

## **MINUTES**

### **PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD**

**April 6, 2011**

**8:30 a.m.**

#### **Conference Room at FREDericksburg Regional Transit**

- Members in Attendance:** Florence Barnick, The Free Lance-Star  
Jan Erkert, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center  
Tom McCoy, Mary Washington Healthcare  
John Moen, WFLS  
Wanda Parrish, Spotsylvania County  
Richard Pearce, University of Mary Washington  
Angeline Pitts, Caroline County  
Fred Sisk, Citizen Representative  
Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission  
Dr. Roy Weinstock, Community Representative  
Rodney White, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Others Present :** Kathleen M. Beck, Director of Public Transit/FRED  
Wendy Kimball, Assistant Director of Public Transit/FRED  
Arnold Levine, Manager of Policy, Planning and Compliance/FRED  
Marilyn Graves, Administrative Assistant/FRED  
Denis P. Paddeu, Regional Mobility Manager  
Don Engiles, Travel Trainer  
Scott Shenk, Transportation Reporter, The Free Lance-Star
- Members Absent :** Lawrence A. Davies, City of Fredericksburg  
Jack Green, King George County  
Edd Houck, Citizen at Large  
Mike Neuhard, Stafford County  
Lloyd Robinson, Alternate/George Washington Regional Commission  
Bryan R. Workman, Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Weinstock at 8:35 am 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.

The minutes of the February 2, 2011, meeting was presented for approval. On motion made by Ms. Erkert and seconded by Mr. Sisk, the minutes, as written, were approved by unanimous vote.

### **Report of Director of Public Transit:**

- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation audit. Auditors were at FRED an entire week. A full written report will be mailed to the Director.
- Ways to boost ridership: FRED staff is open to suggestions. Ms. Erkert asked if there were any particular routes that need a boost. Mr. Levine replied that the City routes stay constant; Spotsylvania County ridership is down but encouraging results have been noted with the change to the S3 route. Ms. Erkert suggested that a Spotsylvania ad be run in The Free Lance-Star this month, as well as VRE ads. Ms. Fults suggested an awareness campaign about FRED service being more efficient than it has been in the past. Mr. Paddeu said that he has been having positive feedback from their presentations. Dr. Weinstock stated that FRED staff may want to let people know how long it takes for a trip and that FRED staff will help with customizing a trip on the bus. Mr. Levine reported that FRED has applied for a grant for “real time” checks. He also reported that ridership figures have started to increase some.
- Update on FRED signs. Mr. Levine reported that Korman Signs has been chosen to produce the new FRED signs. Six hundred signs are scheduled to be delivered this month (at a cost of \$10 per sign). We are in the process of purchasing a vinyl machine to customize an individual sign for each stop.
- Update on maintenance facility. Ms. Kimball advised the board members that the closing for the four acre parcel to house the maintenance facility in the Bowman Center had taken place on April 1, 2011, with a purchase price of \$790,000. There are metal buildings on the property and some work will be needed on the buildings and on the grounds; 80% will come from federal funds; 16% from state funds; 4% from local funds.
- Fare adjustment for FY2012. Mr. Levine stated that the budget was based on the premise that fares would increase to \$0.75 in FY 2012. It has been previously expressed that the fare box revenue should get to 12% of total revenues by FY2015. Suggested fare increases would be as follows:
  - \$0.75 each boarding on regular service
  - \$30.00 monthly pass on regular service
  - \$1.50 each boarding on VRE
  - \$45.00 monthly pass on VRE(The \$200 yearly pass will remain the same)

General discussion followed. Mr. Levine reported that if the board decides to pass a resolution today to recommend an increase in fares, the Fares Option Paper will be forwarded to City Council; a public hearing will be advertised; if City Council approves increase, there will be advertisements in the media, as well as heavily advertised on the buses and the FRED website. The increase would be implemented on July 5, 2011. A motion was made by Jan Erkert that fares be increased to \$0.75 for an individual boarding on the regular service and to \$1.50 for an individual boarding on the VRE service. Mr. Sisk seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to pass this motion. A motion was made by Rick Pearce that the monthly pass for regular riders increase to \$30 for regular riders and to \$45.00 for VRE riders. John Moen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ms. Barnick made a motion that FRED staff investigate opportunities for lower price/fewer trip fare cards, which was seconded by Ms. Erkert. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

- King George County has unofficially indicated that it will not fund their portion of FRED for fiscal year 2012.

**Committee Reports:**

- (1) **Mission, Goals and Objectives** – Dr. Weinstock brought up that when this committee met in January to discuss the status of the mid-year accomplishments of the Mission, Goals and Objectives, it was noted that there was not a lot of input from the other committees appointed by the board. He suggested that there should be a working rule that committees meet twice a year – spring and fall. They should report back to PTAB after they meet. Committees should be working. Members of the board can schedule their meetings after a regular PTAB meeting with advance notice to FRED staff. After general discussion, Dr. Weinstock made a Motion that each PTAB committee meet at least once in the spring and once in the fall of each year. Ms. Utz seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- (2) **Partnership/Marketing** – Ms. Erkert stated that everything had been previously discussed in the meeting that pertained to Partnership/Marketing.
- (3) **Services to the Underserved** – Ms. Fults talked about the New Freedom grant; that clients are encouraged to use FRED, if they can; and that a majority of the trips are for medical purposes. Mr. Engiles was introduced as the new travel trainer, replacing Joe Weathersbee who returned to a job with the State Police.
- (4) **Operations and Oversight** – Mr. Levine reported that FRED is getting ready to order new buses; that three new drivers had been hired; and that overall, things are going well. Ms. Fults asked if service at any other feeder lots is going to be explored; the response was that there are no funds for expansion of service for fiscal year 2012.
- (5) **Safety and Security** – Mr. Sisk reported that he and Ms. Kimball are going to go through the building and check the cameras on the buses to see where there is vulnerability.

**Other Business:**

- New PTAB directory: no one had any changes at the meeting; several board members had contacted Ms. Graves before the meeting to make their changes.

**Announcements:**

- Next PTAB meeting – June 1, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Approved by the Public Transit Advisory Board

  
Marilyn M. Graves

  
Date