

# **City of Gainesville**

*City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, December 13, 2010**

**1:00 PM**

**City Hall, Room 16**

## **Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee**

*Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Chair  
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Member  
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Member*

*Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.*

## CALL TO ORDER

*The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM.*

## ROLL CALL

Present: Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Scherwin Henry and Thomas Hawkins

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa moved and Commissioner Hawkins seconded to adopt the agenda as presented.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 100586.

#### **Approval of the November 8, 2010 Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes (B)**

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa moved and Commissioner Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes as submitted.*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approve the minutes of the November 8, 2010 meeting as submitted.*

#### **Approved as Recommended**

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## DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

*These minutes are a summary of the meeting and are not a verbatim discussion. An audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.*

### 100269.

#### **Status Update on the City Commission Strategic Initiative to Implement Premium Transit Service (B)**

**This item is to provide follow up information to the City Commission regarding Strategic Initiative 5.5: Implement improved transit as described in the Regional Transit System (RTS) Premium Transit Service Report**

*Assistant City Manager, Paul Folkers, advised the Committee that this is an update on the new strategic initiative to Implement Premium Transit Service.*

*Jesus Gomez, Transit Director, shared a power point presentation with the Committee that outlined Premium Transit Service.*

*Commissioner Hawkins commented about the branding aspects for the downtown circulator bus. Mr. Folkers advised that it would be one of RTS' existing buses, with a few minor tweaks aesthetically, to make the bus look like a streetcar/trolley. Commissioner Hawkins suggested a more modern looking bus; as opposed to nostalgia. He felt that if we are going to provide this service, it should definitely have a different look; so people would recognize it as that type of service.*

*Mr. Gomez advised there is funding for one route, running from downtown to UF beginning next fall. Commissioner Henry inquired about the frequency of this route. Mr. Gomez advised the frequency has not yet been determined. Commissioner Mastrodicasa commented that there is an opportunity for the downtown parking garage to sell decals to UF employees and that this would be a perfect pairing: employees park in the garage and take the downtown trolley to UF. Public Works Director, Teresa Scott, advised that staff has placed advertisements in the Alligator but haven't received any responses.*

*Commissioner Henry ask if drivers of the streetcar would have to stop at every traffic light or would we be able to apply for an exemption. Ms. Scott advised that the idea is to link the Traffic Management System in with Transit so that they can move through the corridors. Mr. Folkers reminded the committee that there is currently a referral to the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee to review RTS routes outside the city and what the county pays for those routes.*

*Commissioner Henry inquired about anticipated riders of the proposed new routes. Doug Robinson, Transit Planner Chief, advised (based on what he remembers, because he did not have the figures at the meeting) that an update was done on the Transit Development Plan in 2009 and staff used what was developed from the Department of Transportation as a forecasting tool. They forecasted the ridership at approximately 14 million in 2010 if everything was done that was in RTS's plan and to the end of the plan which is 2019 if everything was implemented the estimated ridership was forecasted at 17 million riders.*

*Commissioner Henry commented on enhancing existing service, advising staff that there is a desire to increase the routes and the frequency for the East Gainesville routes. He reminded staff that we need to balance the routes on both sides of towns, because we dont wont citizen to get the wrong perception; that new routes are created for Santa Fe College when they have been requesting increased routes and frequency on the East side. Although there is the expectation that Santa Fe is going to get the funding to assist with the routes, we still need to be mindful of citizens' concerns.*

*Commissioner Henry commented that the SW 16th Avenue Corridor is being considered for transition into State Road 24 and BRT. He inquired if staff is having conversations with FDOT as they remove the parking off of 16th and begin to convert for truck traffic and through traffic; if they are going to leave some leeway to accommodate BRT. Mr. Gomez advised that staff has had some conversations with FDOT but an analysis has to be done. Mr. Robinson added that during the preliminary design and engineering study for Archer Road and 16th Avenue, staff has been coordinating with FDOT.*

*A brief discussion ensued regarding potential funding sources and the draft summary. The Committee suggested that staff contact the County about funding. The Committee requested that this presentation be given at a future MTPO meeting.*

*Commissioner Hawkins made several comments: 1) regarding RTS governance - should remain a city department; unless it was an independent agency, 2) funding options - staff should pursue all funding options discussed; and 3) the numbers presented for enhancing existing services and premium service - would BRT and streetcar divert transit riders from existing service; could we reduce frequency routes or consolidate routes on the BRT corridor. Mr. Gomez advised that staff would have to run the numbers.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee receive an update on the progress of the Strategic Initiative 5.5: Implement improved transit as described in the Regional Transit System (RTS) Premium Transit Service Report.*

**Discussed**

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100269\_Premium Transit Service Report\_20101213.pdf  
100269\_PPT\_20101213.pdf

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

*The next meeting is scheduled to occur on January 31, 2011 at 2:30 PM.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.*