

ARC COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOW-UP

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE July 9, 2015 Meeting Notes

Voting Members

Present

Commissioner Buzz Ahrens
Interim CEO Lee May
Commissioner David Austin
Mr. Clark Boddie
Mr. Sonny Deriso
Commissioner Tim Lee, Chair
Commissioner Charlotte Nash
Commissioner Tom Worthan

Absent

Mayor Kasim Reed
Mr. Fred Daniels
Commissioner John Eaves
Mr. Kerry Armstrong

Non-Voting Members

Present

Mr. Keith Parker
Commissioner Charles Oddo
Mr. Chris Tomlinson
Ms. Carol Comer

Absent

Commissioner Pete Amos
Mr. Rudy Bowen
Commissioner Keith Ellis
Commissioner Pat Graham
Mr. Douglas Hooker
Commissioner Tommy Smith
Commissioner Tim Lassetter
Commissioner Kevin Little
Commissioner Donald Hawbaker
Commissioner Jeff Turner
Commissioner Richard Oden

Actions Taken:

There were no comments given from the public.

1. Welcome, Chair's comments:

Chairman Lee welcomed everyone to the Regional Transit Committee meeting. Chairman Lee began by congratulating Keith Parker on being named Outstanding Public Transportation Manager of 2015 by the American Public Transportation Association. Additionally, Chairman Lee congratulated Sonny Deriso for his upcoming chairmanship of the Atlanta Rotary Club.

2. Transit Expansion Project Updates in the Region's Plan

Patrick Bradshaw presented on updates to the transit expansion component of the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Bradshaw stated that this plan needs updating because of how many changes have taken place since the previous plan, including Cobb completing their EA on their Connect Cobb Plan, the Atlanta Beltline's streetcar expansion plans, MARTA's 400, I-20 and Clifton Corridor projects. Mr. Bradshaw then updated the committee on the changes to each of these major transit initiatives, and the changes that have taken place from the last update.

MARTA's I-20 plan includes Bus Rapid Transit to the east, as well as a heavy rail connection to the north. MARTA's Clifton Corridor is a revised route from previous discussions, and there is a desire by much of the public to tunnel a large portion of the route. Phase 1 of the Clifton Corridor would go from Lindbergh MARTA Station to near the Decatur proper city line, and phase 2 would extend to Avondale MARTA Station. For MARTA's extension up GA-400, the MARTA board has decided upon an alignment and transit type, that have increased the cost of the project, and those changes will be reflected in the updated RTP. As for the Connect Cobb transit expansion, Phase 1 builds the Cobb County portion of the project, and Phase 2 would add stations to the Fulton County portion of the project. A project sponsor for that portion of the route has yet to be determined.

Chairman Lee: We have a long list of projects, with a limited budget. We will have plenty of projects to choose from.

3. Atlanta Streetcar System Plan and Environmental Studies Update

Benjamin Limmer presented on the Atlanta Beltline's streetcar expansion plans. Mr. Limmer began by giving an overview of the Beltline's organizational structure within the City. The Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., for which Mr. Limmer works for, is an arm of Invest Atlanta, the economic development agency for the City of Atlanta.

In June the Atlanta Streetcar system attracted 93,000 riders, and ridership remains strong. The route has seen \$1.3 billion in economic investment since its announcement and development. The Atlanta Beltline has drafted an expansion plan that includes an additional 22 miles along the Beltline loop, and in total will include 60+ citywide transit miles that will be on city streets as well as in the Beltline corridor.

Mr. Limmer added that in addition to the 60+ miles of streetcar miles, they have also identified 18+ miles of enhanced transit service.

As for operations, there will be three east-west routes, and two north south routes. The routes will travel in and out of the Atlanta Beltline corridor. It was important to connect into the backbone of the MARTA system, and the streetcar system will connect with MARTA at several points.

The three corridors that are actively underway for environmental studies include the Atlanta Beltline East (5.9 miles), Atlanta Beltline West (DL Hollowell Pkwy to University Avenue), and the crosstown route (North Ave to Luckie Street 4.8 miles).

The City of Atlanta applied for a TIGER VII grant to extend the current Streetcar route from Auburn Ave & Jackson Street to the Eastside Beltline trail at Irwin/Krog Street. This addition is less than two miles, and adds three more stops as well as two more vehicles. The additional vehicles will help reduce frequency to a 10 minute service level during the day.

4. Atlanta Area Transportation Management Association (TMA)

Kate Wilson presented on the new Atlanta airport transportation management association. aeroATL is the new TMA at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport. Their TMA's mission is to reduce roadway congestion and demand, for single occupancy vehicle travel by redistributing travel demand to alternative travel modes, times and routes.

aeroATL includes a package of services, including marketing, incentives, and behavior changes to encourage alternative transportation modes. Currently they are focused on how to reduce carbon emissions, at the individual/employee level. The airport is a major employer, and there are 60,000 employees coming and going every day.

aeroATL is focusing on two main goals to begin their work: 1) Getting ridership on existing services, and 2) Identifying new and meaningful services. Currently they are gathering baseline numbers, identifying who utilizes transit services, and identifying barriers to taking transit.

Cain Williamson: Mr. Williamson will likely bring several other TMAs to this committee to present. Additionally Mr. Williamson's division oversees the other TMAs in the region; it's important to recognize the work of the TMAs and the work that the transit agencies are doing.

5. FTA Section 5310 Program Update

Maria Sotnikova presented on the FTA Section 5310 program update. Maria is a mobility manager for the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Ms. Sotnikova stated that the purpose of her group is to enhance transportation options for those with disabilities and seniors. Funding priorities include Equitable Target Areas, individuals with disabilities, seniors, seniors with disabilities, and low income individuals.

With the funding that she oversees, ARC was able to fund seven different new voucher programs, as well as three volunteer driver programs, two shuttle/hired driver programs, and 14 mobility management positions/projects.

Chairman Lee: This is an important aspect of what the RTC is looking to work on over the next year and reviewing HST policy issues.

6. Updates and Meeting Wrap-up

Chairman Lee stated that the staff's project status update document is posted online, and please take a look to better understand all the work that is taking place.

Handouts supplied in advance on the ARC website: (www.atlantaregional.com/rtc)

- 7/9/2015 RTC Meeting Agenda
- 5/14/2015 Meeting Summary
- Presentations
 - Transit Expansion Project Updates in the Region's Plan
 - Atlanta Streetcar System Plan and Environmental Studies Update
 - Airport Area Transportation Management Association (TMA)
 - FTA Section 5310 Program Update
- Handouts
 - RTC Work Program Status Update Document