



## **Oxford - University Transit Meeting** **September 8, 2010**

**Members Present:** Donna Gurley, Carole Haney, Shannon Richardson, Corey Washington and Jim Windham.

**Others Present:** Tim Akers, Ron Biggs, Tim Lett, Matt Davis, Frances Saralvarez, Emily Bullock, Dick Burkepile, Max Dolun, Linda Christian, Mary Coker, Addison Dent, Chip Goyden and Betsy Nelson.

**The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Donna Gurley.**

**The meeting agenda was approved with the addition of line item No. 6.  
“Discussion of the Student Union Bus Stop”.**

**The minutes for the August 11, 2010 meeting were approved.**

### **General Manager’s Report - Ron Biggs**

- Mr. Biggs informed the Commission that ridership for the month of August hit record numbers. O.U.T. transported 23,424 riders, which is approximately 45% higher than last month. We are averaging over 2,000 passengers per day.
- There was road repair work during the first week of school which caused traffic delays on campus and the buses to run behind schedule. The buses are running on schedule now.
- Ridership has increased on all routes; specially the Green and Yellow routes. There are 3 buses and sometimes 4 buses running on the Green Route in the mornings and 2 on the Yellow Routes.
- There is a slight problem with pedestrian traffic at the Student Union and other places at the University.

### **Planner’s Report – Tim Akers**

- The Board of Aldermen approved procurement of the GPS system. A representative from Next Bus Inc. was present at the Board of Aldermen meeting answering questions. We hope to have the system operating by November 2010. We will need a public relations effort to inform people about the GPS system. The Sales Representative suggested that we install signs informing the public about the system.
- The Board of Alderman also approved procurement of the security cameras for the buses and solar packages for 9 shelters.
- The ARRA grant has been extended for another year. This will enable us to look into the procurement of LED screens for the shelters.
- We evaluated the RFQ proposals for the design and engineering of the new facility. We received 7 proposals, and after evaluation of the 7, 3 will be selected for oral presentations. After the oral presentations, the firms will be re-evaluated and the best qualified firm will be recommended to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

- We received \$70,000 Multi-Modal grant from the state, which will be applied to the required local match. For the facility. We will have a total of \$1.2 million in funds for the project.
- The Commission asked for a status of the merit raises for O.U.T. employees. Mr. Akers added that the Board of Aldermen approved the raises as part of the FY 2010-11 budget package in February of this year. Mr. Biggs is setting up a process which will be used to determine the raises the employees will receive between.

#### **Discussion of the Student Union Bus Stop**

- Mr. Washington discussed the possibility of moving the bus stop from the Student Union to another location on the same street in order to improve the safety of the pedestrians and people who are riding O.U.T. buses.
- Commissioner Windham mentioned the issue was previously discussed, but the University had to consider all the variables involved in the change of mentioned bus stop.
- The Commission would like a plan with different options presented by the University that O.U.T. could use to move the bus stop to another location.

#### **Open Discussion**

- Mr. Dick Burkepile asked in reference to O.U.T. going into Mark Apartments in Old Taylor Road. Mr. Biggs mentioned that he spoke to the Manager from Mark Apartments, and there was not enough interest at the time because there were more business people than Ole Miss Students living in the condos. Another study could be conducted, and the matter could be reviewed again.

***There being no further business Commissioner Donna and upon a motion by Commissioner Carole Haney, seconded by Commissioner Jim Windham, the meeting was adjourned with unanimous yeas.***