Council-Manager Memo #10
Friday, February 3, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Feb 6)	Tues (Feb 7)	Wed (Feb 8)	Thurs (Feb 9)	Fri (Feb 10)
3:00 PM Governmental Affairs Committee, Room 280		9:00 AM Red Line Regional Rail Business Finance Plan Discussion, Cornelius Town Hall 12:00 PM Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280 6:30 PM Red Line Regional Rail Business Finance Plan Discussion Mooresville Town Hall		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, February 6

3:00 pm Governmental Affairs Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Proposed 2012 state legislative agenda; Federal legislative update

Wednesday, February 8

9:00 am Red Line Regional Rail Business/Finance Discussion, Cornelius Town Hall Community Room, 21445 Catawba Avenue Cornelius, NC

12:00 pm Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Assisted multi-family housing and transit station areas update; Draft FY13 Focus Area Plan

6:30 pm Red Line Regional Rail Business/Finance Discussion, Mooresville Town Hall 413 North Main Street Mooresville, NC

February and March calendars are attached (see "2. Calendar.pdf").

INFORMATION:

January 25 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary

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

At its meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, the MTC had one action item and heard three information items. Mayor Anthony Foxx relinquished the Chairmanship to Commissioner Harold Cogdell. Mayor Foxx presented Commissioner Jennifer Roberts with a plaque of recognition for her efforts in support of transit and as an advocate for transportation choices. Commissioner Cogdell also thanked Commissioner Roberts for her transit support.

Red Line Task Force Update

Mayor John Woods reviewed the status of the Task Force's work items. The first public private partnership workshop is scheduled in Cornelius on January 26. Recent media reports on questions about the project are part of the due diligence that needs to happen at this point in the project. Carolyn Flowers reported on rule changes announced by Transportation Secretary LaHood that will affect Small Starts and New Starts projects. Details are still to come, but the changes will save time and money for projects.

Selection of Vice-Chair

MTC members unanimously passed a motion to reappoint Mayor John Woods of Davidson as

MTC's Vice-Chair.

FY2013 Transit Program (Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan)
The FY2013 budget reflects slow economic recovery. The budget will strengthen the core ADA paratransit service which is required for federal funding, maintain capital assets and advance the LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE) project in compliance with federal guidelines and with state and federal support. For FY2013, CATS projects an increase in operating income of about 6.2% over income projected for this year. Ridership is projected to increase. As indicated in the financial policies, CATS will recommend a fare increase this year of $0.25 on the base fare. The base fare would be $2.00 if the increase is adopted. A public hearing will be held in March 2012 on the fare increase. Long-term financing will provide the local share of BLE funding, which is similar to what was done for the LYNX Blue Line.

Countywide Transit Service Plan
The Countywide Transit Service Plan (CTSP) is the blueprint for bus enhancements over the next five years. Staff have gathered public input and feedback on the plan, and have analyzed existing routes to create a route profile. The changes suggested will provide more frequent service, better cross-town connections and improved travel time. Staff will pursue all available opportunities to apply for grants for additional improvements not currently funded.

Draft 2012 State Legislative Agenda
The North Carolina General Assembly will hold a short session in 2012, which does not allow time to advance new legislation. Efforts will focus on maintaining current areas of transit funding.

CATS CEO Report
During the CEO's report, Carolyn Flowers discussed:

a. **LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE) Report**:
   The final session with FTA and their management consultant to complete the Risk Assessment on the BLE is January 26. This is part of the federal process. The group will assess the project's budget, schedule and scope. MTC members will receive an update on the BLE in February.
b. **NC Board of Transportation meeting**:
   The NC Board of Transportation will meet in Charlotte on Wednesday, February 1. Paul Morris, NC Deputy Secretary for Transit, will give a presentation on the Red Line and BOT members will tour the Blue Line. Local BOT member John Collett is hosting the event. CATS, Airport and NCDOT will give presentations to the Board at their Charlotte meeting.
c. **NC State Joint Legislative Oversight Committee**:
   There will be a BLE presentation to this committee on February 10. CATS has approval from the NCBOT for a State Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) but must present to this committee before the FFGA can be signed. This committee is responsible for oversight.

Other Business
Mayor Jill Swain of Huntersville said that the Transit 2020 Plan and the Charlotte Center City Partners 2020 Plan need to mesh, particularly in the Gateway area, and that MTC members need to be leaders in sending information to all who could be partners in the visioning process about all transit, but particularly about Gateway Station. The station is a state-sponsored project, and the state owns the land. Mr. Morris commented that the state envisions convening a Partnership Steering Group, but that the state would not be responsible for the Area Plan. MTC members agreed to give direction to their staffs on developing a process to ensure that everyone is engaged and information flows as the project moves forward.

The next MTC meeting will be February 22, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

January 3 Governmental Affairs Committee Summary **(see "3. GAC Summary.pdf")**