



Oxford - University Transit Meeting

May 11, 2011

Members Present: Donna Gurley, George Price, Shannon Richardson and Jim Windham

Others Present: Tim Akers, Ron Biggs, Frances Saralvarez
Richard Brooks, Anne McCauley and Mariel Parman.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Donna Gurley.

Chair Donna Gurley called for a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Jim Windham made a motion and Commissioner George Price seconded the motion.

The minutes for the April 13, 2011 meeting were approved.

Chair Donna Gurley called for a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner George Price made a motion and Commissioner Jim Windham seconded the motion.

General Manager's Report - Ron Biggs

- Mr. Biggs informed the Commission that ridership for the month of March was 35,516. Monthly revenue from passes sold was \$360.00 and the fare-box revenue was \$1,907.50 with a total of \$2,267.50.
- OUT will start the summer route schedule next week.
- In reference to the inclement weather we had the last couple of weeks, Mr. Biggs informed the Commission he worked closely with Jimmy Allgood who is the Emergency Management Coordinator. O.U.T. had to stop service twice during the tornado warnings. After the storms passed, Mr. Biggs surveyed the streets to ensure it was safe for the bus service to continue.
- ESF Emergency Support Function 1 - In case of a natural disaster, public transit would be the transportation for the city to be able to evacuate people from nursing homes, hospitals, etc. We are trying to organize an E.O.C. Emergency Operation Conference where all department heads can collaborate and to be better prepared in case of a natural disaster.

Planner's Report – Tim Akers

- The land where the new facility is planned to be built was flooded and pictures were shown to the Commissioners. The field has been having drainage problems for years and the water accumulated significantly during the last storms to hit Oxford. Mr. Akers has discussed with Mayor Patterson the option of relocating the facility to higher ground. The new site for the new O.U.T. facility would be east approximately 400 feet from its current location.
- To move the building, FTA approval must be sought and hope the paperwork process will be speedy and the building process not be delayed. The original environmental approval was for the entire site.
- The soil from the foundation of the bus shelter in South Lamar has been eroded due to the unusually strong rain we've had. The city is repairing the damaged area.

- We currently have \$50,000 available in ARRA funds for the procurement of additional shelters. We have advertised for IFB's, and the bids are due June 1, 2011. The specifications advertised for the additional shelters were the same as the shelters we have installed throughout the city. Pictures of the original shelters were taken in hopes of getting as close a design as possible. We hope to procure between 8 to 10 shelters, some of which would be installed on the university campus.
- We still have not received a response from the university with the location the shelters should be placed. We believe the shelters were approved but have not received a formal notification. We would like to have the shelters installed before the start of the new academic year.
- Mr. Lett will try to be present at the next Commission meeting to present the final route schedule for the fall. The biggest change being the elimination of the Orange Route and the extension of the Blue Route to service the Links Apartments during specified hours.
- The summer schedule will start next week. The Orange Route was eliminated and the Green and Yellow Routes only have 1 bus each running every half hour.
- The GPS system has proven to be of great assistance to us and it is working great. Mr. Akers suggested for Mr. Biggs to look into putting messages in the GPS system to give passengers information of the changes in time this summer and detour information.

Open Discussion

The Commission was introduced to Mariel Parman, the new Ole Miss ASB Sustainability Officer. She will be attending O.U.T. Meetings to represent the Ole Miss Student Body.

- Ms. Parman inquired about extending the hours to night time and weekends. Mr. Biggs and the Commissioners mentioned that O.U.T. would like to extend hours, but the Budget will not sustain the expenses involved in running the extended time.
- Ms. Parman also asked if a map including bus schedules could be provided to be placed in front of the Student Union. Mr. Akers asked Ms. Parman if O.U.T. provides the map, would she make the arrangements to have it installed. Once the size of the map is determined, O.U.T. will supply the map.

There being no further business Chair Donna Gurley and upon a motion by Commissioner George Price, seconded by Commissioner Shannon Richardson, the meeting was adjourned with unanimous yeas.