

Oxford - University Transit Meeting 1/14/09

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

Others present: Tim Akers, Tim Lett, Megan Taylor, Matt Davis

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Howard.

The meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes for the December 10th meeting were approved and submitted.

December Report from General Manager

Tim Lett presented the December report to the commission members, remarking that that December shows the highest ridership yet for operational months. There have been no real complaints this past month.

Mr. Lett informed the commission that the paratransit service received seven applications to date. Three have been approved and one has been denied. Applicants that have been denied may seek to go through the appeal process.

A handbook was developed, printed and distributed to qualified riders as well as an ID card.

Mr. Lett also let the commission know that until a decision was made to order an additional bus, RSVP will be willing to help with paratransit service.

Discuss FY 2010

Tim Lett passed out the current quarterly budget sheet. He noted that many areas were below budget. The fuel budget was low due to higher fuel costs at the time of budgeting and the vehicles are getting better gas mileage than anticipated. The entire operation of the OUT system is well within budget.

Tim Akers led the discussion on the proposal for the 2010 projected budget. He relayed that both meetings with the University and the Board of Alderman generated positive responses.

He stated the University indicated that it had the extra funds in their budget to supplement the extended no-fare rides. The Board of Alderman also agreed that extended the period would be ok for now, though not formally in a board meeting.

Mr. Akers said that he feels comfortable presenting the budget with the positive responses he received. With the grant deadline being February 25th, he would like to recommend the budget for approval to the Board of Alderman at the February 3rd meeting, but would accept the latest time for submission to be the February 17th board meeting. He requested that the commission approve the budget as it was presented.

Some concerns were expressed by commission members about the need for a new bus as well as the ability to change the grant budget based on undetermined factors, like the University's overall budget. Tim Akers explained that once they know the University's

budget they will have a better idea of how to proceed with the expansion. He explained that it would be easier to scale down the budget later than ask for it to be increased. Tim Lett explained that there may be some other options for revenue besides fares. A possibility would be to have retail areas pay for transit service that includes their outlet as a stop on a route.

Carol Haney made the motion to approve and submit the proposed budget to the Board of Alderman as a part of the grant application.

George Price seconded the motion.

All voting yes, the motion was passed.

3rd Annual Statewide Transportation Coordination Summit

Tim Lett informed the commission that the summit would be in Jackson, MS on February 18th – 19th. He has applied for a scholarship to fund the attendance of Ron Biggs, operations manager, for OUT.

If any other commission members would like to go, they can contact Tim Akers or Tim Lett.

Other

Tim Akers announced the new transit facility would be at McElroy Drive near the proposed animal shelter. Phase I of the environmental assessment of the site is underway now.

Mr. Akers also updated the commission on the Board of Alderman's intent to improve Anderson Rd. The improvements will include sidewalks and bus shelter stops.

George Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Carol Haney seconded.

With all voting yes, the meeting was adjourned.