Mayor and Council Communication
Memo Number: 39
Friday, May 28, 2010

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (May 31)	Tues (June 1)	Wed (June 2)	Thurs (June 3)	Friday (June 4)
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY		12:00 PM Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, May 31
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Wednesday, June 2
12:00 PM Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Housing Locational Policy review

June and July calendars are attached. *See left-side table of contents to view the attachment*

INFORMATION:

Public Art Work Plan from May 24 Dinner Briefing
Staff Resource: Katie McCoy, Budget & Evaluation, 704-336-5017, kdmccoy@ci.charlotte.nc.us

The annual Public Art Work Plan presentation by the Arts & Science Council and Public Art Commission was scheduled for Council's May 24, 2010 Dinner Briefing. Time did not allow for the presentation, so the Arts & Science Council has prepared a letter (attached) noting the projects completed in FY2010, projects to be in progress in FY2011, and the future projects from the proposed FY2011 Public Art allocation.

City Council will be asked to approve the FY2011 Public Art Work Plan (attached) and the annual agreement with the Arts & Science Council and the Public Art Commission for administration of the art program on June 7, 2010.

See left-side table of contents to view attachments

Bank Draft Payments by Utilities Customers
Staff Resource: Susan Walker, Finance, 704-336-4296, slwalker@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Recently established federal rules designed to reduce the ability of terrorists to conduct financial transactions may impact customers who pay their utilities bill by bank draft with funds that originate from a foreign bank account. According to these new rules, a bank draft from a foreign bank account is considered an "International Automated Clearing House Transaction" (IAT) and is subject to additional examination. While the number of City customers whose bank drafts are from a foreign bank account is likely to be very minimal, the federal rules require, for both new and existing customers, that we determine whether or not their payment is originating from a

INFORMATION (continued):

foreign bank account. In order comply with the federal rules, utilities customers are being made aware of these requirements with an insert in their June bill. Customers do not need to make any adjustments if they do not use funds for bank draft that are from a foreign bank account. Once

the mailing has been completed, new customers who enroll in the City's bank draft program will be asked whether or not the payment is originating from a foreign bank account on the bank draft enrollment form. Due to the additional costs associated with IAT processing, the City may ask customers with IAT confirmed payments to use alternative methods (such as cash or check) to pay their utilities bill.

May 26 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary
Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov

At the meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, the MTC had no action items and three information items on the agenda:

High Speed Rail Update
Mr. Patrick Simmons, Director, NCDOT Rail Division, spoke on the recent award of $545 million from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for future development of the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) Corridor. Approximately $247 million was earmarked for three projects in the Charlotte area: $95 million is allocated for the North Carolina Railroad Improvement Program (NCRRIP) Double Track Project from northeast Charlotte to Concord; $23 million is allocated for the NCDOT Locomotive and Railcar Maintenance Facility; and $129 million is allocated for the NC/CSXT Mainline Grade Separation near Uptown. Mr. Simmons described details of each project.

Blue Line Extension (BLE) Update / South Corridor Retrofit
Staff presented an update on the Northeast Corridor BLE Preliminary Engineering (PE) activities. CATS has completed the 30% design level and will submit the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) this summer. CATS expects to complete PE at the 65% design level in summer 2011, and anticipates award of a Full Funding Grant Agreement in fall 2012. Local funding will play an important role in schedule development after PE completion. CATS will have an updated cost estimate at the 30% design level with the Year of Expenditure cost in August. The success of the South Corridor LYNX Blue Line has driven the design of the BLE, with infrastructure planned to support three-car trains. Staff described the need for additional design and environmental work to retrofit the Blue Line to allow for three-car operations. CATS has asked the FTA to include Blue Line retrofit elements in the BLE project; FTA's decision on including those elements in the BLE project is expected in June.

City of Charlotte Policy for Sustainable Facilities
Staff discussed the new City Policy for Sustainable Facilities and how the policy will apply to CATS capital and operating projects. CATS has been working on including best practices relative to sustainability in a number of projects and has identified opportunities to include sustainable features in future projects.

INFORMATION (continued):

CEO Report
Under the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed the following:

a. Ridership:
Ridership for April 2010 increased 3.3% over April 2009, a positive indicator. Bus ridership increased, and rail service was up 10.7% over April 2009. Rail averaged 16,000 weekday trips, with some days exceeding 18,000 riders.

b. Legislative Efforts:
Ms. Flowers reported that she went to Washington, DC, with three members of the MTC (Commissioner Roberts and Mayors Swain and Woods), along with John Muth, Deputy Director for Development, to meet with the FTA and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to discuss the Red Line project. The delegation received good feedback and clarification on criteria FTA currently uses for rail projects. This will help in developing future federal funding requests for the project.

c. CATS-CMS Collaboration:
CATS has been in discussion with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) on transportation for magnet school students. Under FTA regulations, CATS cannot offer services that are not open to the public and cannot accept funding for temporary special events. CATS believes that approximately 30% of magnet school students can be accommodated with CATS current service.

d. APTA Legislative Alert:
The American Public Transit Association (APTA) announced a US Senate bill authorizing $2 billion for emergency transit operating assistance for transit systems across the country. The proposed bill would distribute funds to help restore and prevent service reductions and layoffs, or fare increases that have happened due to decreased state and local funding since January 1, 2009. APTA has urged immediate action to generate support for the bill. Ms. Flowers will be speaking with CATS lobbyists to see if letters of support from MTC members will be helpful.

e. Sales Tax Revenue:
CATS sales tax revenue has been down compared to revenue the City is receiving. CATS is asking the City to speak with the NC Department of Revenue to determine why the two tax revenues are tracking differently.

f. Stockholders' Meetings:
CATS staff plans to meet with the community in July and August to discuss the area's transit vision and get the public's feedback. This is part of CATS' long-range review of transit plans.

The next MTC meeting will be June 23, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Week Two State Legislative Report

Staff Resource: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2009, dfenton@charlottenc.gov

Attached is the week two State Legislative Report of issues being monitored at the North Carolina General Assembly. *See left-side table of contents to view the attachment*

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

State Energy Office Grant for Solar Tree on Government Center Parking Deck

Staff Resource: Rob Phocas, City Manager's Office, 704-336-7558, rphocas@ci.charlotte.nc.us

On May 27, 2010, the North Carolina State Energy Office announced that it awarded $38,042 to the City for a photovoltaic solar project to be placed on the parking deck of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. The system will be installed in the southwest corner of the parking deck on a single steel pole. This project will also include a monitoring system that will be web-based and allow the City to access real time energy production data for a variety of time periods. The system will generate approximately 131,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. EECBG funds the City had allocated toward this project will be redirected to one of the City's other EECBG projects.