

**RED LINE REGIONAL RAIL TASK FORCE**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**March 28, 2012**  
**DISCUSSION SUMMARY**

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**MEMBERS:** Mayor John Woods, Mayor of Davidson, Chair  
Vacant, Mecklenburg County Representative  
Mayor Jeff Tarte, Mayor of Cornelius (absent)  
Mayor Jill Swain, Mayor of Huntersville (absent)  
Mayor Miles Atkins, Town of Mooresville (absent)  
Bill Thunberg, Lake Norman Transportation Commission  
Vacant, Iredell County Representative

**CATS**

**STAFF:** Carolyn Flowers, CEO, Director of Public Transit  
Brian Nadolny, North Corridor Project Manager  
Dee Pereira, CFO, Manager of Transit Administration  
John Muth, Deputy Director for Development  
John Joye, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Azania Herron, Community Relations Specialist  
Penny Traywick, Office Assistant

**OTHERS:** Paul Morris, NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Transit  
Councilman David Howard, Charlotte City Council  
Anthony Roberts, Cornelius Town Manager  
Bill Coxe, Huntersville Transportation Planner  
Greg Ferguson, Huntersville Town Manager  
Neil Burke, Town of Mooresville (via conference call)  
Leamon Brice, Davidson Town Manager  
Erskine Smith, Town of Mooresville  
Carroll Gray, Lake Norman Transportation Commission  
Zac Gordon, Town of Huntersville  
Budd Berro, Office of the Governor  
Ruffin Hall, Assistant City Manager, City of Charlotte  
Dana Fenton, Intergovernmental Relations Mgr, City of Charlotte  
Adam Guerino, City of Charlotte Finance  
Jonathon Wells, Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning  
Mark Briggs, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Katherine Henderson, KKH Consulting  
Bjorn Hansen, Lake Norman RPO  
Jill Santuccio, Private Citizen  
Tony Kuhn, Vision Ventures  
Lisa Miller, WFAE  
Christina Rogers, Cornelius News  
Nick Needham, WBTV

Meeting time 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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**I. Call to Order**

**II. The minutes of the February 22, 2012 meeting were approved.**

**III. Discussion - Review of the financing plan**

The reviews of the draft finance business plan are nearly complete and the comments/recommendations are posted to the Red Line Regional Rail website (redlineregionalrail.org). The plan will be updated incorporating the working groups' comments.

**Discussions – Outside capital markets firms**

Conversations between Parsons Brinkerhoff and two outside capital markets firms active in tax increment and assessment fund financing have been held to determine the level of interest in the draft financing plan utilizing the modified revenue numbers. The consultants will now pause until meetings with Norfolk Southern are held and any adjustments to the plan that need to be made are added. They will then create a consensus plan.

**Next Steps**

With the review process essentially completed, the next milestone, the adoption process, cannot be completed until after issues with Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) have been resolved. The State, CATS, and NSRR will be addressing those issues, with results that must maintain the current budget and obtain the necessary level of service.

**Other critical path projects impacting the Red Line Regional Rail (RLRR) project**

- 1) CSX/NS Mainline grade separation: Project on schedule with the findings of no significant impact (FONSI) anticipated by November 2012, with final design beginning at that time, construction beginning in November 2013, and project completion in April 2017.
- 2) Gateway Station: Extension and relocation of the Amtrak station for multiple modes of transportation located along the mainline with rail improvements that include tracks through the area for both through freight and passenger service. The long range plan for this location is to provide multiple transportation options as well as a mixed-use development. The NCDOT is proceeding with the steps necessary to select a private partner by issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI).
- 3) Charlotte Maintenance Facility: The maintenance facility will support intercity trains and will be located toward the south end of the line. Previously planned heavy rail vehicle inspections will not be done in this building resulting in a cost savings and an accelerated schedule. The anticipated schedule for the maintenance facility is for FONSI and final design to begin in September, construction beginning in January 2013, and completion in July 2014.

**Mount Mourne Station**

Mooreville has requested that CATS relocate the Mount Mourne Station approximately one mile south of its current location. CATS has investigated the relocation and determined it results in a significant cost savings. The Town of Mooreville proposed that the Red Line Task Force make a recommendation to the MTC to approve the relocation. A motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Red Line Task Force recommend the Mount Mourne relocation to the MTC. Deputy Secretary Morris stated that the station relocation provides better connectivity and that the NCDOT

recognizes the benefits of this enhancement to the project. The cost savings have already been incorporated into the Financial Plan.

### **Proposed New Station**

A proposal was previously received from Vision Ventures Developers for an additional station at 24<sup>th</sup> and Graham Street one and a half miles outside downtown. In response, a feasibility analysis was done which indicated that the proposal could work along the site. The cost of this station is not included in the business plan, and current use doesn't warrant a station here, but it may be appropriate in the future. Tony Kuhn presented Vision Venture's plan to develop a 100 acre wedge of property which would include an office complex resulting in redevelopment of the area.

Deputy Secretary Morris suggested that the business plan could include a process for adding stations either now or at a later date and said NCDOT is supportive of planning for future station additions.

### **CATS Update**

Carolyn Flowers delivered CATS response to the draft financial plan to the task force, and will be presenting it at the MTC meeting today.

### **Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR)**

In an email dated March 14, 2012, John Edwards provided the following clarification:

In review of the February minutes, I noted a report asserting that an infrastructure and operations study would be completed in the spring and summer of 2012. Unfortunately, that is simply not logistically possible. As I noted in my email of February 22, 2012 to the Task Force, Norfolk Southern would be pleased to meet later this spring or summer should the Red Line Task Force decide to proceed with such an infrastructure and operations study. Any study conducted by Norfolk Southern to introduce commuter rail to the O Line would involve a significant effort from all sides, i.e., formulating a study outline, precepts for that study, determination as to the human and financial resources to devote to the conduct of the study, etc. After we have formulated the foundations for such a study, the study itself would take an additional several months or more to be performed. Often this type of study is a multi-year effort. It certainly is not one to begin lightly, and such a study can be fairly expensive for the communities to undertake. Once all involved know what the acceptable infrastructure, operational plan, and capital and operational costs might be, it is then that we can turn to determining whether a proposal for the commuter service along this corridor may be acceptable to Norfolk Southern and the affected communities.

**Action Items:**

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| 1. Provide copy of Gateway Station RFEI to Task Force                                    | Morris           |
| 2. Provide brief overview of the Mount Mourne Station relocation at the next MTC meeting | Nadolny          |
| 3. Create outline and coordinate activities for process to add Graham Street station     | Thunberg/Nadolny |

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on April 25 at Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center in Conference Room 266.

**RED LINE TASK FORCE  
MEETING ATTENDEES**

March 28, 2012

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>
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MEETING ATTENDEES

March 28, 2012

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**MEETING ATTENDEES**

March 28, 2012

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>
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