

Public Hearing of the Oxford-University Transit Routes 9/18/08

Commission members present:

Jack Howard, Carol Haney, George Price, Jim Windham, Donna Gurley

City Employees: Tim Akers, Katrina Hourin, Matt Davis, Mayor Howorth, Janice Antonow, Bill Baker, John Fisher

Media: Errol Castens-Daily Journal, Natalie Dickson – Daily Mississippian, Melanie Addington-The Oxford Eagle

Public citizens: Jack Barnes

Chairman Jack Howard began the meeting by introducing all of the commission members.

Mayor Howorth was present and thanked the commission for their volunteered work and time. Alderman Janice Antonow, Dr. Bill Baker and Jon Fisher also thanked the commission.

Mr. Howard informed the public of the regular meeting time of the commission on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm in the City Hall Conference room. He also spoke about the webpage for the OUT and let them know they could find all meeting agendas and minutes.

Mr. Howard then introduced Tim Lett, Senior Vice President for McDonald Transit.

Mr. Lett presented the times of the route as follows:

Monday – Friday hours will be 6:15am – 6:15pm running every 30 minutes

Saturday hours will be 8:00am – 6:15pm; with 8:00am-10:00am running every hour, then every 30 minutes following

He then presented the routes. The Blue Route will run from Wal-mart to Brittany Woods on a bi-directional route. The Red Route will run north and south with the north loop going around Molly Barr, McElroy, and College Hill and then the south loop going around S. Lamar, Belk Blvd. and S. 18<sup>th</sup>. The transfer point for both routes will be on the Square.

After the hours and routes were presented, Jack Howard opened the meeting for public comment.

Janice Antonow, Alderman – Will there be specific bus stops and where are they?

Mr. Lett explained that they will be specific stops but they are not ready to be published. They will be located near major retail centers or businesses.

Jon Fisher, Alderman – If the hours stop at 6:00pm nightly, will a later route be revisited?

Mr. Lett explained that the hours were based on budget constraints but the hours could be revised at a later date. Tim Akers pointed out that Rebel Ride service would continue.

Natalie Dickson, DM reporter – Did the commission have plans for the routes to stop in any of the apartment complexes, like Sterling?

Mr. Lett stated that there were no current plans to do that, but many apartments subsidize public transit by running their own shuttle systems.

Tim Lett closed the public comment time and announced that one of the new buses was in front of City Hall if anyone would like to see it or look at the inside.

Chairman Howard closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending as well the Mayor and Alderman. He encouraged the public to give their comments as the process of getting the transit system running continued.