

## MINUTES

### PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

July 7, 2010

8:30 a.m.

#### Conference Room at FREDericksburg Regional Transit

- Members in Attendance: Lawrence A. Davies, City of Fredericksburg  
Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center  
Richard Pearce, University of Mary Washington  
Angeline Pitts, Caroline County  
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission  
Dr. Roy Weinstock, Community Representative  
Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
- Others Present : Kathleen M. Beck, Director of Public Transit  
Wendy Kimball, Assistant Director of Public Transit  
Arnold Levine, Manager of Policy, Planning and Compliance  
Marilyn Graves, Administrative Assistant/FRED  
Sharon Hollis, Connetics Transportation Group
- Members Absent : Jan Erkert, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Jack Green, King George County  
Deneal Helms, The Free Lance-Star  
Edd Houck, Alternate/Mary Washington Healthcare  
Tom McCoy, Mary Washington Healthcare  
John Moen, WFLS  
Mike Neuhard, Stafford County  
Lloyd Robinson, Alternate/George Washington Regional Commission  
Fred Sisk, Citizen Representative  
Bryan R. Workman, Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Davies at 8:35 am on July 7, 2010, in the conference room at the FREDericksburg Regional Transit facility (a/k/a The Lawrence A. Davies Transit Center), 1400 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg, VA.

Because there was not a quorum, voting on the minutes of the June 2, 2010, meeting could not take place.

#### Report of Director of Public Transit:

- Mr. Levine reported that ridership numbers for transit year 2010 were down about 10% from 2009. This means that FRED will not meet one of its 2010 goals for the increase of

ridership and that the possible increase of fares should be looked at very closely before being implemented again. There were approximately six days of down time because of the harsh winter weather (about 15,000 to 20,000 riders). He feels influences on ridership were the weather, fares being raised, King George and Stafford counties services being cut because of their budget cuts, riders losing their jobs and not needing transportation to and from employment, and gas prices leveling off and more people returning to their private automobiles for transportation.

- Changing FRED Express to Eagle Express. This new name should make it a little clearer that this service is adjunct to the University. New plaques will be placed at the bottom of FRED signs changing the name to Eagle Express. Mr. Pearce thanked FRED staff for making the extra effort to make this change. Mr. Levine did mention to Mr. Pearce that there is no designated pull off for the bus at Eagle Village even though a planner with the University of Mary Washington asked FRED staff what was wanted there. Mr. Pearce said that he will look into this matter.

**Presentation of Transit Development Plan by Connecticut Transportation:** Sharon Hollis of Connecticut Transportation Group, went through a power point she had prepared and that was distributed to the PTAB members before the meeting. She recapped the need for the Transit Development Plan (TDP), stating it is a requirement of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation as a condition of funding. She stated that Connecticut wanted to get PTAB's opinion of what is important to them and what should be prioritized over the next six years. Also, after the PTAB members have reviewed this document, Connecticut would like to know if there are in any needs that should be in the plan or any needs that should not be in the plan. Connecticut will sit down and make an operating plan for the next six years, make a financial plan and will match the funding sources to the costs. It is a large needs' plan.

After her presentation, there was a general discussion about the Transit Development Plan, as well as a question and answer time:

Mr. Levine noted that there is nothing mentioned about the Town Center at Spotsylvania Courthouse. Ms. Hollis replied that will be addressed. He also suggested that the Spotsylvania VRE station be included.

Ms. Utz asked if Connecticut has any ridership projections if all of the recommendations were done; how much would ridership increase. The reply from Ms. Hollis was that they look at the fare box ratio as it is today with revenue hours, increase the revenue hours and keep it constant. Dr. Weinstock commented that it would be helpful to put dates on the reports in the future; when was the data taken, years the expenditures are for, etc. Ms. Hollis said that there will be a plan for each year identifying what projects should be done and the price tag for each one. It will be a capital plan and a service plan for each year.

Mr. Levine asked what assumption is Connecticut making about federal operating assistance funding after the 2010 census. Answer: they are seeking guidance from DPRT as to what they should use. This is a big unknown until after census figures come out. Ms. Beck noted that if the region becomes a large urban, 5307 operating funds will go away; when you are a large urban, the only thing you can use these funds for is capital. She further stated that federal funds will not go through the State, but will come directly to FRED. Local governments will have to make up operating funds in their budgets. Caroline and King George are not under this; they are rural funding. Mr. Levine stated that he feels it is very important to address this in the Transit

Development Plan. There is currently a major movement in DC to let localities use money as they see fit.

Mr. Levine commented that this Transit Development Plan is quite compatible to the 2035 Long Range Plan, at least for the first 10 to 15 years where basically the conclusion was that FRED today buys less service per capita than many other places so the community is underserved. Some logical steps are to increase frequency of service, extend the FRED operating hours, consider extending service as demand warrants over time.

It was noted that the regional connector service addressed in the FAMPO report was not addressed in the TDP.

Mr. Levine asked why FRED shouldn't just do the "Unconstrained Needs" on the existing service; he thinks these are good things; things FRED staff have talked about. General discussion followed.

Mr. Levine also noted that demand response service was not addressed in the report; deviation service has saved the service thus far.

Mr. Levine complimented Connectics on their work on the Transit Development Plan.

### **Committee Reports:**

- (1) **Mission, Goals and Objectives** – Final Accomplishments of Mission, Goals and Objectives for TY 2010 were presented for approval of the board members. After brief discussion, a few changes were made to this document. This could not be presented for vote because of the lack of a quorum, but a new copy of the Final Accomplishments will be sent to each member of the PTAB before the August meeting and will again be presented for approval. Any suggestions for the Transit Year 2011 Mission, Goals and Objections should be sent to Ms. Graves on or before July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- (2) **Partnership/Marketing** – Ms. Beck reported there had been no recent in-bus advertising. Mr. Workman is the representative appointed to the PTAB from Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center. The issue of representatives of the Partners not attending the meetings, and many times there not being a quorum because of the continuous lack of attendance by some members, has become an issue. Dr. Weinstock suggested changing the quorum to being one-third of membership of the PTAB plus one. This issue will be brought before the board at the August meeting for a vote.
- (3) **Services to the Underserved** – Ms. Fults reported that the Mobility Coordination grant was renewed. Rides have started for medical trips to appointments in Richmond and Charlottesville.
- (4) **Operations and Oversight** – Ms. Kimball reported that the maintenance facility assessment of the appraisal is at the secondary site. The original appraisal came in \$500,000 under the tax appraisal; adjustments will be made in the next few weeks. VRE has added another train in the early morning; however, riders were polled and FRED will not be meeting this train; FRED will stay with existing service.
- (5) **Safety and Security** – Ms. Kimball reported that the gate has been installed to prevent vehicles from entering the FRED bus area.

**Other Business:**

- Because of the lack of a quorum at this meeting, Ms. Graves will e-mail board members to see if August 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> will be more convenient for the meeting since some persons attending this meeting have vacation plans. Board members will then be notified of the date picked by the majority in hopes that the next meeting will have a quorum.
- Today is the deadline for requests by localities for additional service requests.
- Additional appointments were made to several committees.

**Announcements:**

- FRED picnic is scheduled for September 18, 2010, at Old Mill Park
- Next PTAB meeting – to be determined
- ADA 20-year Celebration is on July 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 3 at Hurkamp Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Approved by the Public Transit Advisory Board:

  
Marilyn M. Graves

  
Date