



Oxford - University Transit Meeting

May 12, 2010

Members present: Jack Howard, George Price and Shannon Richardson

Others present: Tim Akers, Ron Biggs, Frances Saralvarez, Dick Burkepille, Cory Washington, Anne McCauley, Melanie Addington and Corey Washington

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

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

The approval of the minutes for the April 14, 2010 meeting will take place on the next meeting.

General Manager's Report - Mr. Ron Biggs

- Mr. Biggs presented the passenger count to the Commission informing them that the passenger count for the month of April was 16,255, which was up 1,466 from the previous month. The total revenue was \$2,394.50 which included \$510.00 in monthly passes and \$1,884.50 in fare box revenue.
- The Summer Route started Monday, and there are many students going to Summer School this year; therefore we expect ridership to be good, but lower than the previous months.
- OUT added the Sterling Apartments to the Green Route on Old Taylor Road. The apartment complex was purchased by a company out of Texas and will change the name to University Trails Apartments.
- Mr. Biggs, along with a group of drivers, will be going to Jackson, MS on Friday, May 14 to pick up 4 new buses, which were acquired through MDOT with the stimulus funds. 2 Star Craft buses like the ones we have, and 2 Apollo 30 foot buses. The Oxford Eagle will be informed when they arrive to have pictures taken. MDOT will be paying to add logos on 2 of the buses.

Planner's Report – Tim Akers

- We received the contract from MDOT for the final ARRA Grant Award for building the new O.U.T. facility, and it is considerably less than we expected. We were expecting approximately \$500,000, and we received \$136,000. That gives us a total amount \$1,228,775 for the project. We are estimating approximately \$180,000 for design & engineering, \$120,00 for contingency and \$900,000 for construction. Originally we were talking about a 10,000 square foot facility, but we will have to recalculate the size. There will be another opportunity to apply for another grant after the design is completed through a different source. Projected completion will be in the spring of 2012.
- In the month of March of this year, Mr. Akers sent a letter to MDOT requesting funds for GPS to have real time information on bus locations. He received a quick response saying it is a doable project, but he has not heard anything since then. Mr. Akers discussed the matter with Tim Lett, and another letter will be sent to MDOT as follow up on the status of the grant for GPS. We would like to have GPS available for the fall semester. If we don't get a response in 30 days, we would like to pursue a contract with TransLoc. They will install the equipment, and we will pay for the services each month. We feel we could keep it within the

budget. We will also request a quote to find out how much it would cost to provide real time information to 10 - 15 shelters.

- Tim Lett is also concerned that we need to install video cameras in the buses. The FTA has made this a priority, and we need to pursue it.
- Mr. Akers mentioned that the General Manager continues getting requests to advertise inside the buses. We will also continue getting requests for people to put Public Service Announcements in the buses. We just received a request from the Peace Corp who is developing a new bus shelter campaign. Chairman Howard requested for the interested businesses to submit proposals so that they could be evaluated.

Discussion of Student Liaison

- A letter was distributed at the meeting which proposes that the position of ASB Student Liaison be created and become a non-voting member of the Transit Commission. The Commission would also like to receive a letter of support for the position from the Dean of Students.
- O.U.T. will distribute bus schedules and informational material at the University's Orientation.

Discussion of Transit Pass Requests

- O.U.T Promotion Request and Amenity Guidelines were discussed.
- The request of issuing passes to Interfaith Compassionate Ministry was reviewed.
- The possibility of using tokens for special requests such as the request made by Interfaith Compassionate Ministry is being considered.

General Questions

- Mr. Burkepile asked the status of the O.U.T. buses going into Big Star and Kroger's parking lot. Mr. Biggs commented that the possibility was carefully considered, but there were safety issues and concerns in regards to the big Opus Buses not being able to safely go in and out of Big Star's parking lot. Mr. Biggs added that he received requests by passengers to move the bus stop on University Avenue closer to the Shopping Center where Big Star is located in order for passengers not to have to walk through the McDonald's parking lot, and that is something that could be done.

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

Commissioner George Price moved to adjourn and Commissioner Shannon Richardson seconded the motion.