

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

OF

February 08, 2008

10:37 A.M.

Chairman Liakakis: I would like to call the Chatham Area Transit Authority to order and I ask the secretary to do the roll call please

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Liakakis

Chairman Liakakis – here

Ms. Krahling – Dr. Thomas

Dr Thomas - here

Ms. Krahling - Ms. Stone

Ms. Stone - Present

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Holmes

Mr. Holmes – Present

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Shay

Mr. Shay – Here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Farrell

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Odell

Mr. Odell - here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Gellatly

Mr. Gellatly – Present

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Kicklighter

Mr. Kicklighter – Here

Ms. Krahling – Ms. Bell will be out today

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Dawson

Mr. Dawson – Here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Oakley

Mr. Oakley – here

Also present at the meeting was Joe M. Rivers, Walter Hartridge and Gennetta M. Krahling

Chairman Liakakis – All of the members of the authority have been distributed the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, if you have any changes or deletions please let us know and I would like a motion on the floor to approve that unless you have some concern.

Mr. Odell – motion

Ms. Stone - second

Chairman Liakakis – we have a motion on the floor and a second all in favor of approving show a sign by raising of your hands. Motion passes. New business: To approve resolutions authorizing staff to submit an application for funds, Joe

Mr. Rivers – Yes sir Mr. Chairman, new FTA rulings since we have reached two hundred thousands, we submit all of our grant applications directly instead of through the state of Georgia, therefore we have to go online and train in order to be able to submit the grant we have to get grant application password and numbers in order to access that system in order so we can apply for grants.

Mr. Chairman – Do we have any comments. We need a motion on the floor to approve the resolution for this item

Mr. Odell – so moved

Mr. Dawson– second

Mr. Chairman – We have a motion on the floor and a second, all in favor signify by raising of your hand. Motion passes

Mr. Rivers – I think Mr. Chairman, I believe that there were two things that are also authorizing signatures of our staff members I do not know if you have, was a resolution, only one with two copies, we are straight

Mr. Chairman – okay, next item on the agenda, verbal updates on the city of Savannah Street car, ferry boat design update and then transit center update, Joe

Mr. Rivers – Yes sir, we met with MMB yesterday and we have the date of the street car to be back possibly April first and possibly going into operation May first. What I am asking the board to do is to allow staff to negotiate memorandum of agreement to operate the street car and then when complete that to come back with a contract that the chairman would sign in order to have a contract in order to operate that

Mr. Chairman – what area are we talking about so most people don't know about the Savannah Street Car routing or anything

Mr. Rivers – That routing would basically be just along river street now and within the future would probably come up Pham street but in the future, there are two street cars and they are up in Pennsylvania and I do not know but looking at it they are going to be real good to get it ready by April but those folks know what they are doing.

Mr. Chairman – Wayne

Mr. Dawson – I just like to thank either I am not sure if was through you Joe or through the city but I would like to thank whoever organized it to have Stone Consultants to contact the Disability Council regarding the accessibility of that on the Street car and I know that I met with the representative and they submitted plans that also went through the Disability council to be sure that the street car is going to be accessible to everyone

Mr. Rivers – very good planning into this by the city and by the savannah mobility board and I am a part of the board and I think you were at a couple of the meeting and we are very cognizant of all the ADA and I think they have met that.

Mr. Chairman – We need a motion on the floor

Mr. Odell – motion

Ms. Stone – Second

Mr. Chairman – we have a motion on the floor and a second. All in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes. Ferry boat design Joe

Mr. Rivers – On Wednesday, we met with Lebet and DeJong and we had a very very good meeting and I think that y'all will be very proud cause we had input from our ferry captains and everybody was there going over all aspects of the ferry and what we would need for speed and they are looking at in this phase the designing of the propulsion system and we are dealing with that and I think we are going to be on course with that we also aware of the noise on the other ferry's and there is some work maybe for a price they can come back and lower the decibels on the present ferry's and they are kinda noisy I rode around yesterday uh Wednesday so we are working on that and I think the company is going to do us a good job in design and we are going to follow that step by step

Mr. Chairman – okay, next transit center update

Mr. Rivers – The transit center we are still talking with Greyhound but before we can really get into negotiation with Greyhound we have to complete the environmental assessment. Public hearings are due on the transit center and the NEPA process by four eight that means April eighth we should have everything completed. We are working on several things and what I will do, I will send out a copy of this report from our

consultants to (Ms. Krahling, they have it) oh you got it in front of you a copy of that report so that gives you an update as to where we are at with the transit center as far as the process go for FTA

Mr. Chairman – Patrick

Mr. Shay – I had a chance to attend a workshop yesterday held by the consultants to go over the evaluation to alternative sites and the presentation was excellent and I think the response was good. I would say to the other commissioners I think we finally have a location that is a winner and it is a winning strategy as long as we can move forward through that NEPA process and I know it has been a very very long strange trip the past ten to twelve years and I think we are actually at the verge of being able to have a project that will be able to qualify for the federal funding that we have been struggling so hard to get and I do not want to be overconfident for the NEPA process is not a slam dunk but from my observation I think we have a winning strategy now.

Mr. Rivers – I think Mr. Chairman we are partially the way of three quarters of the way home and we do have some problems that have come up with the department of interior but we are saying that the Greyhound site maybe eligible for historic preservation and all that but we are going to incorporate some things in that within there confines that we will be able to meet there requirements, other than that if we get past this four f documents and interior we should be ready

Mr. Chairman – one thing Joe we know about those problems with that ferry boat getting back subject we got to make sure that we monitor that the people on the design they have to make sure that that design is going to meet the specifications that we have put out because we do not want between the design and the construction of that if there is two different parties doing that, that we have the problem that we had before. So that if the design is correct so that we do not have the noise the speed and everything else on that, all fine and well, then give it to the construction company and they have to meet all those specifications because we can not afford to spend that kind of money again and have those ferry boats to have that particular problem

Mr. Rivers – yes sir, y'all got the aftermath but I think that Pat and myself and Pricilla got the full brunt of it when we and Odell we got the full brunt of it and Mr. Kicklighter we got the full brunt of it the noise and all those things really came back at us so I'm very cognizant of that and DeJong and Lebet are also cognizant of it

Mr. Chairman – Joe has requested that we do add on an executive session and I will need a motion for that, it won't take but just a few moments for him to explain that. Joe, the item for executive session is what?

Mr. Rivers – It is item number 3 of the RFP for professional services contract with Hurt Norton and Associates in which we recommended but we got to go into executive session because I have received another bid and that bid was post-marked and it probably was

received. It wasn't dropped in my box – but we didn't get it timely. But we have to go into executive session.

Mr. Chairman – Okay, we need a motion on the floor.

Mr. Odell – I move that we go into executive session for personnel and legal.

Mr. Rivers – Legal.

Mr. Dawson – Second

Mr. Chairman – We have a motion on the floor and a second to go into executive session. All in favor signify by the raising of your hand. Motion passes. This will only take a few moments and then we'll reconvene as the county commission.

Went into executive session at 10:47 a.m.

Reconvened open Chatham Area Transit Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Chairman – We made – we did not vote on any business in the executive session and what I would like to do right now – we have a couple of items that commissioner Patrick Farrell would like to discuss. We need a motion on the floor to approve him bringing up this information.

Mr. Shay - so moved Mr. Chairman

Mr. Holmes – second

Mr. Chairman – We have a motion on the floor and a second, all in favor signify by the raising of your hands. Motion passes. Commissioner Farrell

Mr. Farrell – Two items that will just take a moment. I would like at the next meeting to get a report on the advertising revenues and find out where we stand with that revenue source as far as if we are maximizing the amount of ads sold on the buses and if the pricing is compatible with marketing conditions. The other item I wanted to speak about today is we have a large festival coming up on March 14<sup>th</sup> in the Savannah area and I would like for consideration for discussion amongst the board members about increasing service during Saint Patrick's Day and what I think that would do is multiple items – it would increase CAT visibility throughout the community; it would increase the mobility of people during that period of time that we are so crowded in this town; and it would decrease the vehicles on the road in the congested areas especially in the downtown area and it would increase revenues. We're looking at deficit. And we could provide a lot of good service and a lot of visibility and we could also pack these buses with people by talking with the area businesses and seeing where the needs are to help shuttle people in and out of town in a more convenient way. I just put that out for board consideration.

Mr. Chairman – identify yourself

Ms. Iaderosa – Yes, I am Jean Iaderosa Director of Marketing and Communications with Chatham Area Transit and, Commissioner Farrell, I just wanted to respond briefly to your comments. Chatham Area Transit has been working in conjunction with the City and the Police Department and primarily with those two entities for several months now. The City, as you know, has taken the lead in the shuttle service from Oglethorpe Mall now for about three years. We were unable to continue to do that shuttle service as many of you were on the board at that time because of when the FTA when they did our triennial review they said that we had too many buses, too many extra buses and, for that reason, we had to eliminate our spare ratio. We needed to get our spare ratio down. So, for that matter, we had to eliminate a number of buses to our fleet as well as if we were in a situation where we had to rent buses from some of the private tour operators and that was putting us in the hole. That's the history. As it stands now, we are working with the City and we will be providing as many buses as we are able to for the shuttle. That would be to the tune of about four of them because we do provide our regular fixed route service on St. Patrick's day and this year, as you know, it will be on Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. But, in addition to that, in addition to providing we are providing as many buses as we are able to without compromising the level of service for the fixed route service, we are going to be adding some buses as we are able to some of the more popular routes, such as the fourteen and from the islands. So, again we are maximizing our resources as much as we can on that day. Well, of course, our buses will be in service from seven am to seven pm and that is with the caveat that, because of the federal regulations, we do have in writing permission from the private tour operators that we are able to do that – to add our buses to the shuttle, we cannot compete, per the Federal Government. We are not able to compete with the private sector.

Mr. Chairman – question Jean

Ms. Iaderosa – yes

Mr. Chairman – what time are you cutting off the downtown, because here are some concerns some individual police officers brought it to me last year and the year before last that the CAT service cut off early and they had a number of people that were inebriated and they did not want them to be left and they close down the bars and they get out in the street and they didn't have transportation and some of them got arrested because some of them got into there vehicles. I have had two people from the tourism board to also discuss that with me Russ self being one of them and we need to look at the time element and so what is the time element discontinue that on the fourteenth.

Ms. Iaderosa – last year we continued the service as long as there were people downtown and I understand from talking with our operations people that broughten street was very congested so we had to detour broughten street and as I said we are the City and the Police Department are cognizant of the needs the transportation needs and working with them and we will continue to provide that service downtown as long as there are people who are needing it. That is how it was last year.

Mr. Chairman – okay then what I am saying is last year listening to what is told to me is that it was cut off earlier and they had all of these people that had been drinking out on the street and had no transportation unless they get into their cars and then a number of them were arrested for drunk driving. So what I would like for you to do is to let me know what time you are going to I want to know the time so that I can report to the tourism people about that so we don't have some mishaps.

Mr. Rivers – Mr. Chairman, in those discussions as she said, we have been discussing with the City of Savannah with the Police Department all the planning has been done and all the planning has been done through operations now I hope to be able to carry out that service out as long as we possibly can and we also have to be cognizant that we have a union that we have to deal with and operators times and all that so we are going to do what you all want we are going to try to maximize that and get it in there

Mr. Chairman – Just give me a report on that

Mr. Rivers – okay

Mr. Chairman – Patrick

Mr. Shay – I am not sure I was following we run our regular routes and those run until people stop

Ms. Iaderosa – no the regular routes run there regular time but the buses going specifically downtown back to Oglethorpe Mall

Mr. Shay - and I understand so what I think what the Chairman may be talking about for I have heard some of the same incidents. I think that the special route that goes from the corner that I live on downtown to Oglethorpe Mall that needs to run clearly until there is nobody standing in line there. For there are times last year when people were waiting two, three hours in line there but also the regular routes but frankly we are talking about intoxicated people of moving them from the street corner that I live on to Oglethorpe Mall doesn't solve that problem it is unlikely well if they wait in line for two or three hours then maybe they are sober by the time they get to Oglethorpe Mall and maybe they are not but the other routes I think maybe also we need to look at the possibility of extended hours because those are the routes that people would actually use if they were clever to get home other than getting in their cars. Is that a fair statement? I think that though the overall thing is we have an international festival we know that people come here from all over Georgia and all over the United States and some from all over the world and that it would be a good thing and good opportunity if our public transit system was stepping up. I know that we have limited resources that we only have certain number of drivers certain number of buses but let's make sure we maximize those and frankly I do not know what we chose from price and Oglethorpe to Oglethorpe mall but it seems to me we could charge lots of money for these folks come downtown and they are dropping two three hundred dollars on big glasses of beer and being able to charge them a little bit



of money to move them back and forth is not a unreasonable thing so I think we could figure out how to make enough revenue to frankly if we did have to add or to assist that as long as we were making money at it then I do not think people would complain.

Mr. Chairman – Patrick Farrell

Mr. Farrell – I like to follow up with Commissioner Shay and I would like to suggest that as much as I am a fan of continuity and regular service that on this particular day each year, I am suggesting that we redirect buses to the areas of the greatest need I mean to have a bus run with very few customers on one side of town and provide for a couple of people verses going to another part of town where people are standing in line for hours and cant wait on the bus does not make a lot of sense to me personally. I think we should give a lot of thought to directing our resources to the areas of greatest need for that particular day.

Mr. Chairman – one of the things you might want to consider though if you do that for you have regular routes and people that go on regular buses is that put notification so that people will know ahead of time to let the TV stations and the newspapers know that so that it wont inconvenience our citizens that use that. If you were to change something like that.

Mr. Odell – how would we do that, I understand what Pat Farrell is saying but how do you go about doing that, I am just curious

Mr. Rivers – I don't know, whatever we are requesting. I have to find out if that is allowed from a legal standpoint, can we do it, do we have the equipment to do it you all don't realized that we have abut twelve buses over there that is dead. We use them as spare, which is all we use them for so when you talk of maximizing we are straining the system. Now we are going to use probably some of the liberty shuttle buses and everything during Saint Patrick's Day. All of this is already in the making so we are going to go back and look at and I will sit down with staff, I will sit down with the legal component and find out and see if we can make those adjustments however if we can do it is possible

Mr. Odell – I think that the consensus is that buses would be where the people need to go and I guess my follow up question is do we know where the people need to go so that in advance so that we can make this kind of determination. I think also to that I think Jean you said that we had also four additional buses

Mr. Rivers – that we gave them for Saint Patrick's Day

Mr. Odell – for Saint Patrick's that run to the mall. That's not part of the fixed route?

Mr. Rivers – well running to the mall, normally run along the fixed route, it is almost like an express service

Mr. Odell – we are adding the express route, I agree with what Pat said and that is if we've lost money on those in the past then it may not be that it is a good idea it may simply be that we are not charging enough and I guess the question is what would we need to charge for a fare if we took whatever last time we did it we have a fare count and we didn't break even what would it cost per fare would not be profit but to cover the cost

Ms. Iaderosa – situation this year where we will be providing four buses and as I said that the City is taking the lead along with the Tourism and Film Department, they are taking the lead with gathering buses and pulling in the resources. We will be getting paid a per hourly rate, our charter rate that is what we are doing here and chartering our buses and per the Federal Transit Administration requirements

Mr. Odell – I know that Jean, but I guess my question is earlier you indicated that we did not financially break even was that under the current system for 08 so the 08 is different so the charter rate is different than that year we did not break even, is that true

Ms. Iaderosa – yes

Mr. Odell – so we may break even

Ms. Iaderosa - The cost per charter covers the fully allocated cost

Mr. Odell - Then what do they want, doesn't seem to be that is we break even we give buses and does not violate the biggest Godfather, the federal government it gives us money and gives us the regulations and does not violate the those regulations Is there a potential complication that I do not see here?

Ms. Iaderosa – I do know that the Federal in the most recent Triennial review that we had the Feds came down very very clearly and succinctly and told us that because we receive federal funding for our service that funding is to provide fixed route service and not for charter so any other charters have to be based on availability and union requirements we have to have the blessing in writing of the private tour operators that we are not competing with them and we are not taking away from there business

Mr. Rivers – and approved by FTA

Mr. Odell – in advance

Ms. Iaderosa – ninety days in advance

Mr. Chairman – Patrick Shay

Mr. Rivers - and that is why I say that I am writing down anything and if we account any obstacles I will come back and let you know because a lot of times we say what we want and there are restrictions in what we can do and we will look at it and anything we can do that is feasible we will do it

Mr. Farrell – what I am

Mr. Chairman – hold it. Dwayne has been waiting

Mr. Dawson – I was just going to ask, I heard you mention the other entities that were involved in the planning, is the Trade Center involved in this so that we can capture some of the people coming from South Carolina, and they can park over there and we could increase our ferry service?

Ms. Iaderosa – yes

Mr. Dawson – okay

Mr. Chairman – Patrick Shay, uh it is Patrick Farrell, Let me just say something to you, you call it a charter service but on this particular day and I'm sure the government wouldn't fine us if we because we have so many people like last year we had like seven hundred thousand over seven hundred thousand people watching that parade okay that we adding a service and if you want to inquire with your union drivers and would like to make some overtime for that particular service just look at something so that we can put this in place to accommodate a situation that gets out of hand somewhat like it did last year with getting in vehicles drinking where they drinking and got in trouble with the drunk driving charge and besides that it will help clear out that particular position. Please bring that information back to me and go over it okay. Patrick Shay, I mean excuse me Patrick Farrell

Mr. Farrell – What I am hearing is that there may be some difficulty with certain ways of accelerating this service and what I am going to suggest is lets look at the fixed routes if that is the best way to do it. If you have a fixed route that's heavily traveled on the fourteenth then lets cut out some moves on the outlying suburbs lets lets run those buses on accelerated schedule so instead of having those buses there every thirty minutes then lets have them there every five minutes and lets pack it

Mr. Rivers – I understand very well what you say and I got that notation down here. What I go back with staff get with staff and look over all restrictions and come back to you with what we can do and what we can not do

Mr. Chairman – Okay. Thank you. Meeting adjourned.

Mr. Odell – Are we going to adjourn it, or . . . ?

Mr. Shay – I would like to make a motion to where we go into recess as the CAT Board and allow our executive director, Joe Murray Rivers, to do some evaluating and then, perhaps, reconvene later at this same day to discuss the fruits of his labors

Mr. Farrell – I second that.

Mr. Chairman – Wait a minute. Let me ask this question. Joe, do you have time to do that because I was going to put it further down the line if you didn't have the time to

Mr. Rivers – I'm going to try to do it, Mr. Chairman, before you guys get out of here. Right.

Mr. Chairman – See, he needs more time.

Mr. Shay – That's what I am saying – I'm asking that we go recess, rather than adjourn.

Mr. Oakley – Mr. Chairman, can we get some sort of indication as to what time this item might need to be considered?

Mr. Chairman – Looks like it will take about, Bill, so you'll know, looking at the rest of the agenda, it could be somewhere between forty-five minutes to an hour. Okay? We have a motion on the floor and it's been seconded, for the recessing of this and then reconvening after we get the information from Joe. All in favor signify by raising of your hand. Motion passes.

Meeting recessed at 11:21 a.m.

Reconvened 12:16 p.m. (Minutes were taken from this point forward by Chatham County Clerk, Sybil Tillman.)

Mr. Chairman – Let's go in for that legal matter now.

Mr. Kicklighter – Make a motion to go into executive session for a legal matter.

Dr. Thomas – Second.

Mr. Odell – Do we need to go in or is this . . . ?

Mr. Rivers – I don't think we need to go in, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kicklighter – I'll withdraw that motion. Do you withdraw that second?

Dr. Thomas – Yes.

Mr. Shay – Did we already move to come back into session?

Mr. Farrell – Yes. We're in CAT session.

Mr. Chairman – Yeah, we already voted on it.

Mr. Rivers – I was waiting for the attorney.

Mr. Chairman – Okay, Joe, let's go over the matter.

Mr. Rivers – Mr. Chairman, we reconvened the selection committee and the Selection Committee came out the same. The prices on the bid that came in was the same as the price, \$10,000 a month, from each of the participants – respondents. So, we're going with – as in the Board report – Hurt Norton.

Mr. Chairman – Explain that because the citizenry do not know what you're talking about.

Mr. Rivers – Okay. In that we got two bids in and one came in after we had opened the bids but that was postmarked for the correct time. So, it was received adequately. And, since that was received and postmarked in time, we had to go back and reconsider both bids. Both bids came out to be \$10,000 a month, \$120,000 a year, which is over our budget. So, we are now asking the Board to allow us to back with the first respondent, whom we selected after reviewing the other.

Mr. Farrell - So moved.

Mr. Chairman – Let's — and this is for our lobbyist. This particular subject is the lobbyist for CAT because we need somebody in Washington, DC, to lobby for our CAT service that we have in our community because we have lost out on a number of money that we haven't had the distribution from the Federal Government for our CAT service as we've had in the past, and it's very important that we have this particular service. So, that's what it's about. Patrick.

Mr. Shay – If I understand correctly then, Joe, you and your Selection Committee have reviewed both proposals, come to the conclusion that the Hurt Norton proposal is the one that is — has the best qualifications, and you would like permission to negotiate with them to reduce the amount of the fee and permission that, if that negotiation is not successful, that you do have a second firm then that you might also entertain, but that as long as the proposal from Hurt Norton is acceptable to you and within a budget that you've established, that you be authorized then to go ahead and enter into that agreement so that we can hit the ground running on this lobbying effort. Is that right?

Mr. Rivers – That the Chairman be allowed to sign.

Mr. Shay – I'm sorry. That the Chairman be authorized to enter into that agreement so that we can hit the ground running.

Mr. Rivers – That's correct.

Mr. Shay – Okay, good.

Mr. Odell – Is that your motion, Pat?

Mr. Farrell – That is.

Mr. Kicklighter – Pat [Farrell], do you amend your motion to include what Commissioner Shay said?

Mr. Farrell – Yes.

Mr. Shay – Then I'll second it.

Ms. Stone – I just wanted it to go on record that – with two competing companies – that we did have, just as you stated, the ability to negotiate with them, since both are over our budget.

Mr. Chairman – And, Joe, how long will this lobbying contract go once you start the negotiation? For what period of time?

Mr. Rivers – What we hope to do is, if we go back and negotiate, I would like to negotiate this contract for maybe eight months to a year and put out another contract around about August.

Mr. Chairman – Okay. We have a motion on the floor and a second to take this proposal as has been presented to us. All in favor signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously..

Mr. Chairman – Motion passes.

Mr. Odell – I move that we adjourn the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Mr. Farrell – Second.

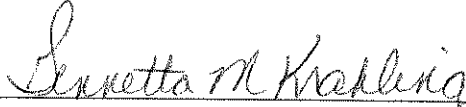
Mr. Chairman – And reconvene as County Commission.

Mr. Odell – Yes.

Mr. Chairman – Okay, let's go on the board. Raise you hands. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chairman – Motion passes.

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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Gennetta M. Krahling, Secretary - Treasurer  
Chatham Area Transit Authority