

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

November 28, 2018

5:30 PM

RTS Administration

34 SE 13th Road, Conference Room 5264

Regional Transit System Advisory Board

*Thomas Black (Chair)
William Breeze (Vice-Chair)
Barbara Scott (Member)
Martha Miller (Member)
Richard Nelson (Member)*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Black called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Chair Black, Vice-Chair Breeze, Member Scott, Member Miller, and Member Nelson

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[180553.](#) Regional Transit System Advisory Board Minutes of September 12, 2018 (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Transit System Advisory Board approve the Minutes of September 12, 2018.*

Approved by Consensus

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

[180569.](#) Regional Transit System Advisory Board Staff Updates (B)

Staff in attendance - Jesus Gomez, Malisa McCreedy, Krys Ochia, Millie Crawford, Tom Idoyaga, Roy Darnold, Paul Starling, Patti Wiggs, Rosalyn Jones, Aastha Patel and Kimberly Sweigard.

Introduction of the Department of Mobility Director Malisa McCreedy - Malisa McCreedy introduced herself and explained that the City created its new Mobility Department to align its transportation services into one department: transit, bicycle/pedestrian, traffic operations, and parking. New emerging technology, such as autonomous vehicles and electric scooters are being considered for a first mile/last mile solution and could be implemented early next year. Jesus Gomez, Debbie Leistner, Emmanuel Posadas are working on the following: blending their areas into one Mobility Department, creating and marketing a brand, working on side projects with UF, leveraging an improved end-to-end transportation experience for customers that is user friendly and working on a complementary mobility plan and Transit Development Plan (TDP). A slide presentation accompanied Ms. McCreedy's update.

ADA Update – ADA Transit Services Coordinator Mildred Crawford provided a verbal update to the Board and went over the ADA summary which includes increased MV ridership. Ms. Earnesha Jackson from MV Transportation gave a report on the ViewPoint paratransit scheduling system training she attended in Atlanta. Ms. Crawford noted an RFP for paratransit service will be issued next year. Chair Black asked about conducting a review to bring paratransit services in-house and was advised it could be addressed in the TDP.

Customer Service Update – Customer Service Advocate Patti Wiggs provided a verbal update on current activities and initiatives and went over the Customer Service Summary. She said complaints are well below the national standard but her goal is 0 complaints.

Marketing & Communications Update – Marketing & Communications Specialist Tom Idoyaga provided a verbal update on current Marketing activities and initiatives including Mobility Department branding and improvements to the Spring schedule book. Jesus Gomez reported that the name of the Autonomous vehicle service cannot include “bus” so at this point, it will not have a name but will be covered under “Gainesville. Mobility.”

Planning Update – Planning Manager Kryz Ochia reported that he met with Cindy at the Ocala International Airport and found that they do not handle commercial flights. He advised the Board that every three (3) years RTS must provide proof to the FTA that its collection method for NTD certification is still valid. RTS is currently in the process of collecting that information. Chair Black offered his help, if needed, because he was a NTD project manager in Washington, DC, for six (6) years. Kryz noted that Tri-County and Connect services will begin January 7. RTS will obtain a permit to use a parking lot at a gas station in Alachua for its Park-n-Ride service. The Park-n-Ride program will be implemented in phases. He also gave a report on ridership and route productivity.

Transit Director’s Report – Transit Director Jesus Gomez and Operations Manager Roy Darnold provided an update on current staffing levels, which are better than last year at this time, however, there are still vacancies which create overtime. Director Gomez went over his list of updates including the submission of budget information to DOT, holiday service, the Transit Asset Management Plan to meet FTA regulations, the Safety and Security Plan, adding hours to Later Gator service, installing WiFi on several campus routes which will hopefully lead to all buses, a pedestrian/bike detection system, autonomous vehicles, upcoming City Commission agenda items, Gator Aider revenue of \$215,000 (basically break-even), customer service software, and piggybacking on an app to purchase RTS bus passes that the City is currently using for payment of parking tickets. Mr. Starling noted the difficulty in filling mechanic positions and the criteria for those positions, including standards that will be required in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Transit System Advisory Board receive the update from staff.*

Heard

180567.

Regional Transit System Advisory Board Annual Workplan (B)

Kimberly Sweigard gave background on the new RTS Advisory Board Annual Workplan that is being requested by the new City Clerk. The workplan will provide information from Advisory Boards to the City Commission regarding items the Boards have been involved in and items the Boards would like the City Commission to know about. A work session was proposed to be held at 4:00pm prior to the scheduled CAB meeting on January 23rd. Discussion items could include ADA standards, Eastside service, fleet replacement, and staff continuity. Each board member should bring one (1) item to discuss being added to the list.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Transit System Advisory Board discuss an annual workplan for 2019.*

Discussed

[180590.](#)

Guaranteed Ride Home Program (B)

Chair Black wanted the Board to be aware of the Guaranteed Ride Home Program from Fairfax County, Virginia, that was included in the agenda packet.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Transit System Advisory Board hear a presentation.

Discussed

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

Mr. Blount stated that a negative story regarding spotty RTS service on the weekends was reported several months ago in The Alligator and that is not what we want to hear. Director Gomez said that has already been addressed with UF and new Saturday service is being recommended for next year.

Mr. Blount wanted the Board to be aware of a community action program in Montgomery, AL, and other cities, called "Truth in Reconciliation" that promotes racial harmony and tries to resolve bad marks in history, such as lynchings. This program is being addressed by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Blount advised the Board that he will be performing holiday jazz on Friday, December 21 at 7:00pm at Cypress and Grove.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Board unanimously agreed to change the November 2019 CAB meeting to November 20, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:26 PM.