

RED LINE TASK FORCE
Meeting Summary
April 27, 2011
DISCUSSION SUMMARY

MEMBERS: Mayor John Woods, Mayor of Davidson, Chair
Mayor Jill Swain, Mayor of Huntersville
Mayor Jeff Tarte, Mayor of Cornelius (Absent)
Bill Thunberg, Mooresville Representative
Carroll Gray, Lake Norman Transportation Commission
Iredell County Representative (Vacant)
Commissioner Harold Cogdell, Jr., Mecklenburg County, Vice Chair (Absent)
Mayor Anthony Foxx, Mayor of Charlotte (Absent)

CATS

STAFF: Carolyn Flowers, CEO, Director of Public Transit
John Muth, Deputy Director for Development
Dee Pereira, CFO, Manager of Transit Administration
Brian Nadolny, North Corridor Project Manager
Danny Rogers, Transit Corridor Project Manager
Tina Votaw, Transit Planner
Penny Traywick, Office Assistant

OTHERS: Councilman David Howard, Charlotte City Council
Leamon Brice, Davidson Town Manager
Nancy Carter, Charlotte City Council
Scott Greer, Charlotte City Finance
Jack Flaherty, NCDOT Rail
Bill Coxe, Huntersville Transportation Planner
Adam Guerino, Charlotte City Finance
Jonathan Wells, Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Department
Gwen Cook, Mecklenburg County Greenway Planner
Greg Ferguson, Huntersville Town Manager
Eric Gorman, Parsons Brinkerhoff
Todd Steiss, Parsons Brinkerhoff

Meeting time 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:00 p.m.

- II. **Approval of March 23, 2011 meeting summary**
The meeting summary was approved.

III. Information Items

Ms. Flowers, John Muth and Dee Pereira met with Deputy Secretary Westmoreland, Pat Simmons and Miriam Perry in Raleigh to discuss forming a partnership to further the Red Line project. It was a positive meeting and there will be ongoing discussions in the State's participation. They also talked with members of the Mecklenburg delegation and NCDOT.

Carolyn Flowers reported Transportation Secretary Conti will convene a meeting to be held at the end of May. Participants will include key members of his staff, Paul Morris and the Mayors. She will send details of the time and place when they have been determined.

Gwen Cooke from Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation gave a presentation on the proposed Red Line Trail for pedestrians and bikes which will provide a north-south connection for bicyclists and pedestrians to be built adjacent to the Red line. The rail will cover the 30 miles from uptown Charlotte to Mooresville, and would provide a safer and greener mode of transportation. It will provide access to all proposed Red Line stations, and connectivity for schools, greenways, parks, residential developments, businesses and commercial centers. See handout in a separate mailing.

IV. Discussion

Representative Killian has introduced HB422 which would require the General Assembly to approve any federal rail grants to the State of over \$5M. John Muth reported that HB422 does not apply to the initial moneys already allotted for high speed rail. Included in that allotment is money for the NS/CSX grade separation near the Red Line crossing. If HB422 is passed, all subsequent requests would be subject to it, which include pending grants for Gateway Station and additional trackwork downtown. Grant requests made to the General Assembly during the normal session will be reviewed and, if so deemed, approved within 60 days. The Governor can request a special session of the General Assembly to address requests made at other times. If the General Assembly does not convene, requests are automatically approved in 60 days.

The State has applied for a grant for approximately \$680M for the Charlotte Gateway Station and the environmental documentation for the Raleigh to Richmond construction. Mayor Woods suggested that all involved parties actively support the effort to obtain these grant monies which will benefit the entire State. Paul Morris stressed that the economic development and growth of the State assets is the primary message to be conveyed.

Town Hall Day will be held on May 4th and input is welcomed by Mayor Woods.

Paul Morris reported the completion deadline for Greenleaf Strategies Consulting Services activities remains the end of December. This will mean accelerating the schedule from nine months to eight months. This will require help from town and city staff to stay on schedule. Greenleaf does not have a notice to proceed yet, but is very close. The preliminary study of the gap funding options will be delivered in June, and the final report in July. In August a draft of the analysis of the total wealth of revenue, total development, timeframe for the project, and preferred financing options will be delivered.

He discussed two approaches to financing, 1.) a unified package (one district which allows capital to be deployed anywhere in the district), or 2.) a united approach (multiple districts which restrict where the capital is deployed).

Conversations with the State regarding their interest in a dual benefit approach (goods movement and people movement) to the Red Line must take place to order to continue to move forward, as well as further conversations with the northern Towns.

Companies such as Siemens and PB have divisions that loan money to fund private/public partnerships and may be possible partners. Considerable interest has been expressed to CATS for providing these types of funds for the Red Line.

V. Action Items

1. Send details of May meeting with Secretary Conti and staff. Carolyn Flowers

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

NEXT RED LINE TASK FORCE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 AT 4:00 P.M. IN CONFERENCE ROOM #CH-14

* NOTE DIFFERENT ROOM FOR MAY MEETING

RED LINE TASK FORCE
MEETING ATTENDEES

April 27, 2011

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ewen Cook	Mecklenburg County	Ewen.Cook@Mecklenburg
PAUL MORRIS	Park & Recreation GREENLEAF STRATEGIES	pmorris@greenleafstrategies.com
John Wood,	Dawson	
Jill Swain	Huntersville	jswain@huntersville.org
Bill Thunberg	Mooresville	BILLTHUNBERG@GMAIL.COM
John Muth	CATS	jmuth@ci.charlotte.nc.us
CAROLYN FLOWERS	CATS	cflowers@ci.charlotte.nc.us
David Howard	City of Charlotte	info@davidhowardllh.com
Carol Gray	LNTE	cgassoc@bellsouth.net
Greg Ferguson	Huntersville	gferguson@huntersville.org
Alan Guerino	City Finance	aguerino@charlottenc.gov
JERAMIA WELLS	CHAR/NEK PLANNING	jeram@ci.charlotte.nc.us
Danny Rogers	CATS	drogers@ci.charlotte.nc.us
Tina Votaw	CATS	tvotaw@charlottenc.gov
Eric German	PB	german@pbworld.com
Todd Steiss	PB	steiss@pbworld.com
Nancy Carter	CLT City Council	n315tw@yahoo.com
Deb Lucia	CATS	dpuceria@ci.charlotte.nc.us
Scott Greer	City Finance	sgreer@charlottenc.gov
Jack Flannery	MOOT	Jflannery@moot.gov