

Oxford - University Transit Meeting 5/13/09

Members Present: Jack Howard, Shannon Richardson, George Price

Others present: Tim Akers, Tim Lett, Megan Taylor, Ron Biggs, Matt Davis, Mike Mossing, Dick Burkepile, media

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Howard, noting that there were not enough members present for a quorum.

General Manager's Report

Mr. Ron Biggs reported that ridership continues to increase. There were 12,325 riders in the month of April. Some of the increase can be attributed to Double Decker Festival. But the system continues to have increasing numbers during weekday operation.

There have been a few complaints about the busses driving too fast on campus. Mr. Biggs has spoken with UPD and will be monitoring this.

The information center was moved from the Student Union to the Ford Center, so plastic brochure holders will be purchased to display route maps in the Union. Shannon Richardson will speak with campus programming about a permanent location for these. Jack Howard commented on having a display for parents' weekend and there was discussion of including the maps in some format in the orientation packets for the students. Tim Lett expressed a need to improve the current maps, but said that something could be made available for orientation.

Financial Report

Tim Akers reported on the current financial status of OUT. He pointed out that while some areas appear to be over budget, this is only a reflection of a delay in reimbursements. Most categories are at 50%. The University and City share are approximately \$50,000 thus far.

Mr. Akers received a preliminary draft budget for FY 2209-2010 from MDOT. Some of the requested capital items remain in the budget, and it shows an operation budget of about \$993,000. He also spoke with MDOT about ARRA funds for the transit facility, and due to limited ARRA funding, they have allowed 10 days for OUT to modify their funding request. He said that he feels good about the application and its approval.

Discussion of Expanded Services

Tim Lett explained that the expansion of the services will be determined by the availability of the extra buses from Charlotte, NC. A little more time needs to be given for the Charlotte system to respond. If the extra buses are obtained, the expanded system can be finalized by the end of June. If not, it will be January 2010 for the expansion date. Once the MDOT 5311 grant and the ARRA grant are awarded, the expansion will move forward quickly. Mr. Lett stressed his desire to have the expansion ready by August. Most likely MDOT will want to approve the use of the acquired buses from Charlotte.

Discussion of Advertising at Vaught-Hemmingway Stadium

Jack Howard asked who was in charge of the information that is displayed from exterior advertising board from the stadium, and expressed an interest in advertising OUT from that venue concurrent with the expansion. Shannon Richardson will check with the Athletic Department on the rates.