

Surface Transportation Committee
January 19, 2012
Minutes

SURFACE: ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS BY PROVIDING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SAFE, CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION THROUGH A COORDINATED AND CONVENIENT BUS AND RAIL SYSTEM.

In Attendance

Chairperson Eunice A. Lewin
Acting Chairman Henry M. Sloma
Commissioner Mark D. Croce
Commissioner Peter G. Demakos
Commissioner James P. Eagan
Commissioner Kevin Helfer
Commissioner Michael P. Hughes

Absent

Commissioner Vincent G. Crehan*
Commissioner Carmen Granto
Commissioner Adam Perry
Commissioner Howard Zemsky
*Non-Voting Member

Kimberley Minkel
David J. State
Deborah C. Leous

Staff

Jason Abounader	Ruth Keating
Jackie Barker	Ralfa Musialowski
Mike Bykowski	Karen Novo
Patrick Dalton	Dave Rugg
Mike Esford	Barbara Thomas
George Gast	Bill Vanecek
Tom George	
Corey Hacker	
Doug Hartmayer	

Robert McCarthy, Buffalo News
Dr. Lynn Magdol, Citizens for Regional Transit
Alan Oberst, Citizens for Regional Transit
Athena Hutchins, NITTEC

Chairperson Lewin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

FINANCIALS:

Reviewed the following in detail:

Month Actual to Budget:

- Total Revenues were \$101K (3.3%) unfavorable, passenger fares were \$91K (3.0%) unfavorable.
- Total Operating Assistance was \$56K (0.7%) unfavorable.
- Total Operating Expenses were \$16K (0.1%) unfavorable.

YTD Actual to Budget

- Total Revenues are \$33K (0.1%) favorable, passenger fares are \$166K (0.7%) favorable
- Total Operating Assistance is \$538 (0.8%) unfavorable.
- Total Operating Expenses are \$229K (0.3%) unfavorable.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Debbie Leous reported fuel costs for December 2011 were below budget as fuel was priced at \$3.06/gallon and budgeted at \$3.15/gallon. Fuel costs have risen and that will be taken into account in future budget considerations.

Normal Communications continues to fall behind in payments. There are concerns about their inability to meet the contractual obligations. An RFP is being developed for consideration in February 2012 and a new contract could be considered as early as April 2012. Commissioner Lewin requested to be kept updated on the status of this.

Commissioner Perry requested that Surface Transportation prepare a best case/worst case analysis taking into consideration several scenarios. A list of assumptions will be prepared by Tom George and will address impacts of rising fuel costs.

Kimberley Minkel reported that a revised Five Year Operating & Capital Plan will be presented at next month's meeting.

Private partnership will be explored for areas where service may be cut.

Commissioner Lewin requested Debbie Leous to provide a copy of the data from three years ago regarding fuel price increase/ridership.

Commissioner Eagan requested an analysis of adjudication costs as well as possibly referring unpaid tickets to local jurisdiction.

Unscheduled Absenteeism rate is 8.0% YTD and 7.0% for Month of December 2011.

Big Bus System Miles between Service Interruptions was 6,407 miles YTD compared to 4,666 miles prior YTD. Tom George credited the hard work of the mechanics as well as the new fleet for this continuous trend.

George Gast reported on the status of layoffs. Currently the department is down 18 officers through layoffs and attrition. Chief Gast has been in contact with numerous

agencies in Buffalo and elsewhere to provide leads and opportunities for the laid off members. Kimberley Minkel reported that efforts are underway to obtain civil service status for the laid off employees, whereby possible lateral transfers may exist. Currently the staffing level is where it was in 2005. As safety is of the utmost concern, overtime is utilized to staff locations at the busiest periods of the day by bringing BNIA officers to the rail. Commissioner Lewin requested a report be given which will provide how the department will provide for a safe environment in order to reassure our riders. Audits and assessments of the system are constant, changing as conditions warrant.

BOARD ACTIONS

1. Authorization for Change Order, AnsaldoBreda, Inc., Supplemental Agreement, CH2M Hill, Mid-Life Rebuild Project, LLRT.

Change Order No. 023, in the amount of \$110,379.08, consists of two proposed change orders, as well as Supplemental No. 7 with CH2M, resulting in a \$110,379.08 increase. Under PCO 052, ABI will reimburse the NTA for extra costs associated with the time spent by CH2M Hill between June 2011 and September 2011 for document reviews in order to assist ABI in achieving acceptance of LRV's Nos. 114 and 123 into revenue service. Under PCO 053, ABI will reimburse costs associated for the assistance provided by CH2M Hill for the preparation and completion of two revenue service related documents. Under Supplemental Agreement No. 7 the NFTA will increase CH2M Hill's contract scope of work for extra engineering costs between June 2011 and September 2011 and for preparation assistance.

2. Authorization for Acceptance of Bid, Rail Development Group, LLC, Type B Vital Relays, LLRT

Rail Development Group, LLC was the sole bidder for the remanufacture and testing of Type B Vital Relays for a total not-to-exceed \$375,125.00. The Vital B Relay repair is imperative for the safe operation of the railcars. An estimated 50-75 relays are remanufactured each year.

3. Authorization for Agreement, VAE Nortrak North America, Inc., Mall Track Switches, LLRT

Mall Track Switches are imperative for the proper and safe operation of the railcars. Only one other company that supplies this equipment bid on the RFP but were unable to comply with the Buy America requirements. The agreement with VAE Nortrak North America, Inc. is in the amount of \$198,057.00.

4. Authorization for Procurement, Dell Marketing, LP, Verint Audiolog and Ancillary Equipment, LLRT

The primary function of the audiologger is to record all radio and telephone conversations of the controllers and field personnel. The current audiolog unit is past its useful life and fails periodically. The contract with Dell Marketing, LP is in the amount of \$115,633.32.

5. Authorization for Agreement, the Martin Group, Marketing and Outreach Strategy, NITTEC

This agreement will provide consultant services to develop a Marketing and Outreach Strategy for NITTEC in an amount not-to-exceed \$143,600.00. The purpose of the marketing and research initiative is to expand NITTEC to a larger and more diverse group of travelers in WNY and Southern Ontario.

6. Authorization for Procurement, Affiliated Computer Services, Radio Equipment, NFTA Metro

This procurement will provide two-way radio equipment to be installed in 19 transit buses currently on order and will also provide 2 sets of spare equipment. ACS has been determined to be a validated single source for this procurement due to the proprietary software and firmware used in this equipment and the two way radio system. The NFTA Internal Audit Dept. has completed a review and has determined the cost of this equipment to be fair and reasonable in the amount of \$86,803.71.

7. Authorization for Supplemental Agreement, DCB Elevator Company, Inc., Escalator Rehabilitation, NFTA Metro

This supplemental agreement with DCB Elevator Company Inc., in the amount of \$153,426.80, is for costs associated with the rehabilitation of two escalators located at the University and LaSalle Stations. Expenditures to date for maintenance and repairs beyond the control of the Contractor have increased significantly due to unforeseen escalator deterioration that has caused the two escalators to fail.

A motion was moved by Commissioner Eagan and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to approve Board Actions. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Paratransit Service Reductions

Three handouts were provided to staff, which showed 937 of the 4,031 active clients would no longer be included in the Paratransit service area defined by areas within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of existing fixed routes. Rides to and from existing facilities affected are also shown. All clients have been contacted advising them of the public hearings and have been encouraged to attend. New Freedom Grant money has been used in the past to "grandfather" some of these clients and as there is money available through this grant, to develop transitional services if deemed appropriate. Discussion with Erie Co. DSS was held prior to the current administration being in place and there has been no discussion with Niagara County DSS but both agencies will be contacted. Commissioner Eagan offered to provide contacts with Erie Co. DSS. Private providers have also been contacted to discuss opportunities. The DSS will be contacted to discuss same. Commissioner Lewin requested Barbara Thomas to provide the Board with an overview of what services Paratransit provides in order to have a better understanding.

2. Public Hearings

Will begin January 30, 2012. Staff will be available to greet individuals and provide handout on proposed cuts, as well as a comment form. The hearings will start with a presentation by Kim Minkel and Tom George will finish. Doug Hartmayer will serve as moderator. An open podium will be available for individual public comment, 3 minutes maximum. The hearings will be available on the NFTA website the day after they take place.

Due to time constraints, Commissioner Lewin will discuss LRV Rebuild, 30 Day Pass and Traffic on Main Street at the February 2012 meeting.

OTHER ITEMS:

A handout was given showing an analysis regarding proposed NYS STOA impacts on service if the proposed Governor's budget were to be approved. Commissioner Sloma requested a work session be held to discuss detailed information on how routes are valued after the public hearings are held.

Tom George gave a status update of correspondence received regarding the proposed service cuts that have been received thus far. Formal responses have been made to each. Commissioner Lewin requested that this information be emailed to all Commissioners.

Dr. Lynn Magdol gave a brief update outlining the measures Citizens for Regional Transit have taken regarding the proposed service cuts. CRT has reached out to the WNY Delegation, coordinated with other groups and conducted petition drives in an effort to stop the proposed service reductions and receiving additional revenue. They are encouraging the public to attend the public hearings and voice their opinions.

As there was not a quorum at the Audit & Governance Committee meeting not allowing action to be taken, the following two items on Audit & Governance's agenda were reviewed & approved during the Surface Meeting:

- Authorization for NYSDOT Mass Transportation Capital Project Agreement, Contract No. K006751, Supplemental Agreement No. 9, PIN Nos. 5823.17 through 5823.36
- Authorization for Agreement, Durham Staffing, Inc., Temporary Seasonal Workers, April 15, 2012 through April 15, 2013.

A motion was moved by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Acting Chairman Sloma to adjourn the Surface Transportation Committee.