



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved CONTRACTED SERVICE OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, July 8, 2010

12:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL110(Madison Municipal Building)

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 4 -
Susan M. Schmitz; Bruce K. Sylvester; Mark M. Opitz and Rob Kennedy

Absent: 3 -
Jed Sanborn; Ahnaray Bizjak and Margaret Bergamini

Excused: 5 -
Rick Rose; Rindert Kiemel, Jr.; Bill Burns; Jacquelyn M. Dahlke and Andrew Potts

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kennedy moved approval of the minutes; Sylvester seconded. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. [19075](#) Update on FTA School Buss Issue

Metro had its Triennial Review in March. One issue noted was that school bus service was out of compliance with a policy statement issued some time ago that school service has to be a de minimus deviation from the regular service routes. Metro thought that policy statement had later been rescinded and felt there was a strong legal basis (i.e. Lamers v. Green Bay) that the existing service was appropriate. Other Wisconsin transit systems also got similar findings. Just before Metro's meeting with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Metro received notice that the school service was acceptable. Metro was concerned because 80% of the school service is two blocks or more outside the regular route. Metro views the schools as part of the community and felt it was in the spirit and letter of the rules. Notice of proposed rulemaking on this issue was rescinded after comments from transit systems, school systems, etc. Now further formal communication has come out on this issue. This has so far only happened in FTA Region 5, not nationally.

5. [15890](#) Update on RTA

There has been recent press about scheduling a referendum for November. That is unlikely to happen because the RTA Board wants to collect information from plans and groups working on transit issues. They are currently doing that research and will be developing a plan for transit. That is unlikely to be ready to put on the November ballot. Also, the mechanics of holding the election have not been ironed out. The County Clerk said he is not ready to divide municipalities by wards that need to have a ballot that includes the RTA question and those that are outside the RTA area. Some think it is a good idea to wait until the presidential election in 2012 for a better voter turnout, but have needs to address sooner than that. The RTA Board really needs to go out and educate communities that will vote, and time is needed for that.

6. [19076](#) Financial Report

Attachments: [Ride revenue April-March.pdf](#)
[Qtr1 2010 financial performance.pdf](#)
[Qtr1 Ride revenue.pdf](#)

Metro was very close in overall balancing of expenditures and revenues. Through May, Metro is a little over budget, but that will continue to balance out over time. One area over budget is fuel. Metro paid the higher contracted price from 2009 into the first month of 2010 because the contract is actually for a fixed amount of fuel. However, Metro will be retiring older buses and bringing in new hybrids which will save on fuel.

Revenue is up 10%. There is a shift away from cash and 10-ride card ridership, but increases in pass ridership, including the Commute Card. Metro is still working on breaking out ridership by route. We will have a one year transition with both reports. Eventually, we can show a chart with each route without interlining.

There were no material findings in the fiscal audit. Metro was under budget for 2009 and added \$389,000 to cash reserves. Metro had its lowest rate of accidents in five years and got \$204,000 back from the insurance company. Now the contingency is at about \$800,000. Cash reserves do not include money that is coming from the partners. The partner reserve is a separate fund. Metro will let partners know what that fund is at now.

7. [19077](#) Ridership Productivity

Attachments: [Route Productivity May10.pdf](#)

Ridership is up 0.2%. The route 80s are down, but some drivers are not counting appropriately. There is volatility on the Route 80s because we don't count by pass swipes, and there is so much ridership. Ridership is up 3.8% without the route 80s. Metro added about 4% additional service on an annualized basis in 2009. That starts slowly, so that is expected to develop. Nationally, a lot of commuter transit service has dropped with gas prices, but

the Epic commuter route is up. About two years ago, there were changes to Route 6 to improve on-time performance. This route is now more reliable from a customer service standpoint and perhaps that influences an increase in ridership.

8. [08290](#) Reports of Member Communities/Institutions

UW (Kennedy) – There was a Triennial Review issue with the Route 80s. A finding was issued that Metro needed to provide paratransit service free within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of route 80s. The FTA was interpreting the Route 80s service as open to everyone. Metro and UW met and changed eligibility for riding the 80s without paying a fare to faculty, staff, visitors and affiliates to University. There could be some occasional checking on this, but not regular ID checks during boarding. This relieves the need to have free paratransit service.

The University is still on schedule for opening Observatory Drive, Park Street and University Avenue by move in, so that will improve the bus service due to not having so many detours. The decision about whether or how much to charge for bus passes won't be made until the fall of 2012.

Middleton (Opitz) – The city won't apply for the second round of TIGER funding. It's a smaller pot, and it is even less likely than the first round that the city would get funding. They are trying to put together a different plan to phase in. They are hoping to work with Metro this fall to discuss improvements of service in the next couple years. They have established a committee that will oversee transit and bike/pedestrian issues.

MMSD (Howen) – They are just getting ready for the new school year.

Verona (Sylvester) – No report.

MPO (Schaefer) – There is a Transit Development Plan (TDP/RTA meeting this afternoon. They are also scheduling meetings out in the community to get feedback. It is important to get that feedback. It is not clear how this committee relates to the RTA and its Plan for Transit committee. Opitz said the RTA Board also established a stakeholder/advisory committee.

The subcommittee cannot meeting the second Thursday in September due to a holiday conflict. The next meeting will be the 3rd Thursday, September 16th at Noon.

TPC (Kamp) – There is a public hearing next week at the Transit and Parking Commission (TPC) about enforcement of the stroller/cart policy. The final decision might be postponed a few months to do work on community awareness and support programs. Some people would need help purchasing appropriate carts/strollers, so there is a need to work with non-profits. This came up in response to safety concerns. There is a safety versus a human service side.

In the overtime update, overtime is down by about 20%. Factors include absenteeism categories being down. Tentative agreements were declined by a Union vote, so we are using the tools we have available at this time.

Metro is looking at a seven-year plan for fareboxes. The plan is to purchase remanufactured fareboxes now and then look at potential after that for smart cards which would allow schools and others to use ID cards as bus passes.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM.