

MINUTES
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
August 19, 2009

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: Mr. Shannon White, Ms. Lisa Simmons, Ms. Marsha Wyly and Mr. Mike Hamer.

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

Guest: Mr. Thom Moton, Assistant City Manager and Mr. Bob Thompson.

WELCOME: Mr. Shannon White, Chairman, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AGENDA: The agenda for the August 19, 2009, meeting was approved with an addition, Introduction to Streetscapes Newsletter.

MINUTES: Ms. Marsha Wyly made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Mike Hamer. The motion carried unanimously.

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER UPDATE: Mr. Thom Moton gave an update on the Intermodal Project. Mr. Moton stated that the environmental review process is still ongoing and the City is trying to get the necessary approvals to move forward with property acquisition. He stated that the initial appraisals were completed and property owners had been notified. Mr. Moton stated that he has met with three of the property owners to review their appraisal with them. In addition, he further stated that all property owners will be encouraged to have an independent appraisal performed on their property as a point of reference. Mr. Moton stated that staff has been notified that a portion of the earmarked grant funds is available and that this money can be used for the review appraisals and legal assistance as well as other non construction related needs. Mr. Moton noted that due to the historic properties either on or in close proximity to the selected site for the transportation center, the environmental review must address these issues. He said the review should include provisions to mitigate any adverse impact the proposed project may have on those historic structures. He advised that a Memorandum of Agreement would be drafted that would involve the City, FTA, and NCDOT as well as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

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

HYBRID BUS BID & AWARD: Mrs. Nancy Harrington gave a brief report on the consolidated Hybrid Bus Bid & Award. She stated that she is preparing information now for the September City Council agenda in order to purchase 2 (two) hybrid electric low floor buses at a cost of \$592,000 each. She said these new Gillig buses will meet all required emissions standards. Mrs. Harrington stated that these buses will be purchased with ARRA (stimulus) dollars at no cost to the City. She stated that it will take approximately eighteen months from the time Gillig receives the purchase order until the buses are received. Mr. Shannon White asked if the new buses are going to be used for expansion. Mrs. Harrington stated that GREAT will increase service when these new buses arrive.

INTRODUCTION TO NEWS LETTER: Mrs. Wyly shared a newsletter she received called *Streetscapes*. She said it contained information on outdoor furniture, lockers, storage for bicycles, shelters, benches, etc. She added that this may be helpful in planning for the new transportation center.

PARKING UPDATE: Mr. Anderson informed the Commission that he has met with Courthouse officials regarding changing some of the unlimited parking around the courthouse, but he still has to meet with the Sheriff's Office and the County Manager's Office. He anticipates changing the unlimited parking to two hour parking or some other form of limited parking.

DRAFT OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO ORDINANCE CREATING THE COMMISSION: Mr. Wes Anderson distributed a copy of a draft containing proposed changes to the Ordinance. He stated that he has sent a draft to the City Attorney for review. Mr. Anderson said that once Mr. Holec has approved the draft, he will bring it back to the Commission for review and recommendation.

MARKETING REPORT: Mrs. Harrington stated that GREAT participated in the Police National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on the Town Common. GREAT had a table set up with schedules, maps and drivers were there to answer questions. In addition, GREAT offered free rides all day and extended service until 10:00 pm. Mrs. Harrington stated that GREAT transported 2,858 passengers. It was a GREAT success for all concerned, she noted.

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Mrs. Nancy Harrington reported that ridership has increased significantly as compared to last year. She said that the addition of the fifth route which began on November 1, 2008 has been very successful and has helped to increase the ridership. She noted that Pitt Area Transit's RGP service continues to increase also. She added that expenses, due to the expansion of a new route, show an increase from this time last year. She added that the major increase in expenses was due to the spike in fuel costs. She noted that revenues increased due to higher ridership and an increase in state grant funds received this year.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2009 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission