

Approved Minutes  
October 29, 2009  
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority  
Special Board of Directors Meeting  
Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Paul C. Ajegba (Chair), Ted Annis, Jesse Bernstein, Charles Griffith, Sue McCormick, David Nacht, Rich Robben

Staff Present: Terry Black, Ron Copeland, Michael Ford, Dawn Gabay, Jan Hallberg, Ed Robertson, Mary Stasiak, Phil Webb, Chris White

Recording Secretary: Mary Stasiak

Board Chair Paul Ajegba declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

1.0 Communications and Announcements

There were no communications or announcements.

2.0 Public Time – Comment on Agenda Items

No one appearing, Mr. Ajegba declared Public Time closed.

3.0 Presentation by CEO Michael Ford

Michael Ford made a presentation to the Board entitled, "Taking the Lead". Mr. Ford presented his ideas on positioning AATA to take a leadership role by implementing four specific measures listed below.

Measure 1 – Adopt a Vision Statement; Mr. Ford presented a proposed Vision Statement for the organization.

Measure 2 – Reorganize under Act 196; Mr. Ford reported on how reorganizing AATA as an Act 196 Authority would prepare AATA to administer funding for expanded service including countywide transit service and a portion of commuter rail operating costs.

Measure 3 – Move forward on the development of a Countywide Transit System; Mr. Ford outlined steps that would be involved to expand service countywide.

Measure 4 – Integrate transit projects using the expertise of Staff and Consultants; Mr. Ford reported on the benefits of integrating AATA's priorities with other transit

initiatives.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Ford requested that the Board, over the next few months, take four specific action steps:

1. Adopt a Vision Statement
2. Reorganize AATA under Act 196
3. Adopt a resolution to move forward on the development of a Countywide Transit System
4. Adopt a resolution to integrate all transit initiatives with the expertise of Staff and Consultants

#### 4.0 Dinner Break

Mr. Ajegba postponed the dinner break to follow a discussion on Mr. Ford's presentation.

#### 5.0 Discuss Presentation by CEO Michael Ford

Board members discussed the presentation made by Mr. Ford and the request for specific action steps. In response to a question regarding hiring a consultant, Mr. Ford indicated that staff was preparing the scope of work for a Request for Proposals.

Board members, with input from staff, discussed conversion to an Act 196 authority. There was some concern that compelling information had not yet been provided to determine that the Board should go down a specific path that could potentially be derailed by a failed millage vote. It was noted that creating an Act 196 organization does not commit AATA to becoming a countywide agency.

Mr. Ford stated his intent to bring compelling information on reorganizing to the Board in manageable pieces that can be considered as a whole at the appropriate time. A request was made for information to be provided on case histories of other Michigan communities that have reorganized under Act 196, either by Mr. Ford, or the consultant.

In response to a question from Charles Griffith on the timing of submitting a report to the Board, Mr. Ford agreed to provide a report to the Board on Act 196 in approximately one week. Mr. Annis requested that the report include information on governance structure. Mr. Ford noted that there will be political implications related to a new governing body, but that he could provide structural options.

Mr. Annis requested that the term "convert" be avoided, and the word "create" be used instead to indicate that an additional structural organization would be created, and the Act 55 authority not replaced. Mr. Nacht requested and received confirmation that if the Board were to vote to create an Act 196 organization, the existing Board would stand with seven members and nothing would change with existing service.

Mr. Nacht urged the Board and staff to have a simple, consistent and clear public message over the next two months to avoid confusion in the public arena and to allay concerns of any loss of service or changes to the existing agency, and clearly state that creation of an additional entity will allow the Authority to take steps to allow further steps, if that is determined to be the best direction for the community. Mr. Ajegba agreed with Mr. Nacht's recommendation and requested that staff convey the message to the Mayor and Ann Arbor City Council so that it can be conveyed to their constituents.

Following the discussion, the Board reached consensus on the following action steps:

- Open the November 11 PMER meeting to the public for discussion of the Vision and Mission Statements by as many Board members as could attend, with those unable attend to provide input in advance of the meeting;
- Vote on the Vision and Mission Statements at the November Board meeting;
- Discuss staff briefings on Act 196 in each of the committees;
- Meet with legal counsel on Act 196, if the Board deems necessary;
- Accept public input on the prospect of a countywide initiative at the December Board meeting;
- Place the focus of work in November on getting a thorough understanding of Act 196 in preparation for a vote on creating the structure of an Act 196 authority, in addition to the Act 55 authority, at the December Board meeting;
- Take a stand on countywide at the November Board meeting by adopting a motion, without a defined timetable, that the Board and staff should be moving in that direction.

## 6.0 Public Time

Terri Blackmore appeared before the Board. Ms. Blackmore questioned how much the public is going to know about the difference between an Act 196 and Act 55, noting that the Board was planning to receive public comment and suggesting that most people probably don't know that AATA is an Act 55 entity now. Ms. Blackmore suggested that absent a major educational campaign, the public is probably not going to provide the Board with any good discussion. Ms. Blackmore suggested that the Board instead ask for public comment on the support of countywide service.

Jim Mogensen appeared before the Board. Mr. Mogensen commented significant research he has conducted on Act 55 and the specifics of the Act which excludes municipalities, if there are contracts for service. Mr. Mogensen indicated that he does not see WALLY as countywide service. Mr. Mogensen doubts that a millage will pass and

notes that the transportation challenges in the area have not changed. Mr. Mogensen indicated that there are underlying issues with governance.

Luanne Bullington appeared before the Board. Ms. Bullington suggested that trains will be a stumbling block if included in a millage request, and that a rail component should be eliminated until such time as a specific source of funds is identified to pay for the service.

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

The Board took a break for dinner.

7.0 Adjournment

Mr. Griffith moved to adjourn the meeting with support from Ms. McCormick. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Griffith, Secretary