

**DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority - 1100 DART Way
May 26, 2009**

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Robert Parks, Bob Mahaffey, Ted Boesen, Gaye Johnson, Skip Conkling, Tom Gayman

Commissioners Absent: Angela Connolly, Steve Van Oort

Alternates Present: None

Staff Present: Brad Miller, General Manager; Sharon Cramer, Finance Director; Chet Bor, Paratransit Director; Rebecca Lovig, RideShare Manager; Carol Pelfrey, Maintenance Director; Jim Tishim, Transportation Director; Randy Ross, Human Resources Director; Kirstin Baer-Harding, Advertising Manager; Michelle Orfield-Koranda, Planning; Nolden Gentry, Legal Counsel

Others Present: Paula Dierenfeld, Mayor-Johnston; Ginni Wolf, TRAC; Cynthia Reynaud, Des Moines Register; Dylan Mullenix, MPO; DART Operator Sherrie Taha

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Bob Mahaffey at 5:03 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Notice of the meeting was duly published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acting Chair Mahaffey called for corrections to the April 28, 2009 minutes.

There being no comments on the minutes, it was moved by Mr. Ted Boesen and seconded by Mr. Bob Parks that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION

None

PUBLIC HEARING # ONE – Paratransit FY2010 Budget

Acting Chair Mahaffey opened the Public Hearing and asked for comments from the floor. There were no comments. Acting Chair Mahaffey closed the Public Hearing.

Action Item A – FY2010 Paratransit Budget Approval

It was moved by Ms. Christine Hensley and seconded by Ms. Gaye Johnson that the FY2010 DART Paratransit Budget be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING # TWO – FY2009 DART Budget Amendment

Acting Chair Mahaffey opened the Public Hearing and asked for comments from the floor. There were no comments. Acting Chair Mahaffey closed the Public Hearing.

Action Item B – FY2009 DART Budget Amendment

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Skip Conkling that the Commission approve the FY2009 DART Budget Amendment to add the FY2009 RideShare and Paratransit budgets, and a \$560,014 reconciliation of the FY2009 Fixed Route Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC) UPDATE

Ms. Ginni Wolf, a participant in the TRAC committee, told commissioners that the Transit Hub Design Team met with TRAC members in an informational meeting and asked for their input. Mr. Conkling and Acting Chair Mahaffey thanked her and the other committee members for their time and effort devoted to the committee.

CONSENT ITEMS

- 9A – April fixed route Financial Report
- 9B - April Paratransit Financial Report
- 9C – April RideShare Financial Report

It was moved by Mr. Conkling and seconded by Mr. Parks that the Consent Items be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item 10A – FY2010 RideShare Budget

The General Manager announced that there would be no fare increase for RideShare participants in the FY2010 budget.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Boesen that the FY2010 RideShare Budget be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Item 11-A – Transit Hub Design Update

Elizabeth Presutti outlined the steps taken to date. Mr. Conkling asked how the design team drew up plans that would be within the funding parameters for the project. Ms. Presutti explained that the team would look at the “ideal” building, and pare down to the budget limitations. She said the only imperative was that the hub be able to hold 15 buses on the site. She said the footprint of the

hub would be constrained by the size of the plot of land it will be sited on. General Manager Miller said that DART would be closely watching for funding possibilities, and will be monitoring the governor's I-JOBS deadlines and making an application at the appropriate time. Ms. Hensley asked if McDonald Transit Associates will be involved in the project. Mr. Miller said that Mr. Bartosiewicz will be consulted when DART looks at the operation of the transit hub, and that currently he is involved in the ongoing safety initiatives that are being instituted at DART. Mr. Parks asked if the transit hub will be enclosed. Ms. Presutti responded that there will be an indoors component so riders waiting will be out of the weather.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Mr. Miller said that ridership is down 5%, but that the elimination of the MLKing shuttle that formerly carried Principal employees and accounted for 500 rides a day was partially responsible, and the lower gasoline prices also contributed. He said that the overall increase for the year by fixed-route, Paratransit and RideShare programs was a very strong 58%. Mr. Conkling asked if the growth in RideShare reflected Polk County vanpool riders. Ms. Lovig said that there were no increases in Polk County riders – that the growth was in the surrounding counties. Ms. Hensley added that the D-Line was still going strong downtown, and that she saw riders waiting for the trolley at all the stops downtown. She said that she noted some riders were parking at the statehouse parking lot and riding the D-Line to work downtown.

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Conkling and Commission Chair Angela Connolly for their participation in joining a group of DART customers, DART staff and others in attending the public hearing in Ames sponsored by the Iowa DOT. He said there were more than 75 attendees, and most of them were public transit supporters.

Mr. Miller explained that the FTA Triennial Review audit has been performed, and the on-site FTA team was done with their report. He thanked Ms. Presutti for her hard work in organizing the myriad paperwork required and her role in organizing and shepherding the FTA during their on-site visit. He said he was proud to report there were only two very minor items that the FTA noted; 1) DART must clarify some fare language on the back of its brochures, and 2) DART must update its Procurement Manual. He said the minor nature of these two findings means the FTA had to search to find something to report.

Ms. Hensley applauded DART's showing in the audit, and said that not a week goes by that someone doesn't ask her about DART doing charters. She said that people complain about the private bus companies who cherry-pick just the charter jobs they want to do, leaving others with no recourse for providing transportation to their groups/events. Mr. Parks stated that he hears the same thing. Commissioners asked what they could do to try to get the FTA ruling reversed so that DART can provide charter service. Mr. Miller said that commissioners should work with the Iowa congressional delegation to revise the rules into something more workable for the community. Ms. Hensley asked that all commissioners who are going on the Greater Des Moines Partnership trip to Washington DC in June have conversations with the congressional delegation to let them know that the rules need to be modified. Mr. Boesen suggested that some of the complaints be organized to give to the appropriate people in DC.

Mr. Miller asked commissioners to read the copy of a letter he put at each of their desks that he sent to Congressman Braley regarding climate change legislation not including public transportation providers. He said that large amounts of revenue regarding cap and trade legislation will be

available, and that public transportation should definitely be included. He said it was in the Senate version of the proposed legislation but not in the House version.

Mr. Miller expressed his thanks to DART staff who worked on the DART Roadeo. He announced the winners:

1. Fixed Route Competition Class:
 - 1st Place: Cesar Chavez
 - 2nd Place: Bob Delpierre
 - 3rd Place: David Klinefeldt
2. Fixed Route Open Class:
 - 1st Place: Justin Hazebroek
 - 2nd Place: Ron Bienfang
 - 3rd Place: Bill Mendenhall
3. Paratransit Competition Class:
 - 1st Place: Ron Miller
 - 2nd Place: Dan James
 - 3rd Place: Will Buckley
4. Paratransit Open Class:
 - 1st Place: Tammy Rowe
 - 2nd Place: Shean Gilkey
 - 3rd Place: Chad Nelson

The top 2 winners in each of the Competition Classes will proceed on to the State Roadeo Competition at the IPTA Conference in Dubuque, IA on June 19-20, 2009.

Acting Chair Mahaffey congratulated all the drivers who participated and won an award.

Mr. Parks asked about the MPO's legislative priority list being changed to combine the transit hub and tram projects. Mr. Miller said that the MPO started out with 40 projects and pared them down to ten, and so they combined both transit projects in order to include them both in the group of ten. He explained that the suburban park-and-ride lot project that was on the big list is still on DART's list of projects to work on.

Mr. Miller announced that Congressman Boswell has submitted projects for FY2010 appropriations, and that the DART transit hub and new expansion buses were both on his list.

Mr. Miller reminded commissioners of the upcoming June 8 start date for new suburban service, and said that there will be press releases and lots of informational flyers and a big marketing campaign to promote awareness.

MONTHLY REPORTS

No additional comments to the Monthly Reports in the packet.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

TRUSTEE ITEMS

Mr. Miller said that a letter would be sent to Mayors explaining the process for appointing new commissioners and alternates for those whose terms expire in June.

Mr. Miller said that Item 15B – Nomination of the Compensation Committee would be postponed until the June 30 commission meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Acting Chair Mahaffey called for a motion to recess and reconvene in a closed session.

It was moved by Mr. Boesen and seconded by Mr. Parks that the Commission meeting be recessed and reconvened in closed session pursuant to Section 21.5, Subparagraph J of the Iowa Code to discuss the purchase of particular real estate where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price that DART would have to pay for that property.

Roll Call: Parks yes, Boesen yes, Hensley yes, Johnson yes, Gayman yes, Mahaffey yes, Conkling yes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Acting Chair Mahaffey recessed the meeting at 5:50 pm.

The closed session was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

The regular board meeting was resumed at 6:11 pm. The Chair stated for the record that no action was taken during the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

2009 Meeting Dates

Jun 30, Jul 28, No meeting in August, Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 17, Dec 15 and holiday luncheon

Date:_____

Chair_____

Secretary_____