

MINUTES
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
February 17, 2010

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

Members Present: Ms. Lisa Simmons, Ms. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Mike Hamer, Mr. Steven Kresch and Mr. Calvin Garris

Staff Present: Mr. Wes Anderson, Director of Public Works; Mrs. Nancy Harrington, Transit Manager; Mr. Thom Moton, Assistant City Manager; Mrs. Geraldine Teel, Secretary

WELCOME: Ms. Lisa Simmons, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AGENDA: The agenda for the February 17, 2010, meeting was approved with two additions under new business; Discussion on Budget for Commission and Moving Meeting to City Hall.

MINUTES: Mr. Mike Hamer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2010 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Steven Kresch. The motion carried unanimously.

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER UPDATE: Mr. Thom Moton gave an update on the Intermodal Transportation Center. He stated that the project is nearing the end of the environmental review phase. He said that the recordation work that was ordered and approved for the Greenville Art Museum as well as the former Pure Oil Service Center has been completed. Mr. Moton noted that all documents have been submitted to FTA and are going through the environmental review process. The documents have been posted on the City website. He noted that much emphasis has been placed on communication and outreach for the last month with the affected parties; such as establishing monthly meetings with Campus Christian Fellowship to keep them informed of the project's progress. Mr. Moton stated that the City's project website has been revamped and moved in-house which is an approximate savings of \$1500. He advised everyone to visit the website, www.greatnc.com, for updates. Mr. Moton noted that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Transit Administration, North Carolina Department of Transportation, City of Greenville, and North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office has been executed and posted on the website. Mr. Moton stated that the environmental assessment will be sent to the State of North Carolina Clearing House for review. He added that once the process is complete and approved by the Federal Transit Administration, the property acquisition process can begin.

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

PATS LINK WITH GREAT: Mrs. Nancy Harrington described the new PATS link with GREAT. She said that PATS will be establishing a new route that will serve north of the river up to Bethel and will connect with GREAT's downtown transfer point on Reade. Mrs. Harrington stated that PATS staff has not completed the schedule, but she anticipates that this service will be provided at least three (3) days a week. PATS will transport passengers several

times a day to link with GREAT at the Reade Street transfer point. Mrs. Harrington stated that this new service will provide more transportation opportunities and that she is very excited about this coordinated effort.

PROPOSED BUS SHELTER LOCATIONS: Mr. Wes Anderson discussed proposed bus shelter locations. He stated that after reviewing the routes, there are two (2) routes that are under served. The two routes are Route 4 which serve north of the river and Route 5 the newest route. Mr. Anderson proposed the following locations for bus shelters, (1) East Meadowbrook, (2) near Westwood MHP, (3) Bernstein Health Center on Easy Street, and (4) Pactolus and Mumford Road. He noted that the proposed bus shelter for Route 5 will be somewhere near the Social Security Office on Charles Blvd. and on 10th street near Congleton Memorial Mortuary. Mr. Anderson stated that for Route 3 he obtained permission from NCDOT to put a bus shelter on Greenville Boulevard, near Kristin Road (formerly Tobacco Road). He also said a bus shelter will be located on Hooker Road across from Piggly Wiggly. Mr. Anderson stated that the East Meadowbrook bus shelter would be installed within the next sixty (60) days. The other installations will be completed as right-of-way is obtained. He noted that planning for modifications to the transfer point on Reade Street is almost complete and that it will be enlarged and two additional bus shelters installed.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FOR COMMISSION: Mr. Anderson gave a brief discussion on a budget for the Commission. He stated that the Commission could be granted a small operating budget if there is a need. He asked that everyone think about this and be ready to discuss and make a recommendation for City Council at the March meeting. A brief discussion was held.

MOVING MEETING TO CITY HALL: Mr. Steven Kresch said he would like to see the meeting moved from Public Works to City Hall. He stated that this would provide a greater impact when citizens come to voice their opinions. He also stated that he thinks the time (9:15 a.m.) is an issue for citizens. Mr. Calvin Garris stated that he thinks timing is an issue also. Mr. Anderson noted that most of the people who ride the bus would have to ride it to get to the meeting, so the time has to be such that it can support the bus system hours of operation. Mr. Hamer had concerns about having ample handicapped parking at City Hall and suggested having a trial period. Mr. Kresch suggested focusing on the location first and then the time. Mrs. Harrington stated that the change in location or time will have to be advertised. She also reminded the Commission that the time of the meeting has been published on hard copies of the City calendar for the year. Mr. Anderson stated that staff will do some research to see about available locations at City Hall and times that will not conflict with other meetings. Mr. Kresch made a motion that staff research the legal issues involved in moving the meeting and to see about availability of meeting space at City Hall at the regular scheduled time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garris. The motion carried.

PARKING UPDATE: Mr. Wes Anderson provided a brief update on parking. He reported that a concern pertaining to controlled residential parking may be coming before the Commission from service agencies dealing with home health care. Mr. Anderson stated that there should be a way to provide parking for these agencies.

Mr. Anderson informed the Commission that downtown area parking meters may be changing to a different type of paid parking. He stated there may be a central machine in certain lots that takes the money and provides a sticker to be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle. He stated

that staff is evaluating this potential change. Mr. Anderson noted that as more information becomes available on these issues, he will bring report back to the Commission on both issues.

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Mrs. Nancy Harrington reported that ridership continues to grow. She stated that more people are utilizing public transportation and that paratransit ridership has significantly increased. She stated that the RGP (Rural General Public) service is down due to some funding issues. Mrs. Harrington stated that PATS has received some grant money to start a new route to Bethel which will interface with the Reade Street transfer point. She noted that total expenses are lower than this time last year, mainly due to the decrease in fuel costs.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room at Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission