Jonse and Jeffrey Travillion. Board Liaison: Gina Estrada (512)389-7458, email gina.estrada@capmetro.org if you need more information.

The Board of Directors may go into closed session under the Texas Open Meetings Act. In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, consultation with attorney for any legal issues, under Section 551.072 for real property issues; under Section 551.074 for personnel matters, or under Section 551.076, for deliberation regarding the deployment or implementation of security personnel or devices; arising regarding any item listed on this agenda.