

Oxford - University Transit Meeting 9/18/08

Members Present: Jack Howard, George Price, Donna Gurley, Carol Haney, Jim Windham

Others present: Tim Akers, Katrina Hourin, Tim Lett and Christine Hines of McDonald Transit, Megan Taylor, Melanie Addington with the Eagle, DM Reporter

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Howard. Mr. Howard added one item to the agenda regarding ADA issues, and requested that this discussion item be deferred until another meeting.

The minutes for the August 27, 2008 meeting were approved and submitted.

Routes

Tim Lett passed out maps of the proposed routes to the commission. The amended routes showed the Blue route running through the main areas of campus residencies. He stated that this could result in 'intra-campus' ridership, but that it should not delay the route.

The Red route does not go through campus and it loops at the west end.

Carol Haney expressed concern for the Azalea Gardens residents and their accessibility to the busses. Tim Lett reminded the commission of the para-transit service and the availability of RSVP's shuttle service.

The routes are not final and they can be adjusted after the public hearing, dependant upon the public's request and the commission response.

Fares

Tim Lett recommended free runs on the system at the start up. He will propose a fare and discount structure. Another public hearing must be held for the fare structure 30 days before implementation. The main objectives will be to develop and maintain an equitable fare structure. The projected reduced fare pass program is January 5th, 2009 and rides will be free until that point. This should not result in significant budget loss.

Publication of coming fares will prevent a major reduction in ridership at the implementation. Donna Gurley mentioned the possibility of the University subsidizing bus passes for students or similar ideas. The commission cannot have set fare structure until an official vote and a public hearing.

Ceremony

In anticipation of a start date of Monday, October 20th, the ceremony would be held on Friday, October 17th. The ceremony is proposed to take place in the morning hours in front of City Hall.

University Reimbursement

Donna Gurley advised that Tim Akers contact her to arrange the documentation for the reimbursement. IHL has approved the interlocal agreement and the University is waiting on the official minutes from IHL's meeting. Then the interlocal agreement can be signed.

Debate

Buses and drivers, 5 each, will be available for the University to use during the Debate. The drivers will need to be available from approximately 2:30pm – 10:00pm. Tim Lett announced that despite the information sent about the busses indicating they held more riders, they only held 18 people.

Jack Howard inquired about setting a date for the next public hearing, but Tim Lett advised not to set the hearing until the fares had been finalized.

Tim Akers suggested a sign in sheet for the public hearing following the meeting.

Donna Gurley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carol Haney seconded the motion. With all voting yes, the meeting was adjourned.