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INFORMATION:

April 3 – Event for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Staff Resource: Dianne Frederick, E&PM, 704-432-4350, dfrederick@charlottenc.gov

To raise awareness of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, a Pinwheel Garden will be planted on the plaza of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center.

The City, in partnership with Mecklenburg County, will hold a press conference on the plaza, April 3 at 10 a.m. to promote Pinwheels for Prevention. This event will bring attention to community activities that support families, and to public policies that prevent child abuse. City Council is invited to join the Board of County Commissioners and other officials to help plant the pinwheels.

Pinwheels are being used across the country to educate communities about the importance of supporting children and families. For more information on Pinwheels for Prevention, National Child Abuse Awareness Month and April activities planned in Mecklenburg County, visit <http://www.facebook.com/MecklenburgChildAbuseAwareness>.

February 26 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary

Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov

At its meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, MTC considered three action items and heard two information items:

Title VI Policy Update

MTC unanimously passed the Title VI Major Service Change and Fare Change Policy, which ensures Title VI consideration whenever there is a major service or fare change that could impact minority or low-income communities. In the event of a major service or fare change, CATS will review the populations affected and perform an alternative analysis if minority and/or low-income populations are negatively affected in disproportionate amounts.

Equitable Service Analysis for CATS Route 98

The North Meck Village Rider is a service in northern Mecklenburg County. To better match the bus service to high demand areas, Route 98 McCoy Road was proposed for relocation of 2.3 miles to CPCC's Merancas campus. Service within the neighborhood served was unchanged, but service to the North County Regional Library will be discontinued. Although the service area is not classified as minority or low income, surveys indicated that the route's riders fall in the low income category. To avoid a disproportionate impact on those riders, riders will be able to call ahead to travel to areas formerly served, since the route is subject to deviated service. This was the first major service changed reviewed by MTC under the Major Service Change and Fare Change Policy. MTC unanimously approved the service adjustment for Route 98.

Request from Mecklenburg Transportation System (MTS)

MTS provides transportation for disabled and elderly clients. CATS and MTS work together to serve client needs within Mecklenburg County. CATS Special Transportation Service (STS) has referred disabled clients who do not meet STS client requirements to MTS; MTS has referred clients to STS. MTC unanimously approved the request to use CATS' Independence Boulevard bus way for MTS buses with the MTS logo.

FY2015 Operating Program

Staff gave an overview of CATS core services: the Bus Operations Division, which encompasses local express and regional buses, vanpool and STS services; Rail Operations, which will begin to prepare for operations for the CityLYNX Gold Line and LYNX Blue Line Extension services as well as continuing operations for the successful LYNX Blue Line; and Transit Safety and Security, which ensures passenger safety for all CATS services. Key cost drivers in the FY2015 Operating Program include fuels, utilities, personal service and insurances such as railroad and risk insurance. MTC policies recommend a fare increase every two years to ensure that fare revenues keep pace with inflation and reflect a fair-share contribution by riders to the costs of operating the transit program. Staff analysis concluded that a twenty cent fare increase will require no reduction of current service levels. Increased costs in the key cost drivers would require reducing the current service level if no fare increase is implemented. The public hearing on the fare increase will be March 27, 2014 at the beginning of the MTC meeting.

NCDOT FY2015 Transportation Demand Management Program Grant

NCDOT's Transportation Demand Management Program requires Board approval yearly for grant receipt prior to the grant's submission. The grant allows CATS to reach out to employers. Board approval for the grant will be an action item on MTC's agenda at the March meeting.

CATS CEO Report

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

a. CityLYNX Gold Line Update:

The City has received approval from FTA to enter into project development for the CityLYNX Gold Rush Phase 2. The Charlotte City Council has authorized funds to advance the project to at least 65 percent, which will allow CATS to submit a Small Starts grant application for the project to enter the same federal funding process used for the LYNX Blue Line and BLE.

b. Financial Update:

Ms. Flowers said that CATS is about \$1 million short in the budget. Staff will monitor year to date performance to see if budget adjustments need to be made mid-year.

Discussion: Mayor Taylor noted that Pineville comes in lowest on sales tax every month and why, since there is a large mall there. Ms. Pereira replied that the figure was based on population.

c. Grants Update:

CATS worked with a third party to administer a project selection process for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and new Freedom Grant programs and select projects. The Metrolina Association for the Blind was a grant recipient. CATS also received a JARC grant which will partially fund a service to the Charlotte Premium Outlets.

d. State Agenda:

Staff is working on the strategies developed by the TWFG for the legislative Long Session next year. In this year's Short Session, CATS is advocating for HB375 to allow 60' buses. Staff will bring a resolution to MTC's March meeting to will reiterate support for HB375.

The next MTC meeting will be March 26, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

[February 6 Economic Development & Global Competitiveness Committee Summary](#)