

MINUTES OF THE TRANSIT AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Held on August 10, 2007

The meeting of the Transit Authority Oversight Committee was held on August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, 1st Floor Conference Room, 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Board Members in attendance included:

Commissioner Tammy Hall	Unincorporated Lee County
Vice-Mayor Carla Brooks Johnston	City of Sanibel
Councilperson Dolores Bertolini	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Warren Wright	City of Fort Myers
Richard Shine	FDOT (Non-Voting)

Others in attendance included: Steve Myers and Carmen Monroy from LeeTran; Jed Schneck from Lee County Attorney's Office; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Meghan Marion from Lee County MPO.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Hall.

Commissioner Hall led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Marion called the roll.

Commissioner Tammy Hall – present
Councilman Ben Nelson – absent
Councilperson Dolores Bertolini – present
Councilman Warren Wright – present
Vice-Mayor Carla Brooks Johnston – present
Commissioner Ray Judah – absent
Richard Shine – present

Ms. Marion announced that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item #1 – Approval of Minutes for June 6, 2007 Transit Oversight Committee Meeting

MOTION BY VICE-MAYOR JOHNSTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 6, 2007 TRANSIT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING. SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI.

Mr. Shine commented that on page three, agenda item three, line five, council should be counsel. Also on page four, paragraph four, line two, should state "are willing to take it back to your councils".

Commissioner Hall asked if the motion maker and seconded agreed with the changes.

Vice-Mayor Johnston and Councilperson Bertolini stated that they both agreed with the changes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – Review and Comment on Modified Lee County Transit Authority Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Scott stated that staff is having problems scheduling meetings. He stated that there were two cancellations after the agenda packets went out. He stated that if we are going to continue meeting, he would prefer to do regularly scheduled meetings so that everyone knows enough in advance when the meetings are going to be held.

Mr. Scott also stated that if we are going to continue to meet it would be nice to setup alternates because it is hard to have these meeting with representation from all the different jurisdictions.

Commissioner Hall stated that this is a sub-committee of the MPO so we need to take these issues back to the MPO and talk about them. She stated that we have a draft here that we are going to talk about that eventually has to go back to the MPO for input. She stated that at that point we may or may not be meeting again, everything may go back to just going through the MPO.

Vice-Mayor Johnston presented the comments that she had in regards to the draft interlocal agreement. These comments were distributed in the agenda packets as an attachment to agenda item two.

Mr. Gogoi presented the bullet points from the staff report which indicated the changes that were made to the interlocal agreement based on the comments from the committee at the last Transit Authority Oversight Committee.

Vice-Mayor Johnston discussed her comments with the other members to see if the committee agreed with her comments.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Transit Authority Committee needs to try and agree on a draft interlocal agreement that can be taken back to the MPO for input and then distributed to the councils of the different municipalities.

Commissioner Hall directed the committee page by page through the draft interlocal agreement for comments and suggested changes.

Commissioner Hall stated that on page one of the interlocal agreement, Vice-Mayor Johnston's comments about the population is shown in the shaded area. Commissioner Hall asked if anyone was uncomfortable with the language on page one.

Vice-Mayor Johnston stated that she thinks it is great that it is included because of the congestion resulting from population growth.

Commissioner Hall stated that there weren't any changes noted on page two but asked if anyone would like to see anything worded differently.

Vice-Mayor Johnston stated that section one: Purpose needs to be changed to Purpose of the Transit Authority.

Commissioner Hall stated that on page three there were some issues with the funding source, item E on page three.

Commissioner Hall asked if anyone had anything else that they would like to add to that section.

Vice-Mayor Johnston stated that the shaded area looked good to her.

Commissioner Hall stated that we need to look at section three, item B of page three in regards to the composition of the board.

Vice-Mayor Johnston stated that section looks good at this time and it leaves it open in case in the future the board would like to take another option such as weighted votes.

Commissioner Hall stated that it also guarantees that every jurisdiction has at least one vote for sure.

Commissioner Hall asked if there was anything on page four that anyone would like to change or add.

Vice-Mayor Johnston asked Councilperson Bertolini what she thinks is enough of an opportunity to feel like your locality has a say in things that won't hamstring the operation of the Authority. Vice-Mayor Johnston state that she was looking at section four, items C and D.

Councilperson Bertolini stated that as long as the city has one vote, everyone else has one vote and there is an appeals process, she feels they would be strong enough if they didn't want something implemented in their city and that it has been suggested that they can appeal it prior to its implementation. She stated that she knows it is not what the authority wants to do.

Commissioner Hall stated that she doesn't have a problem with doing that. She stated the one thing we can't forget is that whether it is the Oversight Committee or the actual Board, there is representation. She stated that the determination of whether or not it is elected representation or appointed representation hasn't been determined. She stated that she doesn't have a problem with an appeals process because there would be one anyway and we might as well be pro-active and write it down now.

Councilperson Bertolini asked if anyone had a more comfortable wording that would be better for the City of Cape Coral. She stated that she would like a word that would really help her sell it without really having to sell it.

Commissioner Hall stated that there are people that are not going to want a Transit Authority and no matter what you put down in this interlocal, they are going to respond negatively.

Commissioner Hall stated that we could be more specific in section four item C by stating, "Coordination with appropriate municipalities and jurisdictions regarding..."

Vice-Mayor Johnston stated that she agreed with Commissioner Hall on inserting the word municipalities to section four item C. She stated that she would also like to insert another sentence after that in regards to "Recognition of each jurisdiction and municipalities voted Transit Policies", that were composed.

Mr. Myers from LeeTran asked Councilperson Bertolini if changing the wording in section four item D to "... request changes to proposed service..." would be beneficial to her.

Councilperson Bertolini stated that is an excellent idea.

Vice-Mayor Johnston agreed.

Commissioner Hall stated that item F was added and asked if anyone had anything else they would like to add.

No responses.

Commissioner Hall stated in section five, item A, the words "energy conservation" were added.

Councilman Wright stated that nobody can argue with that.

Commissioner Hall stated that page five is a boiler plate.

Vice-Mayor Johnston asked if under section seven: Duration of Agreement and Withdrawal Procedure, language could be added for adding municipalities.

Commissioner Hall requested that staff go ahead and add some language in there that states, "if any non participating municipality in Lee County would like to join the process they are welcome to sign-on".

Commissioner Hall asked if there is anything else that needs to be done to this document before we can take it to the MPO and get some sign-off there.

Commissioner Hall stated that with everyone's schedule she doesn't see it going through the system until November. She stated to Councilperson Bertolini that if she could get it through before elections that would be great because then everyone is up to speed on it.

Commissioner Hall stated that this could go to the MPO in October or November for approval. She stated that from there it needs to go to each of the councils for approval.

Vice-Mayor Johnston stated that this won't go out to the councils until November or maybe October to be signed.

Commissioner Hall stated this is an end of the year document. She stated we can put this on the October MPO agenda so that we can get it out to the councils.

Agenda Item #3 – Announcements

Commissioner Hall asked if anyone had any announcements.

No responses.

Agenda Item #4 – Topics for Next Meeting

Commissioner Hall stated that she didn't feel that there needed to be a next meeting until the MPO gives them new direction, unless staff feels we need to have another meeting.

The committee agreed to wait until the MPO gave them direction.

Agenda Item #5 – Information Items

Distributed in agenda packet.

Agenda Item #6 – Distribution Items

Distributed in packet.

Mr. Shine stated that earlier this week FDOT staff from the Central Office conducted a Smart Growth Management Site Impact and Level of Service workshop in Sarasota, FL. He stated that he attended the first day because Transit was on the agenda. He commented that it was a most excellent workshop, he can recall eight or ten years ago when there was a similar Growth Management workshop in this region of the state. He stated that he was working in transit and was not even invited so he invited himself and attended the meeting. He stated that there was not one transit person in the room of about 45 people. He stated that the material of the meeting that took place this week in Sarasota had such a keen emphasis on the relationship between Growth Management, Transit, and public transportation. He stated that we are making progress in the District with our district wide commuter assistance program. He stated that FDOT is also delivering a new grant to LeeTran in the form of a joint participation agreement. It is a State Public Transit Development Grant to assist LeeTran with an alternative fuel demonstration project.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.