

MINUTES
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
October 19, 2011

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Public Works Department.

Members Present: Ms. Lisa Simmons, Ms. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Eric Foushee, Mr. Neil Edwards and Mr. Bob Thompson.

Staff Present: Mr. Thom Moton, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Wes Anderson, Director of Public Works; Ms. Nancy Harrington, Transit Manager; Ms. Stacey Pigford, Engineer I; and Ms. Geraldine Teel, Secretary.

Council Liaison: Ms. Kandi Smith

Guest: Mr. Wood Davidson, ECU Transit Manager

WELCOME: Ms. Geraldine Teel, Secretary, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Teel stated that a quorum was established. Ms. Lisa Simmons welcomed newly appointed Commission member, Mr. Bob Thompson. Ms. Simmons noted that Mr. Thompson had previously served on this Commission.

AGENDA: The agenda for the October 19, 2011 meeting was approved with one addition by Mr. Wes Anderson under Old Business: Taxi and November's Meeting.

MINUTES: Mr. Neil Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Marsha Wyly. The motion carried unanimously.

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER UPDATE: Mr. Thom Moton gave an update on the ITC project. He stated that the City Council met on October 10, 2011 at the request of staff to consider a proposal to initiate the site selection process again. He stated City staff has received comments questioning whether the selected site is still the appropriate location for the Intermodal Transportation Center. He stated a number of events contributed to this request. He noted East Carolina University officials have expressed concerns about potential bus-pedestrian conflicts on Cotanche Street near the Center. Mr. Moton said the University's master plan now calls for working with the City to alter Cotanche street going north at 10th street. Mr. Moton stated Uptown Greenville has expressed support for the project, but also listed several areas of concern about the selected site. Staff anticipates the site selection process will be done by a consultant. Ms. Marsha Wyly had questions about federal funding that has been used already on this project and Mr. Moton stated the change will not affect these funds. He noted that federal funds used to pay for the original site selection process will not have to be refunded. Mr. Bob Thompson asked if starting over will require another Steering Committee to work with the consultant. Mr. Moton replied that the City Council will appoint a Steering Committee for this process. Mr. Thompson also asked if ECU was showing any interest in integrating their bus system with the City's transit system. Mr. Moton noted that staff has been meeting with ECU officials on a regular basis to continue discussions on the ITC project as well as opportunities for coordination of the two systems. He also noted that the University's Master Plan addresses potential Intermodal Center usage by ECU transit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments at this time.

SERVICE HOURS CHANGE (ROUTE2): Ms. Nancy Harrington gave an update on the changes for Route 2. She stated that due to the addition of the new Family Practice Center, the number of trips to Greenpointe/Westpointe be reduced in order to allow Route 2 to maintain the schedule. She noted that trips would be reduced to every other hour; however, service would still be provided for the first two hours of the route to ensure good coverage for anyone going to work or school. She noted that plans call for changing this service the first of January. Council Member Kandi Smith stated that she has received complaints about the bus not going to Convergys. Mr. Wes Anderson stated that Convergys is located outside of Greenville city limits. He stated to start servicing outside of Greenville; the company will have to participate in a cost share. He noted that staff has addressed this with Pitt County officials and they are not willing to share the cost. Mr. Anderson said staff has not spoken directly to Convergys. Council Member Smith stated that she thinks it will be a good idea to communicate with Convergys to see if they will share the cost since there are a number of interested employees trying to get there to work. Mr. Anderson noted the employees of that firm should initiate the request with their company addressing the benefit that transit service will be for them and that City staff will assist with the process. Council Member Smith stated she will get the word out to the employees.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT REPORT: Mrs. Nancy Harrington reported that the Police National Night Out was very successful. She noted that many people visited the GREAT information table and buses were full. Bus service was extended for the event with the last buses leaving the Uptown transfer point at 9:30 p.m.

ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL: Ms. Nancy Harrington stated the annual presentation to City Council is scheduled for November 14, 2011. She stated that Ms. Marsha Wyly, Vice-Chairperson presented last year and she did a wonderful job. Ms. Lisa Simmons, Chairperson, will make the presentation this year. Ms. Wyly stated that she would like to see GREAT's net cost per mile included. Ms. Harrington asked that Commission members contact her with any other comments or suggestions for the report.

PARKING UPDATE: There were no updates at this time.

TAXI AND NOVEMBER MEETING: Mr. Wes Anderson stated that at the November 14th City Council meeting, Mr. Bill Little, Assistant City Attorney, will make a presentation on Taxi issues and the meter verses zone system. Mr. Anderson stated Mr. Little would like a recommendation from the Commission to take to Council. A discussion was held. Council Member Smith urged the members to please research, read the existing taxi ordinance, ask questions and consider all aspects before making a decision. Mr. Anderson stated the next Commission meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers on third floor at City Hall. He said a large crowd is expected due to this ordinance change.

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Ms. Nancy Harrington gave a brief report. She stated that GREAT's ridership is up overall for the fiscal year. She noted that expenses have increased due to the addition of the new route. Mr. Bob Thompson added comments about the paratransit service. He stated that through the Disability Advocate Resource Center, people are being trained to ride the fixed routes, offering more flexibility for riders and ultimately reduced paratransit costs for the City.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2011 at 9:15 a.m. in the City Council Chamber on third floor at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission