



Oxford - University Transit Meeting

April 14, 2010

Members Present: Jack Howard, George Price, Shannon Richardson and Jim Windham

Others Present: Tim Akers, Ron Biggs, Matt Davis, Frances Saralvarez, Koriann Porter, Cory Washington and Norris Edney III.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Howard welcoming the Ole Miss Students who were present and announcing an addendum to the agenda. No. 9 was added - Discussion of a Student Liaison Position from the University on the Commission.

The meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes for the March 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

Commissioner George Price made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Jim Windham seconded the motion.

General Manager's Report - Mr. Ron Biggs

- Mr. Biggs presented the passenger count to the Commission informing them it was still up with 14,791 passengers for the month of March; with 11,456 of the passengers being Ole Miss students. Monthly passes revenues were \$380.00 and total fare revenue for the month was \$2,869.00, which was up \$500.00 from the previous month.

Double Decker Route Detour – The same detour changes as last year are anticipated for this year in which the O.U.T. offices would be the transfer point.

- The Red Route North - will be going North on Bramlett, left on Douglas then north unto North Lamar, and then following its regular route and the same way coming back. It is our hope that people will park at the Sears parking lot and walk to the bus stop.
- Red South will go on University to South Lamar and then continue its regular route.
- The Blue West will go up University Ave to the University; it will not go up Jackson until it's all the way out of the University. Blue West will have designated stops with changes
- It will not affect the Blue East.
- Notices will be posted on the buses, and I'll see if Melanie can run it in the newspaper as well.

Proposed Summer Route Revision Public Notice of Route Changes - Mr. Ron Biggs

- The Proposed Summer Route Modification was presented to the Commission for their approval. O.U.T. would like to start the summer schedule on May 10th, the Monday after graduation.
- The Blue Route would change the time to run from 6:15 AM to 6:45 PM except on Saturdays.
- The Red Line will have no changes on it.
- The Green Line will operate with 1 bus; we currently run two buses right now with 15 minutes in Old Taylor.
- The Yellow Line will continue with 1 bus every 30 minutes.
- All the expansion routes will continue to run only Monday thru Friday.
- It was proposed to eliminate the Orange Route for the summer months.

- Mr. Biggs discussed with Mr. Akers and Mr. Lett the possibility of cutting back Saturdays to 1 hour head way just using 2 buses running once an hour East - West and North - South.
- With the summer schedule being presented, all the drivers would be working, including transferring one driver to assist Billy Lamb with the installation of the shelters, and the driver's salary would still be paid by O.U.T.
- We would like to start back on our old schedule 2 weeks prior to school starting back.

Chairman Howard called for an open discussion on the schedule change – It was mentioned that the changes were well planned. The Commission assigned the dates of May 10th thru August 9th as the dates in which the Summer Schedule would be in effect.

Chairman Jack Howard called for a motion to approve the Summer Schedule to reflect the adjustments to the routes starting May 10th thru August 7th, 2010 and then re-starting the schedule as it stands now on August the 9th.

Commissioner Jim Windham moved to approve the motion and Commissioner George Price seconded the motion. With a unanimous voice they all agreed.

- Mr. Akers pointed out that O.U.T. must post notices to the public 15 days prior to the date in which the service will go into effect; a notice should also be posted in the web-page and the newspaper.

Discussion of Interfaith Compassionate Ministry's Request

Discussion of the request from Interfaith Compassionate Ministry to get assistance from O.U.T. to help transport low-income passengers.

- Commissioner George Price informed the Commission that Interfaith Compassionate Ministry is requesting two monthly passes for two of their clients who need transportation to GED classes.
- It was suggested that O.U.T. use one of their regular monthly passes in order not to have different type of passes in service.
- The Commission stated that due to the time constraint for these individuals, we could make an exception and give them the two passes, but noting that it would not be making a policy or setting precedent.
- Mr. Akers had previously suggested having a token system in place for special requests such as this one. Mr. Biggs is in the process of inquiring if the money counting machines could be adjusted to count tokens.
- There is a promotional request policy which the Commission would like to review to see if it would apply to this type of situation.

Planner's Report – Tim Akers

- There are some deficiencies reflected in a few line items in the Second Quarterly Report; therefore we need to make a revision to the Budget to move funds around.
- While reviewing the invoices for the reimbursement report, it was noted that we spend a large sum of money in local businesses, thus impacting the local economy.
- A study was done in 1999, which stated that generally for every \$1.00 spent in local transit, it generates \$4.00 in economic returns. More specifically, for every \$1.00 in investment operations yields \$3.20 in increase business sales. It has the effect of a mini-stimulus program.
- For example, O.U.T. salaries and purchases from local vendors from October 2008 to March 2009, the economic impact would generate \$1.5 million dollars in local activity.

2010 Transportation & University Communities Conference Report – Tim Akers

- 9 million passengers a year are transported by the University of Georgia in the City of Athens. There are two separate transit systems; the University has a system and the City has another system and combined they carry 9 million passengers of which 60% are students. Both systems work very closely together.
- Students ride free the same as Ole Miss students. The transportation system is compensated a different way.
- Tim Lett from McDonald Transit started the system in Athens, GA.
- While we were at the conference, we found out that a company named TransLoc provides a GPS service where we don't have to buy the equipment. We could enter into a service contract where they would take care of everything including the equipment, and you could get the information on your cell phone. It was very impressive! If we don't get the grant for capital equipment, I will suggest that we investigate a contract with this company.

Purchase of Trash Receptacles and Benches – Tim Akers

- We received two quotes, one from Mid-South and the other from the Mississippi Prison Industries.
- For 30 trashcans and 10 benches Mid-South quoted \$32,140 and Mississippi Prison Industries quoted \$14,590.00.
- Mr. Akers added that the Prison Industries were well-established.
- Commissioner Jim Windham informed the commission that the University supports Mississippi Prison Industries.

Chairman Jack Howard called for a motion to approve the purchase of 30 trash cans and 10 benches as specified for \$14,590.00 from Mississippi Prison Industries.

Commissioner Jim Windham moved to approve the motion and Commissioner George Price seconded the motion. None opposed.

Discussion of a Student Liaison Position from the University on the Commission

- Mr. Cory Washington and Ms. Koriann Porter requested for the Commission to discuss the possibility of adding a Student Liaison Position on the Commission.
- Chairman Howard expressed that he thought it was a great idea. Direct representation from the student body would be beneficial being that the student ridership composes 60 % to 70% of O.U.T. ridership. The Student Liaison Position would not have voting rights.
- Mr. Cory Washington was appointed as the Director of Transportation for the Associated Student Body. The seat is held by a student for 1 year. The Director of Transportation would have the seat at the Commission if the seat was to be created.
- Mr. Akers asked for documentation from the Associated Student Body for the request and Mr. Windham stated that approval from the appropriate Ole Miss administrative personnel would also be needed.

Chairman Jack Howard called for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Jim Windham moved to adjourn and Commissioner George Price seconded the motion.