

# INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

DECEMBER 2, 2009

## ATTENDANCE

### Board Members Present

Charis Austin  
Ira Hart  
Lisa Haynes  
George Heartwell  
Barbara Holt  
Don Lawless  
Rick Morris  
Richard Root  
Barbara VanDuren  
Rob VerHeulen  
James White

### Staff

Peter Varga, Executive Director  
Robin Crothers  
Alan Hartley  
Taiwo Jaiyeoba  
Meegan Joyce  
Jennifer Kalczuk  
Chris Leighty  
Nick Monoyois  
Brian Pouget  
Liz Schelling  
Conrad Venema

### Board Members Absent

Randy Gelderloos  
Jack Hoffman  
Steve Maas  
Terry Schweitzer

### Others Present

Jeff Ammon, Miller Johnson  
David Bulkowski, DAKC  
Rob Carter, Citizen  
Richard Jackson, ATU-Local 836  
Watchdog Miller, Citizen  
Sgt. Wayne Moore, GRPD/The Rapid  
Alan Schwartz, Miller Johnson

**MINUTES OF**  
**INTERURBAN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
**AS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 2, 2009**

Commencing at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Lawless called the regular meeting of the Interurban Transit Partnership Board to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Rob Carter mentioned that he was not able to attend any of the Mobile Metro 2030 workshops, however, he is concerned about late routes and suggests increasing frequency on high volume routes. He would like to see priority timing for traffic lights included on all routes and would like more opportunities to prepay for tickets.

Watchdog Miller believes that the Mobile Metro 2030 plan is being conducted unprofessionally, and that meetings have not been made public and there is no recording of the meetings. He stated that we should rescind the last fare hike and wants to know what the additional funds from the fare increase have been used for.

1. Annual Meeting-Election of Officers:

A nomination for Barbara Holt for Vice-Chair was made by Heartwell, supported by Root. No other nominations were entered and nominations were closed. Motion passed unanimously.

A nomination for Don Lawless for Board Chair was made by Heartwell, supported by Holt. No other nominations were entered and nominations were closed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Minutes of the October 28, 2009 Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by White, to approve the October 28, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Root, supported by VerHeulen, to approve consent agenda items 3-10. Motion passed unanimously.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### Performance Oversight Committee

11. FY 2009 Annual Report Card:

Ms. Holt noted that the FY 2009 Annual Report Card and Annual Paratransit Report Card were placed on the regular agenda to highlight the great overall performance for the year.

A motion was made by Holt, supported by VanDuren, to approve the FY 2009 Annual Report Card. Motion passed unanimously.

12. FY 2009 Annual Paratransit Report Card:

A motion was made by Holt, supported by Morris, to approve the FY 2009 Annual Paratransit Report Card. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Land Acquisition at Woodland Mall- Executive Session:

A motion was made by Root, supported by Heartwell, to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition. A roll call vote was taken.

Yes: Austin, Hart, Haynes, Heartwell, Holt, Lawless, Morris, Root, VanDuren, VerHeulen, White.

No: None

Motion passed unanimously (4:12 p.m.).

A motion was made by VerHeulen, supported by Hart, to adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Yes: Austin, Hart, Haynes, Heartwell, Holt, Lawless, Morris, Root, VanDuren, VerHeulen and White.

No: None

Motion passed unanimously (4:43 p.m.).

A motion was made by Root, supported by Heartwell, to authorize the CEO to execute agreements with Woodland Plaza II, LLC for the purchase of property, in an amount not to exceed \$445,000, and with 3321 28<sup>th</sup>, LLC for the purchase of an easement, in an amount considered to be reasonable, in accordance with the information presented to the ITP Board on December 2, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

### Strategic Planning Committee

14. Silver Line BRT Project Update:

Mr. Jaiyeoba gave an update on the Silver Line bus rapid transit project and the environmental assessment process. A Power Point presentation was given

describing the project, where we are today, potential impacts being considered in the EA, results of the recent traffic analysis and the next steps in the project.

He noted that on April 22, 2009, the ITP Board approved a resolution authorizing the CEO to execute an agreement with Parsons Brinkerhoff to prepare an environmental assessment for the Silver Line project along the Division Avenue corridor. Since that time, a number of activities have been accomplished and there are several more efforts underway to ensure that the project is completed in a timely manner.

Ms. Haynes inquired if refinement of station locations is for the locally preferred alternative and the alternate routing. Mr. Jaiyeoba responded that they are doing the refinement of station locations for both.

Mayor Heartwell noted that with the alternate route we would not pass directly in front of the GVSU Cook Devos Center. Mr. Jaiyeoba noted that this is correct. Mayor Heartwell noted that east of the Cook Devos Center there has been land acquisition with MSU and the further away we move from that corner the further we get from the growing student population. Mr. Jaiyeoba noted that the meeting scheduled for December 14 will include discussion of the results of all this information.

15. Transit Master Plan Project Update:

Mr. Jaiyeoba reported that the Transit Master Plan workshops have been successful and well attended. The workshops were well advertised by the media and many mailings were sent out. We have had meetings with the city commissions and the next Mobile Metro 2030 meeting is December 15, 2009. We will report back to the community in the spring of 2010 with results of input received so far. We will also be doing a survey between now and the spring that will help us gather thoughts from the community about the transit service that we currently provide.

Mr. Lawless attended the workshop in East Grand Rapids and felt there was a good variety of attendance from employers with lots of active discussion.

Governance Committee

16. Meeting Schedule for 2010:

Mr. Lawless mentioned the meeting schedule for 2010 and asked Board members to consider current committee assignments, letting him know of any interest in changing assignments.

A motion was made by Heartwell, supported by VanDuren, to approve the 2010 meeting schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

## CEO REPORT

### 17. CEO Monthly Report:

Mr. Varga mentioned that some of the meetings listed on the 2010 meeting schedule have been adjusted from their regular schedule to accommodate other events. He reminded the Board about the special meetings we have scheduled.

He noted that we had several Board members and Mobile Metro Task Force members in attendance at many of the Mobile Metro 2030 community workshops.

He mentioned that he is serving on the APTA Executive Committee and attended his first APTA retreat.

Chamber of Commerce Board members and staff took a trip on the Route 50 Campus Connector. There was interaction between Chamber Board members and GVSU students on the ride and members noted that it is easier to go to GVSU on the bus than in your car.

He mentioned that FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff will be in Grand Rapids to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Wealthy Operations Center expansion on December 18, 2009.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

## BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Root noted a correction to the External Relations Committee meeting minutes on the last page. The minutes state that Kentwood City Hall would be putting in a turnaround on the property and running a sidewalk from the current transit station to the backside of City Hall to serve the new Kentwood library. It should state that Kentwood would be running a sidewalk from the current transit station but would not be putting in a turnaround on the property.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rob Carter commented that he supports the land acquisition at Woodland Mall for a new transit station. He noted that he has addressed concerns about the current platform in the past. He wonders if there are any plans to expand the platform at Central Station to accommodate new routes from the BRT.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There was no discussion on the following information items.

- A. Minutes of 11-11-09 Governance Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of 11-18-09 Performance Oversight Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of 11-18-09 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- D. Minutes of 11-19-09 External Relations Committee Meeting
- E. Communications

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robin Crothers, ITP Board Secretary

