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## INFORMATION:

### June 26 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary

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At its meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, the MTC had one action item and heard one information item:

#### *Transit Funding Working Group*

MTC members unanimously approved the following:

- Receive and endorse the report and recommendations from the Transit Funding Working Group dated May 6, 2013;
- Direct the Co-chairs Huntersville Mayor Jill Swain and Charlotte City Council member David Howard to organize a new committee from the group's membership. The new committee's role will be to advance the group's recommendations;
- The new committee is also open to MTC member participation; and
- The new committee will develop a process for monthly reporting to the MTC.

#### *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program*

The purpose of the DBE program is to ensure nondiscrimination in award and administration of federally-assisted contracts. It helps level the playing field for minority and women owned businesses in competition for federally assisted projects. CATS staff is preparing to submit a three-year DBE goal to FTA, which will include the LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE) project, classified as a mega-project. Area small businesses will get a bump in business from this mega-project through the DBE program. Staff reviews all the work elements involved in the project. For the BLE, past participation in the LYNX Blue Line formed the template to determine the base figure for relative availability of area DBEs, with a market area encompassing the State of North Carolina. The goal is studied and adjusted for such items as the current capacity of DBEs to perform the work on upcoming projects. There are cases where there are not enough DBEs to work on a project because they are already committed to other projects. CATS is currently involved in public participation to examine the goal and make any necessary adjustments, as well as to let DBEs know about upcoming opportunities. The goal is updated in three-year intervals, but may be adjusted and resubmitted if something major happens within that three-year period that may affect the DBE goal, such as the CityLYNX Gold Line. CATS plans to hold a "Meet the Primes" event so smaller companies can meet the prime contractors for the project.

#### *CATS CEO Report*

Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

##### **a. Financial Update:**

Sales tax revenue recovery continues. Year-to-date, CATS is \$2.735 million ahead of budget. This is good news since other funding sources are diminishing. The City of Charlotte approved CATS' budget for 2014 two weeks prior to the MTC meeting. Included in the budget was funding of up to \$250,000 to continue the study with Norfolk Southern (NS) on

the Red Line corridor, contingent on some level of contribution by the towns. No number was set. CATS is in discussions with the state about entering into a white paper study over the Passenger Policy Update from NS. That study could cost as much as \$90,000; CATS hopes the state will participate 50 percent toward the cost of that study. A more extensive study may require contributions from the towns along the line.

**b. Cancellation of July MTC Meeting:**

MTC members unanimously approved cancellation of the July MTC meeting as there were no items on the July agenda.

**c. Financial Plan Update:**

CATS will submit an update to the Financial Plan submitted to FTA last year as part of the contract for the Federal Full Funding Grant Agreement. As a mega-project, updates are required after financing is obtained.

**d. Alternative Funding Efforts:**

Ms. Flowers, Mayor Swain and Council member Howard attended the Clinton Global Initiative in Chicago. They participated in the sessions on infrastructure financing for cities. CATS put forward the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan and expansion as an infrastructure financing challenge. Discussions centered on Public Private Partnerships (P3s). Participants were encouraged to commit to actions to try to solve infrastructure challenges. CATS committed to holding an East Coast Public Private Partnership forum in the fall. This is an opportunity to educate stakeholders and legislators on what can be done with P3s to move projects forward. Staff will work with members the Transit Funding Working Group to develop a structure and work plan for the forum.

*Other Business*

Winners of this year's Bus Roadeo and Rail Rodeo challenges were introduced. Lonny Earnhardt was winner of the Bus Operators Roadeo competition. Bus Operation Division maintenance competition winners were Jeff Dahle, Charles Jones and Greg Trogdon. Special Transportation Services Operator Henry Minnett won the local competition in the Small Bus division. Winners of the CATS Rail Maintenance competition, Charles Truong, Patrick Mills and Eugene Capote, came in first in the national competition in their second year of national competition and also placed first in the international Rail Rodeo. Kevin Hooks won the local rail Rodeo Operator competition; Metro Coston placed second. Both Mr. Hooks and Mr. Coston placed second overall in the national competition.

The next MTC meeting will be August 28, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.