

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION**  
**October 20, 2010**

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room 337 at City Hall.

Members Present: Ms. Lisa Simmons, Ms. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Mike Hamer, Ms. Nancy Ray, Mr. Eric Foushee and Mr. Ronald Dunbar.

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

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

**AGENDA:** The agenda for the October 20, 2010 meeting was approved.

**MINUTES:** Ms. Marsha Wyly made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting with an addition to her concerns about the trees that are to remain and the construction that will occur around them at the Five-Points Plaza. This was seconded by Mr. Mike Hamer. The motion carried unanimously.

**INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER UPDATE:** Mr. Wes Anderson gave a brief update on the ITC project. He informed the Commission that the Purpose and Need and Noise Analysis sections of the Environmental Assessment (EA) require more detail, and that the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) disagree on the status of the historic Jones-Lee property. In addition, Mr. Anderson noted that the process is becoming more technical and may require the addition of a new consultant to complete all the requirements of the EA.

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

**ECU/GREAT MERGER ANALYSIS:** Mr. Wes Anderson discussed the ECU/GREAT merger analysis. He stated that staff has begun a comparison analysis on two ECU routes, the Red Route runs from campus to the medical center and the Blue Route runs from campus to the mall and other shopping areas. He noted that staff is looking at the cost and benefits associated with opening these routes to the general public. He noted that once all the information is compiled, it will be presented to ECU Officials. Mr. Hamer asked if ECU is willing to participate. Mr. Anderson stated that ECU is willing to listen and that if ECU is interested, the City will begin working with them to plan for the partnership on the two routes. He stated that there will be some challenges due to federal rules associated with funding, and that federal officials will be contacted to discuss the options.

**NEW BUSES:** Mr. Wes Anderson stated that the new hybrid buses are expected to arrive in March of 2011. He said staff is working on planning for the service increase that will occur and that Commission members will be asked for assistance and ideas. Mr. Dunbar asked how a potential merger of routes with ECU would affect GREAT's service expansion plans.

Mr. Anderson said that once a decision is made to partner on the routes, some route adjustments may be necessary, depending upon the service requirements to meet student as well as general public needs. Ms. Nancy Harrington stated that Route 3 is the longest route, has the highest ridership and needs modification. Mr. Mike Hamer asked if there was going to be a shelter at the Bernstein Center on Easy Street. Mr. Anderson stated that he is waiting for the proper document to be sign by the property owners giving him permission to install a shelter at that location.

**COMMISSION BUDGET:** Ms. Nancy Harington stated that \$3,000 has been allocated for the Commission budget for this fiscal year. She asked the members to think about how they would like to use the money. Mr. Anderson stated that it is important to make a decision no later than March or early April because no purchases are made after that unless it is absolutely necessary. Ms. Harrington suggested some give a ways for the International Festival/Pirate Fest. A discussion was held. Others ideas such as dinner for the drivers or having their picture in the paper, and free passes for riders. Mr. Anderson noted that employer recognition may be a good incentive for more participation. Mr. Anderson said staff will have a list of employers and non-profit agencies that provide bus service and/or tickets for employees or clients. Ms. Nancy Gray suggested asking the employees of GREAT what they would like.

**PARKING UPDATE:** Mr. Wes Anderson stated that the parking meters were approved by City Council for the Chico's parking lot. He stated that some employers want more parking for their employees, but he said that would reduce customer parking at their locations. Mr. Anderson stated that a working group will be established to focus on parking issues, probably sometime after the first of the year.

**ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL:** Ms. Nancy Harrington reported that the Public Transportation & Parking Commission presentation is scheduled for November 8, 2010 at 6:00 p. m. in the City Council chambers. Ms. Lisa Simmons, Chair, will make the presentation on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Harrington invited the Commission members to attend the meeting.

**GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT:** Ms. Nancy Harrington stated that ridership continues to increase. She stated that the County's Rural General Public (RGP) Service has also seen an increase in ridership as compared to last year. Ms. Harrington reported that Route 5 ridership continues to grow and that day pass sales remain high. She also stated that Route 3 which serves Pitt Community College has shown a big increase in ridership. Ms. Harrington reported that total expenses are slightly lower than this time last year and that revenues are comparable.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. in City Hall Conference Room 337.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary  
Public Transportation & Parking Commission