



**REGIONAL
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Planning and Service Coordination Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2015

1:00 PM

Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 1400

Detroit, MI 48226

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of the September 10, 2015 meeting summary
4. Public comment
5. Funding Allocations
 - a. RTA Resolution No. 15 – Federal Funding Distribution - Action
 - b. RTA Resolution No. 16 – Local Bus Operating Distribution - Action
6. Planning Projects Updates
 - a. Regional Master Transit Plan
 - b. Gratiot Avenue Corridor Study
 - c. Michigan Avenue Corridor Study
 - d. Woodward Avenue Corridor Study
7. New Business
8. Adjourn

The Committee may, at its discretion, revise this agenda or take up any other issues as need and time allow.

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Proposed Meeting Summary
Regional Transit Authority
Planning and Service Coordination Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2015

1. Call to order at 12:00 pm

Committee Members Present:

Roy Rose, Chair; Alma Smith; Don Morandini, Chuck Moss

RTA Representatives Present:

Michael Ford; Tiffany Gunter; Virginia Lickliter

Others in attendance:

Andy Thorner, SMART; Cornelius Henry, Detroit People Mover; Casey McNeill, DDOT; Julia Roberts, AAATA; Larry Kreig, CAC Liaison; Deanna Donahoo, SEMCOG; Ruth Johnson, TRU

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Alma Smith and supported by Chuck Moss to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Meeting Summary

Moved by Alma Smith and supported by Donald Morandini to approve the July 9, 2015 Meeting Summary as presented. Chuck Moss was not in attendance and recused himself. Approved unanimously.

4. Public Comments

There were none

5. Purpose and Need Documents

Michael Ford presented the documents, as provided in the meeting packet, to the committee.

Roy Rose noted that the staff and contractors had been meeting with people along the corridors and received input from them. Mr. Ford noted that technical and advisory groups have been involved in the process and meeting regularly.

Don Morandini stated that he noticed that comments that had been collected and their responses had been passed on to the contractors.

Alma Smith asked if outreach had been done in Washtenaw County beyond the communities serviced by AAATA so that they know they are included. Benjamin Stupka stated that a list of communities that have been engaged could be provided and that there has been an effort to reach out to all of the communities, if not through the Michigan plan then through the Regional Master Transit Plan. Mr. Stupka also stated that public meetings will be taking place in both Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and an effort will be made to get information out to the other Washtenaw County communities, including meeting with their governing boards. Mr. Ford stated that he has made presentations to the AAATA Board of Directors, WATS Board of Directors, and the Urban Core Working Group.

Moved by Alma Smith and supported by Don Morandini to recommend the Purpose and Need Document to the full board for approval. The document is recommended unanimously.

6. State of the System Report – Information

Michael Ford presented the State of the System Report, as provided in the meeting packet, to the committee.

Roy Rose asked if there is a report or if it was still being prepared. Tiffany Gunter stated that the report is available on the RTA website in draft form. Ms. Gunter also noted that RTA staff is looking for specific comments, especially in regards to the section on growth in the region. Mr. Stupka also noted that the report also has a transit market analysis. Mr. Rose stated that the report shows where people need public transportation but stated that we want to make sure to reach those who use public transportation by choice. Mr. Stupka stated that that is one of the factors being taken into account.

7. Federal Funding Allocation – Update

Michael Ford reported that RTA staff is continuing to work on the Federal Funding Allocation. He stated that staff is working with and having discussions with the parties involved.

Alma Smith asked when the allocation would be finalized. Mr. Ford stated that it should be resolved within the next month.

8. Major Project Reports

a. Regional Master Transit Plan

Michael Ford reported that the process is continuing. He reported that the RTA had been out hearing the needs and concerns of the public and that the RTA would be bringing scenarios back to the committee in October. Mr. Ford stated that much of the discussion

has focused on later night/earlier morning service, cross functional routes, cross county routes, more frequency, more direct lines and neighborhood-to-neighborhood service.

Roy Rose asked if the project is still on schedule to be completed in the beginning of 2016. Mr. Ford stated that everything is still consistent with the timeline.

b. Woodward Avenue

Michael Ford reported that the RTA had recently received notification from the FTA that the authority was granted a categorical exclusion which will cut down on the time that will be necessary to complete an environmental assessment. Mr. Ford also reported that a scope of work is currently being worked on and that an advisory committee would be reinstated.

Chuck Moss asked what the Advisory Committee is. Tiffany Gunter noted that all of the corridor study projects have advisory committees with the Michigan and Gratiot projects each having a technical advisory committee and a policy advisory committee. She stated that while the project was being run by SEMCOG, there was a steering committee that will become an advisory committee for the RTA.

c. Gratiot and Michigan Avenue Studies

Michael Ford reported that the technical and advisory committees continue to meet. Ben Stupka reported that both the Gratiot and Michigan Avenues technical committees have reviewed the purpose and need documents. The drafts of the documents will be released early next week. Mr. Stupka also stated that there would be presentations on the documents at the October meetings.

Roy Rose noted that once plans have been established, then the cost can be evaluated. Mr. Stupka stated that thresholds had been set at \$500 million for each corridor.

Alma Smith asked if the Financial Task Force would be setting the rate for the millage. Michael Ford stated that they wouldn't set it but would provide a recommendation. Ms. Smith also asked if the discussions have included a timeframe for a revenue issue. Mr. Ford stated that the desire would be for it to be permanent funding. Ms. Smith also stated that in discussions with Washtenaw County, there was concern regarding keeping 85% in the county. Mr. Ford stated that the RTA is very sensitive to that and that all calculations are making sure that the 85% threshold is met. Mr. Stupka added that any element included in the plan is tested against the 85% rule and adjustments are made where necessary.

Larry Kreig stated the policy behind the 85% rule has interested the CAC because it seems to them that there are policy assumptions built into the model that the RTA is using and asked if the Board had addressed those policies. Chuck Moss noted that the 85% rule is included in the statute and that it is law rather than a policy assumption. Mr. Kreig clarified that he is curious what assumptions were made regarding the determination of when monies are

being spent to benefit a community and gave the example of a bus running between two counties. He asked if the determination is made based on ridership, mileage, businesses served or some other factor. Tiffany Gunter responded that the financial model is able to look at a couple of different alternatives for that calculation. The team would like to have a couple of scenarios in place before the Board has a policy discussion. She noted that the legal team has also been included in planning.

d. Fare Study

Michael Ford reported that a final recommendation is imminent but the current main focus is on developing an MOU among the providers. Cornelius Henry reported that a final draft recommendation has been developed and PAC members are currently commenting it as well as a draft MOU. The document will then be posted on the RTA's website for public comment. Once the recommendations are finalized, the project will be transitioned to the RTA. Mr. Ford stated that as part of that transition, the recommendations would be coming back to the Planning and Services Coordination Committee including what short-term items can be done right away.

Don Morandini asked what the timeline is for implementation. Michael Ford reported that the RTA would want to do a demonstration project. Equipment currently utilized by the People Mover has been tested and testing will be done with AAATA's equipment in October.

9. New Business

Michael Ford noted that dates for the fall public meetings are on the website and Save The Date notices have been sent out.

10. Meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm