

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 21, 2013**

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. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Bob Thompson, Mr. Charles Moore, Mr. Dave Schwartz and Mr. Rick Smiley.

Members Absent: Mr. Warren Daniels and Ms. Jessica Faison.

Staff Present: Mr. Chris Padgett, Assistant City Manager; Ms. Stacey Pigford, Assistant Traffic Engineer; Mr. Kenneth Jackson, Operations Manager; and Mr. Stephen Mancuso, Transit Manager.

**WELCOME:** Ms. Marsha Wyly called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. and established that a quorum was present.

**AGENDA:** Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none. Mr. Bob Thompson made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Moore and unanimously approved.

**MINUTES:** Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the June Minutes. There were none. Mr. Bob Thompson moved approval as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Moore and unanimously approved.

**GREENVILLE TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITY CENTER:** Mr. Chris Padgett gave a brief update on GTAC. He stated that two steering committee meetings were held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013. He noted that some members from the Public Transportation and Parking Commission and staff attended the meeting. Mr. Padgett stated that the last official action on this project was on December 10, 2012. At that time, two proposed location were presented to City Council for GTAC. He noted that Council preferred the Pitt Street and Bonners Lane location. Mr. Padgett distributed a handout of different Transportation Centers in surrounding areas such as Ashville, Highpoint and Concord, NC. He showed another from Spartanburg, SC, a two story facility. Mr. Padgett also showed different layouts from the consultant and the cost estimate associated with each and discussed the layouts as well. Mr. Padgett discussed the project's budget. He stated that for the minimum program, the cost 5.1 million dollars; the intermediate program, the cost 5.5 million dollars and the full two story program, the cost approximately 7.5 million dollars. He discussed additional parking for the site also. Mr. Padgett stated that he has been communicating with the officials of Greyhound; however, they are having difficulty committing, he noted. Ms. Wyly asked for a motion to support the full program. Mr. Bob Thompson made a motion that the Public Transportation and Parking Commission make a recommendation to City Council to support the full program. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Padgett noted that the recommendations will be presented to City Council at the September 9, 2013 meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Bob Thompson stated that each member get acquainted with what is going on and know the facts about the GTAC project to be able to discuss and answer questions if necessary. In addition, if you need his assistance, please give him a call. Ms. Wyly suggested going to the website. A tremendous amount of information is available there, she noted. Ms. Wyly asked that members of the commission be present if possible, at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:00 p.m. in support of the recommendations. Ms. Wyly stated that she feels that ECU should let go of their transit system. She noted the City has had no positive negotiations with ECU thus far. She said that with GREAT, PATS, Vidant and ECU, there is a large number of people riding the buses. She feels at some point in time, there will be a regional transit authority because it will be too large for the City of Greenville to handle. Mr. Thompson made comments about the funds from Grant monies. He said to look into viable investments to lower cost for paratransit service such as accessible bus stops and seats at existing stops.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Uptown Parking Deck Project:** Ms. Stacey Pigford stated that the Mr. Carl Rees is asking that the Chair or Vice-chair from the Commission serve on the Uptown Parking Deck Advisory Committee. She stated that lunch will be provided. The meeting dates are scheduled to be held on August 29, 2013, September 26, 2013 and October 24, 2013. Ms. Marsha Wyly volunteered to serve on the committee. The meeting place will be announced.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Parking Update:** Ms. Stacey Pigford gave an update on the approved parking for UNRI (University Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative). She stated that permits for parking for the A area will be available starting September 3, 2013. She noted that signs will be installed for parking in the C area on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and enforcement will begin in October, 2013. In addition, there will be an education and warning period given. Ms. Pigford said flyers were distributed; residents were notified by post cards; information was advertised on GTV and on the website.

**GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT:** Mr. Stephen Mancuso stated that ridership for the month of June, 2013 was less than June, 2012; he thinks the weather played a big part in that. He noted that year to date ridership ending June, 2013 had a significant increase of 6.5 per cent. He stated that revenues and expenses did end in a positive note. This is relative to the amount budgeted. The ridership for July, 2013 had 5,000 more riders that July, 2012. Revenue and expenses are off to a good start, he noted. Ms. Wyly had concerns about drivers' complaints. Mr. Mancuso stated that the complaints were minor. Most had to do with pass up, or verbal issue. He noted many complaints result in counseling with the driver to resolve the issues.

Short Range Transit Development Plan is ongoing. He thanked Mr. Dave Schwartz for attending the meetings. He noted that the consultant working with the steering committee, staff and the drivers have developed approximately 25 different variations of the current routes. Mr. Mancuso stated that a public meeting was held at Pitt Community College and Sheppard Memorial Library. The turnout was good he noted. He said that in most cases, the public was

pleased with the plan. Some of their comments were: they would like service more frequently, later hours in the evening, service earlier in the morning and service to other areas as well. Mr. Mancuso stated that the consultant will develop a package with cost involved and a proposed source of funding to present to the steering committee in September. Once the steering committee make recommendations to the consultant, the consultant will put together a draft plan for review and endorsement from the Commission. A recommendation from the Commission will then be presented to City Council. Mr. Mancuso stated that he is pleased with the changes. He noted that significant improvements have been made to the routes. Mr. Mancuso stated that the City Council has approved the contract for GREAT with NextBus. NextBus is a vehicle tracking system which uses global positioning satellite information to predict when the next bus will arrive at any given bus stop; therefore eliminating wait time and any need for schedules for all transit riders. He indicated staff is planning to implement the NextBus system in January or February of 2014.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary  
Public Transportation & Parking Commission