



Oxford - University Transit Meeting **November 18, 2009**

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

Others present: Tim Akers, Tim Lett, Ron Biggs, Matt Davis, Frances Saralvarez, Melanie Addington (Oxford Eagle), Dick Burkepile, Anne McCauley and David Long

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Howard.

The meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes for the August 12, 2009 meeting were approved.

General Manager's Report – Ron Biggs

- Mr. Biggs started his report by informing all those present that he attended the MPTA annual Training Conference, which took place in Meridian, MS set up by MDOT. The City of Oxford and O.U.T. were honored with the award of Transportation System of the Year – 5311.
- The total amount of ridership for the month of October was 17,742 riders; our highest month since O.U.T. started. We started charging bus fare in November, and we are currently averaging over 400 people a day.
- There have been minor issues concerning fare collection that has been worked out. O.U.T. will provide an update on the fare revenue for the month of November at the next meeting.
- There might be issues with Ole Miss ID cards, which have expired and are still floating around. Since drivers know everybody that has been riding for 1 year, they know some people who are using Ole Miss IDs who don't work at the University any more.
- O.U.T. is in the process of training our drivers and developing maintenance plans for the new buses.

Planner's Report – Tim Akers

- The cost to run the system last year was \$544,416. The total contribution from Ole Miss University was \$126,752.50 and the City contributed \$126,752.50 for Operating, Capital, and Administration.
- Mr. Akers handed out information on the location for O.U.T.'s new facility on McElroy. The lot measures approximately 4.69 acres and is owned by the city.

Update on Service Expansion – Tim Lett

- Mr. Tim Lett from McDonald Transit provided maps and schedules for the Commission to review. Mr. Lett started by saying "As you know, our system is successful, but there are a lot of unmet needs" Mr. Lett submitted a request for formal approval from the commission on the expanded service design.
- The Blue Route will have the same schedule with a 2 hour expansion. The Blue Line is our busiest line.
- There is no expected change on the route design for the Red Line.
- The Yellow Route will go from the University campus, onto Hathorn Road, Anderson, Heritage Drive and Jackson Ave. servicing all the apartments in the area. There will be one bus running every 30 minutes from 7 AM to 7 PM Monday thru Friday with no Saturday service.

- The Green Route will service Ole Miss University and Old Taylor Road. There will be service Monday thru Friday with no service on Saturday.
- The Orange Route will serve as a shuttle between Wal-Mart and Belk shopping center every 30 minutes Monday thru Friday. This route will go on Jackson Ave. unto Highway 6 toward the Links Apartments.

All these routes are based on potential usage, but if there is a demand later, we'll review them again. At the present time, our budget allows for what is planned. The new routes are projected to be busy during the spring and fall, but not as much during the summer; therefore, we will review the schedule after the end of the Spring Semester.

- Two steps are needed to relay the information on the service to the public:
 - We need to find the appropriate way to get the information to the students and the general public.
 - We need to find a way to provide information about the service on a regular basis

Mr. Jack Howard called for a motion to approve the proposed routes to start service on January 4, 2010, Donna Gurley made the motion and Carole Haney seconded the motion. With no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Bench and Shelter Design – Tim Akers

- Mr. Akers handed out pictures of different shelters.
- We are still waiting for signed contract from MDOT. The shelters and benches will have to bid. (together).
- We will be evaluating the bids; the job has to be awarded to the lowest responsive bid. We are projecting the need to have 10 shelters and 20 benches to be used in locations primarily based on the number of individuals picked up at that location. The first step to take would be to agree on a design. The size of the shelter should meet the needs of the location. We will look into two different sizes.
- We have plans to have GPS in the buses, but they are not funded yet.

Melanie Addington asked if O.U.T. would be interested in participating in the Film Festival, which is to take place on February 4th thru 7th. O.U.T. would receive some publicity in return. Mr. Howard called for a motion to accept the proposal to give complimentary ridership to approximately 35 participants for the non-profit film festival. Ms. Carole Haney made motion Mr. Jim Windham seconded the motion, and none opposed it.

Mr. Biggs wanted to thank Mr. Burkepile for being the first passenger to purchase a monthly pass. He also wanted to recognize Mr. David Long who is one of O.U.T. bus drivers who showed dedication by coming to the meeting on his day off, and who has proven to be very reliable.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Jack Howard called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner George Price made a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Donna Gurley seconded the motion.

With all voting yes, the meeting was adjourned.