

Proposed Minutes
January 16, 2008
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
ATA Headquarters, 2700 South Industrial Highway, 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Paul C. Ajegba, Eli Cooper, Charles Griffith, David Nacht (Chair), Rich Robben

Board Members Absent: Ted Annis, Sue McCormick

Staff Present: Tom Antonow, Terry Black, Francis Borzo, Delisa Brown, Ron Copeland, Dawn Gabay, Ed Robertson, Mary Stasiak, Phil Webb, Chris White

LAC Representative: Rebecca Burke

Recording Secretary: Karen Wheeler

Mr. Nacht declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Mr. Nacht added two items to the agenda: a New Business item to discuss the potential allocation of grant money to study transit corridors, and an Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations.

1.0 Public Hearing

There was no public hearing.

2.0 Communications and Announcements

There were no communications or announcements.

3.0 Public Time

Thomas Partridge appeared before the Board. Mr. Partridge called on the Board to give primary attention and allocation of planning resources to expand AATA fixed bus routes in the county, as well as A-Ride service to additional areas, to give more attention to serve greater numbers of people; especially people with disabilities and senior citizens. Mr. Partridge announced that he was appealing to the public and area businesses to expand transportation services. Mr. Partridge commented on an upcoming meeting of Democratic Party members from Washtenaw County. Mr. Partridge commented on the challenges faced by A-Ride customers who do not live within the service area, including dealing with harsh weather conditions and the extreme expense of regular cab rides. Mr. Partridge alleged that the A-Ride program guidelines are discriminatory and should be eliminated and replaced

with user friendly guidelines. Mr. Partridge alleged that the DDA, U of M and the City of Ypsilanti are making contributions to AATA to allow for free ride services, and that AATA is highly subsidizing service for residents of the City of Ypsilanti.

Jim Mogensen appeared before the Board. Mr. Mogensen commented on the longstanding relationship between AATA and the City of Ypsilanti and the provision of transportation service to that area. Mr. Mogensen suggested that if service changes are made, and a fare increase implemented, there may be a race and income transit equity issue in violation of Title 7. Mr. Mogensen noted that AATA provides service to Washtenaw Community College, St. Joe Hospital and other destinations in Ann Arbor Township even though there is no payment for service. Mr. Mogensen stated that while Ypsilanti residents are commuters and not a large percentage of AATA ridership, they are valuable.

Mike Harrer appeared before the Board to reinforce comments he made in December, requesting that Route #13 not be eliminated. Mr. Harrer encouraged staff to notify as many riders as possible of the proposal to eliminate the service so customers will have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and share their concerns.

Ann Harrer appeared before the Board. Mrs. Harrer announced that she received information on the proposed service reduction of Route #13 from a bus driver, and asked Mr. Nacht if she could share the information with fellow passengers. Mr. Nacht encouraged Mrs. Harrer to share the information.

Mr. Nacht announced that if the Board votes to make a change to service on Route #13, there will be a public input process and notification of meeting dates and times will be made.

Carolyn Grawi appeared before the Board. Ms. Grawi announced that the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (CIL) moved to office space on Research Park Drive in December. Some consumers who want to use AATA fixed-route bus service to get to the new office location have experienced difficulty getting to the site. There have been discussions between CIL staff and Chris White from AATA regarding what possibilities may exist to improve fixed-route service. Representatives from Pittsfield Township have also been involved in discussions regarding what role they may play. Ms. Grawi reported that some consumers who previously used fixed-route service to get to the CIL must now use A-Ride service which is more expensive for both the consumer and AATA. Ms. Grawi will continue discussions with the goal of having Route #6 run through Research Park.

Ms. Grawi announced the passing of Don Anderson, a former CIL employee, and the passing of Darlys VanderBeek, an individual who was very active in the community related to disability issues.

No one further appearing, Mr. Nacht declared Public Time closed.

Mr. Nacht expressed condolences on the losses announced by Ms. Grawi, and noted that Ms. VanderBeek was serving as Co-Chair of the Local Advisory Council. Mr. Nacht announced

that once details of a memorial for Ms. VanderBeek become available, the information will be shared with interested persons.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

4.1 Review and Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2007

Mr. Ajegba moved approval of the minutes as written with support from Mr. Robben. The motion passed unanimously.

5.0 Board and Staff Reports

5.1 Treasurer's Report

Mr. Nacht announced that Mr. Annis submitted a written report for presentation by Mr. Robben. Mr. Robben indicated that there may need to be some revisions to the report, but there was not sufficient time to make the adjustments before the meeting. Mr. Robben indicated that a revised report will be presented at the February Board meeting.

5.1.1 Report of Operations for Three Months Ended December 31, 2007

There was no report.

5.2 Finance and Audit Committee Report

5.2.1 Report on 2008-2011 Capital and Categorical Grant Program

Mr. Nacht reported that the committee discussed the capital and categorical grant program, noting a resolution to adopt the program was included in New Business.

5.2.2 Report on FY2009 State Application

Mr. Nacht reported on a memorandum submitted to the committee announcing a February 1, 2008 deadline for submitting a budget to the State. Mr. Nacht noted a resolution under New Business requesting authorization to submit the application.

5.3 Policy and Operations Committee Report

Mr. Cooper distributed a written committee report. Mr. Cooper also distributed a draft resolution authorizing staff to proceed with a public input process for potential service changes. The report and draft resolution are attached hereto and included as part of the minutes.

5.3.1 Report on Service Changes

Mr. Cooper reported that staff provided implications on the proposed service changes. Mr. Cooper reported on the committee's commitment to meet the goal of providing information to the Board on proposed service changes by January, and noted that some of the routes being considered for service reduction, based on consultant recommendation, have had significant increases in ridership, causing a dilemma for the committee.

Mr. Cooper requested that staff be directed to refine its analysis and evaluate the ridership increases. Mr. Cooper explained that with Board approval, staff could move forward with planning the public input process given time constraints, and report back to the Board with final recommendations on service adjustments prior to the public input meetings.

In response to a question from Mr. Nacht regarding whether or not there are any routes slated for revision that are in dispute, Mr. Cooper explained that there may be cause to reduce the percentage of the range of routes slated for changes based on ridership increases. Mr. Cooper indicated that the reevaluation will result in a final list to be taken to the public for input. Staff will present the list to the committee in February and the committee will report to the Board at its February meeting. Following the public input process, staff will make a recommendation of service modifications for the Board to vote on. Members of the Board discussed past practice regarding service changes and timing for voting on the proposed changes.

Ms. Gabay indicated that staff should have a final proposal before the Board in May. Mr. Nacht addressed the members of the public present restating the process to be followed: refinement of the proposed service changes by staff, scheduling of public input meetings between February and May and another opportunity to appear before the Board to comment on the final recommendation prior to a Board vote.

Mr. Cooper reported on a discussion about the bus wrap program. Staff received five complaints on poor visibility caused by some of the wraps. Staff brought forward information from other transit operators on their experience with wraps.

The committee directed staff to draft criteria that will result in a better design of bus wraps whereby it is possible to see in and out of bus windows, while at the same time maintaining revenue from sale of the media. Staff was asked to make a final recommendation on the future of the wrap program at the February meeting.

Members of the Board discussed the issue. Mr. Ajegba suggested that a significant amount of resources are being spent to address five complaints among 5,000,000

riders annually. In response to a question from Mr. Ajegba, Mr. Webb indicated that the bus advertising program yields an annual income of \$169,000. Ms. Stasiak indicated that there are between 7 and 11 full wraps at any one given time. Mr. Ajegba suggested that one solution may be to reduce the number of full wraps, and Ms. Stasiak made a follow-up suggestion that the density of the wraps may be able to be reduced thus increasing visibility. Ms. Gabay indicated that staff will continue their investigation and compile a report for February.

Mr. Cooper referred to the written committee report which includes a listing of the remaining subjects reported on.

5.4 Personnel Committee Report

Mr. Ajegba reported that the Personnel Committee did not meet in January.

5.4.1 FY2008 Goals and Objectives First Quarter Update

Ms. Gabay provided an update on the goals completed during the first quarter, and the goals due to be completed during the second quarter.

5.5 Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Report

Mr. Nacht reported that the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Policy Committee did not meet in January.

5.6 Local Advisory Council Report

Rebecca Burke, Local Advisory Council (LAC) Chair, reported on a number of concerns raised about on-time performance of paratransit service provided by contractor SelectRide. A representative from SelectRide was in attendance at the meeting and agreed to research the concerns. Meeting attendees discussed the former YMCA site and received an update on the AATA bus shelter program. Clark Charnetski provided an update on bus shelters around the U of M campus which included ideas on how the U of M shelters can be improved, or cost effectively maintained. Carolyn Grawi added to the report noting that Mr. White reported on route change considerations.

5.7 Interim Executive Director's Report

5.7.1 Report on December Performance Indicators

Ms. Gabay distributed the December Performance Indicators noting that an irregularity in some figures had been corrected.

5.7.2 Report on Quarterly Operating Statistics

Ms. Gabay referred to the Quarterly Operating Statistics.

5.7.3 Report on Quarterly Service Standards Report

Ms. Gabay referred to the Quarterly Service Standards Report.

5.7.4 Report on Paratransit Service in Scio Township

Ms. Gabay distributed and reviewed a report detailing the demand for paratransit service from Lake Stone apartments for the period June to November 2007. Ms. Gabay highlighted requests for service on weekday evenings and weekends, when People's Express does not provide service. Ms. Gabay reported that 17% of the total trip requests were for weekends with the highest percentage of weekend trip requests (71%) between the times of 12 Noon and 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Robben requested data on the number of individuals that account for the 1,403 trips scheduled between June and November 2007. Ms. Gabay agreed to provide the data at the February Board meeting.

6.0 Question Time

There were no questions for Ms. Gabay from the Board.

7.0 Old Business

There was no Old Business.

8.0 New Business

Mr. Nacht suggested that during future Board meetings a member of Senior Staff present a broad overview of the work that takes place in their department.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Cooper with support from Mr. Griffith.

8.1 Consideration of Resolution Adopting 2008-2011 Capital and Categorical Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) is required to develop a four-year program of projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to be eligible for federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the AATA is required to be submitted to the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) to be included in the TIP development process, and

WHEREAS, the AATA is required to submit the program for FY 2009 – FY 2011 to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) by February 1, 2008 as part of the annual application for FY 2009 funding, and

WHEREAS, the AATA has developed a current program for FY 2008-2011 by updating and revising the previously-adopted program, and

WHEREAS, the attached program has been developed to be consistent with potential funding and to conform with various federal and state requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board of Directors hereby adopts the FY 2008-2011 Capital and Categorical Grant Program.

The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Ajegba with support from Mr. Robben.

8.2 Consideration of Resolution Authorizing Submission of FY2009 Application to Michigan Department of Transportation

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51), it is necessary for the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA), established under Act 55, to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2009 and, thereby apply for state financial assistance under provisions of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or Michigan Department of Transportation for its administration of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the performance indicators for this agency have been reviewed and approved by the AATA.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority does hereby make its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for State financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51; and

HEREBY, appoints the Interim Executive Director, as the Transportation Coordinator, for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the Commission or Department for its administration of Act 51 for 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interim Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute agreements with the Michigan Department of Transportation for capital, operating, and planning funds offered as a result of this application for financial assistance.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cooper moved the following resolution with support from Mr. Robben.

8.3 Authorization to Proceed with Public Input Process for Potential Service Changes

WHEREAS, staff prepared a list of potential service changes based upon the recommendations of the transit service evaluation study and staff evaluation as directed by the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS, the list of potential service changes included eliminating service on routes or portions of routes with relatively low productivity, as well as adding service outside of Ann Arbor, and

WHEREAS, ridership productivity has increased significantly on some of the service that previously had relatively low productivity, and

WHEREAS, funding for service outside of Ann Arbor remains uncertain,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board of Directors hereby directs staff to prepare a revised list of potential service changes and proceed to implement the public input process after discussing the revised list with the Policy and Operations Committee.

Mr. Ajegba questioned why it was necessary for the Board to pass a resolution to instruct staff to complete work. Mr. Cooper responded that given the Board's direction to the committee to propose formal changes by date certain, the committee responded in kind with a formal resolution.

The motion carried: Griffith – yes; Cooper – yes; Nacht – yes; Robben – yes; Ajegba – no.

8.4 Discuss Contributing Grant Money to Joint Venture Exploration into East-West and North-South Corridors

Mr. Nacht introduced the discussion to consider contributing grant money to a joint

venture exploration study into east-west and north-south corridors. Mr. Nacht announced the project partners: The City of Ann Arbor, Downtown Development Authority, University of Michigan and AATA, and asked Mr. Cooper to lead the discussion.

Mr. Cooper reported on the details of the project. In June 2006 the Mayor [City of Ann Arbor] convened a transportation event that included two commuter rail services and a local circulator type system. Subsequently, the City initiated a Transportation Plan Update process that has reached a point that has validating reasons to conduct a more detailed study along the corridors. The corridors, unlike the corridors in the two commuter rail proposals, one to Detroit and one to Livingston County, are wholly within the City of Ann Arbor. As such, the project provides an opportunity for AATA to take a leadership role in this technical piece of planning work about transit services.

Early on in deliberations of the project, Mr. Cooper met with the former AATA Executive Director, Greg Cook, to discuss AATA's potential role in both participating as a partner in the program, as well as a commitment of funding resources. The concept was warmly received by Mr. Cook, and Mr. Cook agreed to contribute \$200,000 of AATA grant funds toward the analysis.

The analysis would identify alignment on alternatives, expected ridership patterns, and the type of technology to be used. The planning project could take between 12 and 18 months to complete, depending on how robust a public participation process there is, and what type of environmental considerations are found. The study is formally known as an Alternatives Analysis Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AADEIS). The process could move quickly, unless there are some environmental features along the way that require investigation.

Mr. Cooper elaborated on the details of the project that would study the crescent shaped corridor from Briarwood through the downtown and up to the northeast. The project team proposes to contract with a consulting firm, or a team of contractors, with a broad depth in planning and public participation. The cost of the project, depending on complexity, is now estimated at between \$250,000 and \$500,000. Mr. Cooper indicated that discussions with project partners on who should take the lead role could begin as early as February.

Ms. Gabay noted the immediate issue of the cost of project, as the amount agreed to by the former director and the current estimated cost of the project varies significantly. Additionally, matching State funds are no longer available. Ms. Gabay expressed an interest in having the project partners discuss cost sharing.

Members of the Board discussed the project. Issues raised included whether or not AATA should be the lead agency, the availability of federal grant funds from AATA, other possible funding sources, and the availability of Federal funding to implement

outcomes of an analysis.

Mr. Nacht requested that this issue become a mainstay on future Board agendas until the matter is resolved. Mr. Nacht requested that staff write a policy paper outlining grant funds potentially available for an analysis. Mr. Nacht requested that the paper include the timing of the availability of funds, and some choices for the Board to consider and debate with a possible vote in February.

9.0 Public Time

Carolyn Grawi appeared before the Board. Ms. Grawi suggested that AATA look in to alternative transportation projects underway in Grand Rapids. Ms. Grawi expressed concern about the accessibility of train service including getting on and off at either end of the line. Ms. Grawi had concerns about the accessibility of a high speed rail system, should that be identified as an option in an alternatives analysis. Ms. Grawi stated that people in the disability community support additional transit service options, while at the same time recognize that new types of service come at a price.

Francis Borzo appeared before the Board. Mr. Borzo is a motor coach operator for AATA. Mr. Borzo commented on the difficulty he has seeing through bus wraps when making certain turns, at night, and in inclement weather. Mr. Borzo indicated that there is a particular safety concern having the first window on the right side behind the front door of the bus covered with a wrap.

Jim Mogensen appeared before the Board. Mr. Mogensen commented on a lawsuit: *Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America v. University of Michigan* with regard to football stadium renovations. Mr. Mogensen suggested that AATA may face similar litigation if bus service in Ypsilanti is modified, as this could result in transit equity issues based on race and income. Mr. Mogensen suggested that AATA has time to do the right thing, and suggested that there may be an opportunity to pursue additional funding to cover some of the costs associated with providing transit service in Ypsilanti.

Thomas Partridge appeared before the Board. Mr. Partridge requested that the Board preserve paratransit ride services to Lake Stone apartments in Scio Township. Mr. Partridge provided an overview of the issue of paratransit service in Scio Township that began in June or July of 2007. Mr. Partridge asked the Board to reverse a decision made by AATA staff and supported by the Federal Transit Administration's Civil Rights Office regarding paratransit service area boundaries. Mr. Partridge indicated that the service area is restrictive and should be extended from 3/4 of a mile to 1 1/2 miles, which would place Lake Stone apartments within the service area. Mr. Partridge alleged that statistics included in a January 4 memorandum are inaccurate, and do not take into account the number of trips ordered and canceled due to health problems of riders. Mr. Partridge called on the Board to establish a fixed bus route to run north and south on Wagner Road, an area with several businesses and residential developments. Mr. Partridge suggested that the route run on Liberty to serve the Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

No one further appearing, Mr. Nacht declared Public Time closed.

Mr. Nacht announced that the Executive Session was being held in accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act, Public Act Number 267 of 1976, as amended, the section entitled "Close Meetings":

10.0 Executive Session – Labor Negotiations

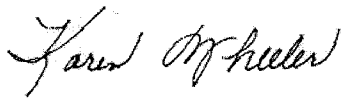
Mr. Robben moved to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. Mr. Ajegba supported the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: Robben – yes; Ajegba – yes, Cooper – yes; Griffith – yes; Nacht – yes. The Executive Session commenced at 9:12 p.m.

Mr. Griffith moved to close the Executive Session with support from Mr. Ajegba. The motion passed unanimously. The Executive Session closed at 9:42 p.m.

11.0 Adjournment

Mr. Cooper moved to adjourn the meeting with support from Mr. Nacht. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Nacht adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



for

Eli Cooper, Secretary

Date: January 16, 2008
To: AATA Board
From: AATA Policy and Operations Committee
Subject: Policy and Operations Committee Report for January 9, 2008

Service Adjustments

The Committee and Staff continued reviewing a series of specific route adjustments focusing on the impacts on riders and issues that may arise during the process of implementing the service adjustments. Staff presented new information regarding substantially increased ridership on the routes where service adjustments are being considered. Given the revised information, staff has requested additional time to refine the service adjustments that were recommended in the transit service evaluation. The committee is recommending that the Board direct staff to refine the service adjustments with an eye on the increased ridership and begin the public information process. See attached resolution.

Service Adjustments Communications Program

Staff presented the committee a comprehensive communications outline for the anticipated service adjustments. Areas of information included media outlets, mailings, public meetings, bus and shelter notices as well as a potential Board presence at public meetings. It is now recognized that the Board can adopt services changes in January or February and still implement the service changes in August 2008 following a recommended public input and review process.

Bus Wraps

Staff continues to pursue information about other transit operators' experience with Bus Wrap advertising. The focus continues to be how to address issues related to window coverage. Several operators have had no issues. Others are eliminating bus wraps or are using design criteria to limit the amount of window and door glass that is being covered. The committee is looking at a compromise of limiting the coverage of windows and looks forward to staff's report regarding if that is an acceptable compromise for our riders and the advertisers.

Updates

4. Commuter Bus Service - 2 bids received
5. Northeast Park and Ride Lot - Awaiting FHWA Approval

6. Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom – Grant resources to be expended according to adopted plans. Travel Matching and communications items are eligible.
7. Passenger Shelter Program – 16 Shelters installed
8. Late night service for downtown employees - Coordinating with DDA to survey employees and design service for the West Side.
9. A2D2 Follow-up – Work continues on Express Bus outline above and framing a planning study for an Alternatives Analysis Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
10. Investigate Feasibility of a Fare Increase – Due to time staff distributed a memo to be covered at the next meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Eli Cooper, Chairman
Policy and Operations Committee

DRAFT Resolution 5/2008

Authorization to Proceed with Public Input Process for Potential Service Changes

WHEREAS, staff prepared a list of potential service changes based upon the recommendations of the transit service evaluation study and staff evaluation as directed by the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS, the list of potential service changes included eliminating service on routes or portions of routes with relatively low productivity, as well as adding service outside of Ann Arbor, and

WHEREAS, ridership productivity has increased significantly on some of the service that previously had relatively low productivity, and

WHEREAS, funding for service outside of Ann Arbor remains uncertain,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board of Directors hereby directs staff to prepare a revised list of potential service changes and proceed to implement the public input process after discussing the revised list with the Policy and Operations Committee.

David Nacht, Chair

January 16, 2008

Eli Cooper, Secretary

January 16, 2008