

**DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**1100 DART Way – Des Moines, IA 50309  
February 28, 2012**

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Steve Brody, Skip Conkling, Angela Connolly, Tom Gayman, Christine Hensley, Gaye Johnson, Bob Mahaffey, Steve Van Oort

Commissioners Absent: Ted Boesen

Alternates Present: Ben Champ

Staff Present: Elizabeth Presutti, General Manager; Tom Reynolds, Chief Operating Officer; Jamie Schug, Chief Financial Officer; Chet Bor, Paratransit Director; Randy Ross, HR Director; Kirstin Baer-Harding, Advertising Manager; Jim Tishim, Planning Director; Teresa Cashman, Scheduling Manager; Mike Kaiser, Service Management Manager; P.J. Sass, Customer Service Manager; Mike Drottz, Purchasing Manager; Paula Covington, RideShare; Kyle McCann, Legal Counsel;

Others Present: Nathan Goldberg, MPO; Mark Trost, TDS, LLC

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Angela Connolly at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Notice of the meeting was duly published.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Connolly called for corrections to the February 1, 2012 meeting minutes.

There being no comments on the minutes, it was moved by Mr. Conkling and seconded by Mr. Brody that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2013 BUDGET**

Chair Angela Connolly announced that a public hearing to discuss the DART FY-2013 budget and the DART tax levy was convened. Chair Connolly asked for comments from the floor. There were no speakers from the floor so Chair Connolly announced that the public hearing was adjourned.

**Action Item 6A – Approve FY2013 Budget and Tax Levy Rates**

It was moved by Mr. Brody and seconded by Ms. Gaye Johnson that the DART FY 2013 Budget be certified as recommended and the FY-2013 Regional Transit Authority Tax Levy be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **7-A – FY 2013 Grant Approvals**

### **7-B – Pond Pump Replacement**

### **7-C – January 2012 Financial Reports**

It was moved by Mr. Van Oort and seconded by Ms. Johnson that the consent items be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Action Item 8A – Amalgamated Transit Union 441 Agreement**

Mr. Reynolds announced that an Agreement was reached with ATU Local 441 for the Commission's approval. He summarized the top issues:

- The agreement covers about two-thirds of DART's 250 employees including:
  - Fixed route bus operators
  - Maintenance Technicians
  - Building & Grounds employees
  - Service & Cleaning Employees
  - Parts room employee
- The three-year agreement runs from June 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.
- The agreement reduces the number of health plans from three to two. This leaves only the high premium plan and the high deductible HSA plan. It is anticipated that most employees will shift over to the more economical HSA plan.
- While this is definitely a fair agreement that was reached without confrontation within current and projected budget parameters, the greatest outstanding issue is the looming healthcare concerns. Eliminating the one plan and moving more employees to the desired HSA plan will put DART in a better position for the future.

*Ms. Hensley arrived at 5:05 pm*

Mr. Reynolds thanked staff and ATU negotiators for their time and hard work in making the process a productive one.

It was moved by Mr. Conkling and seconded by Mr. Brody that the Commission approve a three-year labor Agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union Local #441.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **9A – DART Central Station Update**

Mr. Trost presented an update on the status of the project. The canopies are starting to take shape and the curtain wall is going up. Interior wall framing is virtually completed on the first floor and well underway on the second floor. Roof panels will be installed within the next couple of weeks and the elevator will arrive at the end of March. Mr. Trost informed the commission that the company scheduled to provide the photovoltaic solar film recently declared bankruptcy. The design team is currently exploring alternatives. Mr. Trost will keep the commission apprised of the progress.

### **9B – DART Customer Service Database**

Ms. Sass gave the commission a presentation about the new customer service database. The INFO Com database directly interfaces with the Trapeze operational software. The database allows for enhanced reporting options. Staff began using the database in December and will present quarterly updates to the commission.

### **9C – FY 2013 Service Change and Public Meeting Update**

Mr. Tishim gave the commission an update regarding the 2012 service change public meetings. Eleven meetings were held in February. There were 256 attendees total and 243 comments were received. Comments were received via comment cards distributed at the meetings and via e-mail; 149 comments were turned in at the meetings, 34 were later given to operators and 51 comments were submitted via e-mail.

The comments received are being evaluated and will be taken into consideration in the final recommendations. Staff will hold open houses in mid-May for the changes to flex and express services which will go into effect on June 10<sup>th</sup>. September and October open houses will be held for the fixed route changes which go into effect in November. Staff will schedule a workshop to review the recommendations with the commission prior to the March commission meeting.

### **9D - January 2012 Performance Reports**

The General Manager noted that ridership is continuing to trend upward. Fixed Route ridership is up approximately 12% over last year.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **Operations**

Mr. Reynolds updated the commission on the hiring of a new supervisor, Matt Johnson. Mr. Reynolds also thanked Georgia Parkey and Chet Bor for their efforts in responding to feedback received from the public meetings regarding the flex route service changes. An update was given regarding the potential farmers' market in Beaverdale. Mr. Reynolds visited with the individual planning the market and voiced concerns regarding the proposed location which would have blocked one of the routes.

### **Planning**

The General Manager highlighted progress on the AVL project. New equipment has been installed in the dispatch area and installation will begin on vehicles during the month of March. Testing will then begin on the mini-fleet in the next four to six weeks.

**General Manager**

The General Manager acknowledged Chief Financial Officer Jamie Schug for being named one of the Business Record’s Forty Under 40 for 2012. Commission members congratulated Ms. Schug on the honor. The event is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> which is the date of the next commission meeting. The General Manager will explore an alternate meeting time which would allow anyone wanting to attend to be able to do so.

Prairie Meadows announced that DART was a recipient of another grant for the Opportunities Thru Transit (OTT) program. The program was awarded \$20,000 for the upcoming year.

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

Ms. Hensley and the General Manager gave an update regarding the bus-rapid transit project along the University and Ingersoll corridors. Together they have met with several businesses downtown, the City of Des Moines and legislators. Senator Matt McCoy has drafted legislation as part of the RIIF bill and has included \$2 million in the current draft of that bill. This would greatly assist DART in reaching the local match target of \$5 million. Since the legislature will still be in session when the grant application is due we need to pursue some type of documentation for the grant process.

Mr. Conkling inquired about rising fuel prices and how that will affect ridership and the budget. The General Manger reported that ridership was already up over last year and the trend would be expected to continue with rising fuel prices. The General Manager shared that we have pricing committed for the majority of our fuel needs for the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff has been directed to continue to get quotes and lock in pricing when it is below budgetary levels.

The General Manager added that she is heading to Washington DC with the Iowa Public Transit Association in order to meet with Iowa’s congressional delegation as a group.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:  
March 27, 2012

2012 Meeting Dates  
Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 31, no meeting in August  
Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 27, Dec 18

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Chair

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Secretary/Treasurer

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Date