



City of Longview

Cowlitz Transit Authority
Agenda
RiverCities Transit

Minutes Cowlitz Transit Authority

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

4:00 PM

Longview Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair McDaniel at approximately 4:00 pm in the Longview Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Todd McDaniel, Rick Roberson, Dennis Weber, Tom Hutchinson and Anthony Harris (nonvoting member)

Excused: 2 - Mary Jane Melink and Gary Schimmel

Staff Present

Corey Aldridge, City of Longview
Jeff Cameron, City of Longview
Brad Windler, City of Longview
Amy Asher, City of Longview
Tabitha Hayden, City of Longview

Others Present

Betsy DeSpain, Paratransit Services
Matt Buchanan, Cowlitz Wahkiakum COG

3. Constituent Comments

None.

4. Consideration of Minutes for June 11, 2014, CTA Board Meeting

A motion by Roberson, seconded by Weber, the minutes of the regular meeting on June 11, 2014, were unanimously approved.

5. Public Hearing - Board Composition Review

Chair McDaniel declared the public hearing open at 4:01 PM to receive comments from the public. There were no public comments. Chair McDaniel closed the public hearing at 4:01 PM.

On a motion from Weber, seconded by Roberson, the current composition of the CTA Board was unanimously approved.

6. Establish Public Hearing for 2013 Annual Report and 2014-2019 Transit Development Plan

A motion was made by Weber, seconded by Roberson, to establish a Public Hearing for the 2013 Annual Report and Six-Year Transit Development Plan be held on August 13, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Calendar

Weber asked if ridership continued to improve. Aldridge responded that yes, June saw a 7.3 percent increase over the previous year. Currently ridership is up 3.4 percent for the year over 2013.

On a motion by Roberson, seconded by Hutchinson, the items on the consent calendar were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

June 2014 Annual Ridership

June 2014 Fixed Route Ridership

June 2014 Paratransit Ridership

May 2014 County Treasurer's Report

May 2014 CTA Fund Balance

8. Consideration of Invoices

On a motion from Hutchinson, seconded by Roberson, all invoices were approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously.

City of Kelso, June 2014 - \$493.63

City of Longview, July 2014 - \$250,339.70

Columbia Security Service & Systems, July 2014 - \$520.00

9. Manager's Report

Aldridge reported staff is pleased ridership continues to be on an upward climb. The operators are saying they are seeing new customers. Aldridge received a call from a gentleman who's staying at the coast who planned his vacation using only public transportation. He is riding Wahkiakum On the

Move to travel to Longview and then RiverCities Transit to maneuver around Longview and have lunch. He will board Amtrak to get to the airport where he is flying back home. This gentleman was pleased with our website where he could see the bus stop locations and times.

Hutchinson asked if the new customers were due to changes in the routes. Aldridge responded staff believes it is, though it is hard to tell only being six months into the services changes; it may take up to a year to know definitively whether it is due to routes or a change in peoples desire to ride public transit. The only way to truly know would be to get rider feedback on what brought them to RiverCities Transit. Cameron said, with an uptick in the economy the increase is due to improved service and not transit dependent. Hutchinson asked if the drivers relate the increase in ridership to the relationship with LCC. Windler answered that the LCC agreement accounts for 12-15 percent of monthly ridership, which has grown over the school year. Windler has been in contact with LCC, and will negotiate a price for the second year. LCC is happy with the program. The drivers have seen a lot of the LCC passes, providing a great short term impact; however the goal is the long term effect as these students transition into long term clients.

McDaniel asked if the software was helping the drivers. Aldridge answered that the RouteMatch software is helping both the drivers and staff, though we are experiencing issues with the modems transmitting. The hiccup is that only half the fleet is showing up in real time, the rest of the fleet defaults to the scheduled times. RouteMatch thinks they have an answer to resolving this issue. Paratransit rolled out May 19th, 2014. Paratransit drivers are giving positive feedback about the program.

Roberson asked about on time performance. Windler answered that our on time performance is hovering at 93-95 percent range. We were in the 40-60 percent range prior route changes. This is a dramatic improvement. Aldridge stated that our customer complaint volume has decreased dramatically.

Sales tax revenue is up 8 percent for June compared to 2013, and just over 12 percent higher for the year compared to 2013.

Aldridge introduced two new staff members. Tabitha Hayden as the new Administrative Assistant and Clerk of the Authority. Amy Asher is our newest addition as Mobility Supervisor; she joined us this week from the COG.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM

Tabitha Hayden, Clerk of the Authority

Todd McDaniel, Chairman