CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING OF

March 07, 2008

10:12 A.M.
Chairman Liakakis: I would like to call on Gennetta who is the secretary/treasurer of the CAT Board to do the roll call please

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Liakakis

Chairman Liakakis – here

Ms. Krahling – Dr. Thomas is out

Ms. Krahling - Ms. Stone

Ms. Stone - Present

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Holmes

Mr. Holmes – Present

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Shay

Mr. Holmes – he stepped out

Chairman Liakakis – He is outside and will be here in a moment

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Farrell

Mr. Farrell - here

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

Ms. Bell – here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Dawson

Mr. Dawson – Here
Ms. Krahling – Mr. Oakley is out today

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

Chairman Liakakis – Next item the approval of minutes from regular meeting and special meeting. All of those

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis – Excuse me

Ms. Krahling – the minutes from the regular meeting, I had included in the minutes which I was not present mistakenly. I went back on the DVD and did a verbatim of the meeting so there was two sheets in there that were not supposed to be in your packets.

Chairman Liakakis – what items were they?

Ms. Krahling – of the minutes, the regular

Chairman Liakakis – okay and you have corrected those

Ms. Krahling – yes sir

Chairman Liakakis – okay was all the corrections distributed?

Ms. Krahling – Yes sir

Chairman Liakakis – to all of the members?

Ms. Krahling – yes sir, you have two pages in there that shouldn’t have been, the very last two pages

Mr. Kicklighter – shouldn’t we table the minutes for the next meeting,

Ms. Krahling – It is correct in the packet, just the last two pages need to be thrown away.

Mr. Farrell – so delete the last two pages?

Ms. Krahling – yes sir

Mr. Farrell – we can do that

Mr. Kicklighter – that is good
Chairman Liakakis - okay

Mr. Odell – move for approval of the minutes as submitted with the expectation that we will delete the two unnecessary pages

Mr. Farrell – second

Chairman Liakakis – okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second, all in favor signify by raising of your hands, motion passes. Item two advertising revenue comparison 2006 through 2008 this is information. Joe

Mr. Rivers – you should have that in your packet.

Chairman Liakakis – oh, I will come back to that, we missed that

Mr. Rivers – and were ahead of last years revenue significantly and we should be well satisfied with that and we are still working on increasing that avenue

Mr. Odell – Who is our representative? Is it Tony Thomas?

Mr. Rivers – yes, Tony Thomas

Tony Thomas – Morning

Mr. Odell – I just called you up to say thank you, revenue is up and that is good.

Chairman Liakakis – Identify yourself for the record

Mr. Thomas – Tony Thomas with Renaissance Marketing, we do the advertising revenue for the CAT buses

Chairman Liakakis - okay

Mr. Farrell – I have a question for Mr. Thomas.

Chairman Liakakis – go ahead

Mr. Farrell – In the analysis we said that there was a sold and lets see what is the exact words here, anyway How many of actual adds are on the buses and how many are waiting to be placed on the buses?

Mr. Thomas – Right now, we have I think four ads to be placed on the buses, I went back and reviewed and we have about 113 ads that came off and went on the buses in the month of February. We had some adds already to be placed in March and roughly eighty percent of the inventory is sold at this current time, however we are sitting on have about
another fifty thousand dollars in contracts that are not reflected in those numbers those contracts and in those figures wont reflect until they are actually posted on the buses itself

Mr. Farrell – okay, and how long do you suppose it will be before they are actually posted on the bus

Mr. Thomas – some of the contracts for one of them we have a nine thousand dollar contract that doesn’t start until July August September so some are based out and to be quite honest with you this is really one of the first times that we have had some available inventory in some recent months again there is a demand for it and so I don’t anticipate sitting on any kind of empty space for any significant amount of time

Mr. Farrell – Are you having any difficulty actually placing the adds on the buses when the due to any type of weather type or any type of surface

Mr. Thomas – We have about a six week period at the very beginning of the year normally in the month of January and sometimes it extends to the early part of February in which we have a lot of very cold and wet weather. That inhibits us somewhat because as you know the buses run on schedule of about eighteen hours a day from early morning until late at night, they come into the shop and they are washed and cleaned If it is very cold that moisture we cant really apply an add in that moist condition because of the potential to not only the decaling that is already on the bus but if that add is placed up there in which is a water technique so if it is placed up a there and dries and freezes it could potentially pull the entire paint panel off bus so that during that one period it inhibits us somewhat and we try to work around that scheduling these contracts so that they expire or renew at periods outside of that and we are getting better at that. This year it effected us a little bit, because of the extremely cold and wet weather that we have been having at night times and I do not know if you know that we go out to place these adds on it’s normally at midnight during the weeknights and if we get a dry Sunday afternoon we can go half the fleet is on the yard on Sunday of course a lot of times you get out there to put adds on and half of the fleet you need to work on is out on the streets working so you have to come back at night. It is the late nights when we do it. So sometimes that can impact and if there is any kind of rain conditions it will slow us down somewhat but it has not really damaged the business.

Mr. Farrell – What would it take to get a climate controlled area? In other words couldn’t we just put a couple of salamander heaters in one of the bays so that wouldn’t be an eliminating factor in getting these adds up on the buses so that the meter can start running on them.

Mr. Thomas – Well actually, one is the paint bay and putting a heater in the bay with fumes and all is something that I do not want to risk. The other is the shop bays where the others are actually working. I believe that we have one, two, five or six bays and really the maintenance portion of these buses, those buses are in and out during those days and we have had extreme cooperation from the folks at CAT at moving the buses when we
need to and a lot of times we don’t need to have them moved we can work right in the yard and so that hasn’t hampered us again that goes back to temperatures, extreme temperatures you know heat is not issue for us but freezing weather is and that is going to be anywhere because you having to deal with this but that when we have had to use the bays we have asked and they have allowed us to do that. The problem is Commissioner Farrell is that there is a curing period when you put that add on so that it can dry out and that is why we are extremely careful with dealing with installation on that

Chairman Liakakis – all right then, Tony do this...Make comparison from 2006, 2007 and we are just starting 2008 but if you could give a comparison now.

Mr. Thomas – okay well first of all let me say it started out with this we started out with very low numbers and now we are moving into some significant business patterns now and I went back and my Fiscal year differs somewhat from Cat’s fiscal year. I operate on January to December and I believe CAT operates on July to June. But I went back and looked at what we did last year in 2007 January, February and March and we did in those three months about forty seven thousand dollars in business and I looked at what we have already got on the books for the first three months of this year and we have got sixty one thousand which represents about twenty four percent increase and I anticipate that we are going to add some more numbers to that for March so we are trending of about twenty five percent increase in the first quarter. And what I am looking at is I am looking at what we have sold in last year verses what we currently have on the books and you know we are sixty one percent of last year already on the books with another fifty thousand dollars in contracts so we are going to exceed what we did in 2007 very easily.

Mr. Chairman – Do this, tell us on a twelve month period you know if you go from Jan of whatever for a twelve month period and take it from 2006 to 2007 specifically at this point.

Mr. Thomas – I do not have the 2006 numbers in front of me Mr. Chairman, I didn’t know that I needed to go back I believe Ms. laderosa and CAT report make

Mr. Rivers – what we are going to do. Did you not get a sheet from us on the update of revenue from last year and from the first six months of this fiscal year. That sheet should have been mailed out to you and yall should have had a detailed explanation. Yall did not get that sheet? Mr. Chairman did yall not get that?

Chairman Liakakis – Yes

Mr. Rivers – Mine is missing out of my folder so I can’t reference it. But the revenues are up significantly and you will take a look at that in your packet, you will see that if there is any other additional information that you need going back to 06, I will have Shirley to go back and pull it for you can have a comparative of three years rather than the two years that I gave you.

Mr. Odell – So the information that was requested has already been mailed out?
Mr. Rivers – yes, we that should have been to you, I told them to mail it to you immediately

Mr. Odell – Those that don’t have it can get it to them relatively this afternoon or Monday so that should solve that question

Chairman Liakakis – Jean go ahead and give some figures that you have please.

Jean laderosa – Thank you very much sir. My name is Jean laderosa with Chatham Area Transit and per our board report we are showing that for fiscal year 07 we were thirty four percent over budget in receivables in revenue the total revenue was one hundred eighty thousand seven hundred fifty eight with miniscule amount of receivables or payments still due for this year fiscal year 08 and we are annualizing it but we are looking at or realizing or rather being at forty nine percent over budget so the budgeted amount was one hundred seventy thousand and we are expected two hundred fifty to six hundred twenty nine thousand in revenue in of course there is a split between Renaissance and CAT. So CAT will see we are anticipating in its coffer one hundred sixty three thousand three hundred fifteen dollars. And if you look at when we started in 2003 with barely any money coming in we have made significant ingrowths in this process. Significant.

Mr. Kicklighter – That’s

Chairman Liakakis – Patrick Farrell

Mr. Farrell – Well I just want to reiterate that with federal funding declining and fuel prices escalating this is the one bright spot this is a bright spot that we have an opportunity to capitalize on to help mitigate some of the budgetary woes that we are facing currently and will be facing in the future. And to give all significance and importance to maximizing this advertising angle that is CAT at this endeavor so I would like to encourage the board and to all the staff folks at Chatham Area Transit that this is a growth area and this is an area to take seriously and we need to build up and to help with the over all bottom line of the Chatham Area Transit. Thank you

Chairman Liakakis – Let me make one comment on that Dean and then I will call on you. One of the things that I would like to bring to this boards attention so that they will know. We need to just prior to you starting Jean if you could bring up the records with that other company was doing you know prior to this company starting to do that give us two years prior to what he has done because what we see that other company because the way it is handled financially now is much better because all the checks go directly to the Transit because that is the way the agreement was made or the other company that was doing it what the other company was doing is that they would take the checks in and unfortunately what they did they didn’t send it to the county and that company owes CAT over a hundred thousand dollars.
Mr. Thomas – I just want to be clear Mr. Chairman that this was not my company.

Chairman Liakakis – no, no not yours, I’m saying the company before yours is what I am saying. Those two years prior to you beginning this Renaissance Company to go in there because it is important for the board to see you know what happened and especially allowing that company to collect the money and then don’t pay the county. They just put well over a hundred thousand dollars in there pocket without doing the right thing. Dean

Mr. Kicklighter – I want to echo you what you said and I want to commend Mr. Thomas and his company for doing an outstanding job and if my memory serves me correct here, back in 03 basically there was buses running around with ad space all over it, we didn’t have when you compare the numbers from back then and now it is amazing as far as the number of advertisers that Mr. Thomas has been able to obtain now verses back then and then to show us what us a fine oiled machine to show us the numbers that you have brought in this year other words the ones starting March April May when we are at a time when a lot of businesses nationwide cutting back on advertising and very impressive and when you took over advertising basically we had no advertising going on and outstanding job and I appreciate it.

Mr. Thomas – Thank you Commissioner Kicklighter, and I just want to just add something to what the Chairman said you know we pride ourselves in this and I know that this board for several years ago when we had some difficult times when this program started and they stuck with me and to comment on Commissioner Farrell’s comments we want to increase it as high as it can go we are looking at rate adjustments and package realignments and I have met with the director Mr. Rivers and looking at a couple of additional spaces on the buses to generate even more revenue. I know that Commissioner Odell had some issues and we are really focusing on the interior advertising on the buses and we have created packages for non profit and retail operations and give non profits a little break so that they can get on the inside of the bus to promote and I believe that Commissioner Dawson over there, I believe that his agency has used us before an I know that Chatham County also uses us right now with the health department initiative on the outside of the bus and then we have the DUI court that is a I mean the health department on the inside and the DUI Court on the outside of the bus so we are putting a lot of efforts into seeing that the those spaces are realized as well and we also have an older fleet what we call trip buses that run about nine of those buses that run shorter schedules during the day but we have advertising on those and additional advertising that is going on those so we are going to maximize everything that we can to try to increase this and even you know to bring it up to new levels and stuff and this is a fun business and it is a business that our advertisers love and we are getting we get calls about ever week of additional people wanting to come on and I am just real thrilled about it and I am very confident standing here today that if we come back in six months or twelve months from now that we are going to report being far higher than a what we are talking about now and I do want to commend the commissioner for bringing up the old company because there is a major difference between what I offer to the county and what that old company did. This county and the CAT Board doesn’t lose money with me and I guarantee that. Any advertising that is sold that CAT will get there portion of the advertising commitment so

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we had a client that didn’t pay so we mail a check to the CAT Board so with us you do not lose a dime. So I just wanted to remind yall of that agreement that we made and we want to continue to stick with that.

Chairman Liakakis – Thank you very much.

Mr. Thomas – Thank you

Chairman Liakakis – Item one request board approve license agreement with Oglethorpe Associates for temporary use of the Oglethorpe lot. Joe

Mr. Rivers – Okay Mr. Chairman, Pat has entered into a memorandum of agreement CAT Board has to review that and Pat will explain to you options that we have with Oglethorpe.

Pat Monahan – Good morning. In cooperation with Mr. Rivers, I was approached by the developer of the Hampton Suites which is immediately across to the Oglethorpe lot and I think that you can turn to page four of your packet and see the lot that is bounded by Oglethorpe Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Montgomery to the east of it and then hull street to the south of it. The county owned this lot but deeded it out to Chatham Area Transit Authority as site number 1 of the Transit Center. The hotel developer approached the county thinking that it was the counties and with Mr. Rivers’s cooperation I took the lead as into just working out an agreement. The developer wants to use lot two and would make the improvements to lot one so the county would obtain the seventy one vehicles and still allow the twenty one sheriff’s deputies and other police vehicles to use that portion of lot two. The problem is through the development of a hotel the parking currently on his lot would be displaced and he needs parking desperately in order to move forward with that project. So the agreement we worked out even though would only be for nine months, the long term benefit to CAT would be not only the fifteen hundred dollars a month it would receive during this period but then once the improvement were made then lot two could be used more efficiently. And then CAT could generate the additional parking from that lot as well.

Chairman Liakakis – Any questions

Mr. Farrell – At the time that the CAT Board takes the possession of lot two at the proposal would it be possible that in light of the reduced budgetary problems that we get into the parking business on a temporary basis and sell parking spaces to the general public?

Mr. Monahan – Just to remind the board the Chatham Area the Chatham County agreed to convey its interest in this property so that CAT can sell it to provide the match for federal funding but somehow or another this property must be sold in order for those funds to be used for the transit center. Otherwise the transit center project budget does not become balanced.
Mr. Farrell – But in the meantime on a temporary basis would it a possibility once lot two is vacated by the hotel that we temporarily get into the parking business?

Mr. Monahan – That is my thought and Mr. Fred Thompson actually manages it for the county.

Mr. Rivers – What I am actually looking at to as you said Pat is using that and not only using that at that particular time, if we can do a match Pat of six and a half million and be able to meet our federal match, cause our construction cost has gone up to fourteen million dollars so we have to contemplate to where we are going to get our match to match that fourteen million dollar construction. If we can do that under the greyhound site and come to an agreement with Greyhound then we may still be able to retain that lot. I don’t know but there are some things that we still have to look at as it comes up.

Chairman Liakakis – Wayne

Mr. Dawson – Pat have we run into problems since the City of Savannah deeded the lane...

Mr. Monahan – The lanes. The City of Savannah did deed the lane but that deed came with a reversion which has already been executed, the City has already taken that back. The Cities conveyance was dependant on the Transit Center at that site but the Transit Center won’t be build at that site, that lane has reverted back to the ownership to the City of Savannah.

Mr. Dawson – That has already been executed?

Mr. Monahan – In essence it has, since CAT did not begin the time requirements to begin the Transit Center site.

Chairman Liakakis – Patrick

Mr. Shay – As part of this lease I see we are represented very ably by legal counsel, will the tenant indemnify CAT and provide insurance in such a way so that if anything happened to anybody on CAT’s property during those nine months, somebody slips and falls or gets hit over the head, somebody leaves there door unlocked and gets there VCR stolen, whatever else you have in the front seat of a car. Is that part of this lease? Are we making sure that we do not buy into a lawsuit because of tourist has a bad experience in that parking lot?

Mr. Hartridge – Item states on page four that it will indemnify CAT harmless and so on it is very precise, it might be wise to get a certificate of insurance too that says that there is coverage under the policy for the lessee

Mr. Shay – It would be good if that were geographically too. I am sure that they have a policy that covers them for there own parking lot and would be nice to make sure that we know what ever it is that they are leasing from us is covered by there insurance policy
Mr. Hartridge – They should get a rider and furnish us with coverage.

Mr. Monahan – We will see that happens and just to let you know, Hampton Suites intent that this lot be used exclusively for valet parking so guest will not be in this lot and the reason that Hampton Suites wants to do that is because it wants to park the cars close because it is a small area and it does park the vehicles. It is not a lease agreement it is a license agreement and the difference is that I have learned is that in a landlord tenant relationship there are certain requirements such as notice and we do not have that same requirement as a license agreement for if something is not working out then we do not have to provide notice right away and do not have to provide that sixty day notice under the law.

Mr. Shay – I still would like to see the insurance. Valet can park over there but somebody walks out the front door and sees there car across the street they are going to want to go over there and get something out of there.

Mr. Monahan – Yes and more importantly it would be to get a certificate of insurance.

Mr. Shay – Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis – Okay, we need to have a motion on the floor to approve this item.

Mr. Odell – motion

Mr. Farrell – Second

Chairman Liakakis – okay we have a motion and a second to approve this license agreement with Oglethorpe Associates. All in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes. Item three…Request Board approval to permit participation by CAT in a multimodal day promotion being planned on Friday April 18th by allowing passengers boarding with bicycle to pay twenty five cent for that day only. Do we have a motion on the floor?

Ms. Bell - Motion

Mr. Odell – second

Chairman Liakakis – any questions, all in favor signify by raising of your hand. Motion passes. Request board selection of the site to be designated as the locally preferred site for the Chatham Area Transit Authority Intermodal terminal. Joe

Mr. Rivers – okay, Mr. Chairman, we had meeting with stakeholders and the community and they recommend the Greyhound site. Mr. Mendala is here and he can give you an update on the procedures that they have gone through thus far. Mr. Mendala.
Mr. Mendrala – My name is John Mendrala of Cogdell and Mendrala Architects. As you know we are going through the EA performing the environmental assessments of the two sites being considered and one being the Downtown terminal and part of FTA’s request is that one of those sites when we submit the draft EA is to designated by the board as the locally preferred site so they know which one the community is looking at as the preferred site. To that end last month we held an advisory committee meeting again with the stakeholders and went through site studies, conceptual designs on them and had them score each of the sites based on the site criteria that was developed last year. Unanimously the Greyhound site came in as the preferred site also last week I think there was a presentation of the draft TDP and in that study our team and there team have been working together from an organizational standpoint and they did recommend the Greyhound site as the site that works better than the Louisville Road site and so we are recommending that the locally preferred site be the Greyhound site in the EA documents.

Chairman Liakakis – Patrick

Mr. Shay – Mr. Chairman, I have had the opportunity to participate in a lot of these sessions and the most recent one where the scoring was done. I would like to compliment John Mendrala and his team they have done this in a very thorough and professional manner in a way that is going to be I think unassailable when we get into the EA process. I would like to thank them for that. I would also like to point out to my fellow board members the same people who were so adamantly opposed to the site that we just saw on our monitors that we a few minutes ago are going to lease out as parking space have participated in this process and they have been active in expressing their opinions and at the end of day that Greyhound is there preferred site. So I hope that this means that the move forward that we will do so with the support of some of the folks who were opposed in the prior location as well as the support in the community at large I fully recommend to this board that we adopt this as the preferred site.

Mr. Kicklighter-Do you put that in a form of a motion?

Mr. Shay – I do

Mr. Farrell – second

Chairman Liakakis – a motion on the floor and a second to accept this locally preferred site for Chatham Area Transit. All in favor signify by the raising of your hand. Motion passes. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Verbal updates Joe for the St Patrick’s Day parade number one

Mr. Rivers – okay. Mr. Dumas and Ms. Iaderosa will give you that report. They have been working closely with the City of Savannah in setting up buses for the activities on Saint Patrick’s and will kinda give you an update as to where we are.
Chairman Liakakis – come forth
Mr. Dumas – Good morning Commissioners of the Board. I am Enoch Dumas with Chatham Area Transit, Jean Iaderoza will be up in just a moment but I understand that there was concern about buses for the St Patrick’s Day shuttle. We will be running our regular services on Friday and Saturday however we will be working along with the city to provide shuttle service during the daytime hours, seven a.m. to five p.m. then we have been requested to provide additional shuttle service from eight o’clock p.m. to two a.m. on Friday as well we’ve been asked to provide shuttle service ten o’clock p.m. to three o’clock p.m. on Saturday. We will be working along with the city to provide as much as twelve buses on both evenings of both nights during those St Patrick’s Day festivals after hours. We will add to our regular service on Friday when permissible to increase service to three designated areas that we have known to be increase in ridership. That’s on our 14 Abercorn route, 17 Silk Hope area and the ten e town which is Allen town. We will add additional buses to those routes as they become necessary in order to try and alleviate the additional passengers from that area to the downtown area.

Chairman Liakakis – I’m glad that CAT has come together when I made that request because listening to many of the business people and of course with the police department about a lot of people driving after the festivities on River Street some of them were inebriated unfortunately and getting in there car and drive away but now you are going to be able to provide that transportation that is vitally needed and to go after those establishments close down at one a.m. You will pick up quite a number of passengers and make it safer for the people and I commend you Joe and your group for providing that service now and that is really important. Helping the Police Department and others in the community makes a big difference. Pat

Mr. Farrell – I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinion that it is very good for the Chatham Area Transit Authority to put its best foot forward in this high profile time of St. Patrick’s Day which we have and occurs annually. And I am very glad to see that we are working very closely with all the different players in this community and that we provide as a CAT a service that we provide a very important piece of the puzzle as far as moving people safely from one part of town to the other as we all know if we can get a few more cars and vehicles off the street if there were an emergency it were going to be a lot better served by relieving some of the congestion and not just for convenience but for public safety. So this is a very important step that CAT’s stepping out of its comfort zone and moving into a new area of service. I would like to commend the staff for working diligently with the other agencies in this community to see that this happens and I am very proud of all the people on CAT that are going to have to work hard during this time but I think that the service to our community goes way beyond dollars and cents it goes to the very basic public safety of the area so thank you very much. For what you are doing and I commend it and I would like to see as much of that cooperation that we can humanly do to work with all the other folks in this community and making this the best get together in Chatham County that it could possibly be. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis – Dean
Mr. Kicklighter – I would like to thank you also for putting this together and I want to ask because I have always said that I believe one of the contributing factors to low ridership is the fact that some people if they are not a regular rider they fear where they fear where they you know don’t know the bus routes and you know it is not clear unless you study the little chart where you go this that and the other. If you have designated spots for drop offs and pick ups it will be like clearly marked on these buses.

Mr. Dumas – For the festival shuttle or all day long are you referring to?

Mr. Kicklighter – I’m thinking because we are talking about at this point the additional service that our intention was really to provide. Is that late night hour when people are intoxicated?

Mr. Dumas – okay

Mr. Kicklighter – there mind tells them not to drive but my worry would be that if they are in that condition they are not going to be able to figure out to much but if there is designated areas that they know every thirty minutes a bus will come and it will be clearly marked Southside, Westside, whatever or wherever it is going and they know to get to that spot and they know where the drop off will be I think it would be useful but I think we may have if not clearly marked we may have a lot of empty buses riding around late at night cause it is kind of complicated to figure out when someone is sober much less if they are intoxicated at two a.m. at night so

Mr. Dumas – We do have a system in place for that and I will allow Jean Iaderosa from Marketing to address that of the location and other areas that you may have regarding the pick up location or the drop off location.

Chairman Liakakis – Jean

Ms. Iaderosa – Thank you very much and in response to your question, we have been working very closely with the city and actually the buses the shuttle buses are going to be departing from India and Pham streets both Friday night from eight to two and then again on Saturday night from ten p.m. till about three a.m. and they are going to be actually color coded in that there is going to be signage red, blue and green if you will and there will be three destinations Oglethorpe Mall, the airport area and then the 204 savannah festival outlet area and we are going to be getting signage for that as well as in the media information that goes out and that information will be there as well as maps that will show the actual stops or drop off points are. I wanted to invite everyone to a press conference which is going to be held this afternoon at one thirty in the rotunda of city hall in which we are going to be announcing the details of the shuttle service as well as encouragement to all to take the regular fixed route service to downtown on Friday the day of the festival as well as Saturday and Sunday as Mr. Dumas pointed out we are adding additional service on our fixed route buses as well to encourage people to come down in addition to the shuttle service and I know that Ms. Krahling has a button for each
of you. You have them already. Catch a Cat on St Pats we will have these available as well at our press conference and for our riders.

Ms. Krahling – they have them

Mr. Kicklighter – Okay, point being that sounds good but point being I sober right now and that was really confusing for you named some of the times it would be there and some times it wouldn’t. Where exactly is India and Pham? Give a landmark or something so people will know.

Ms. Iaderosa – MLK and River Street

Mr. Kicklighter – MLK and River Street okay and that will be a drop off and how often will a bus come and go to lets say I wanted to park at mall and I go and wait on MLK and River Street how long would I be the longest amount of time would I have to wait on a bus to get me back to that point.

Mr. Dumas – To respond to your question The City of Savannah with the law enforcement as well as the employees of the City of Savannah will be working together with CAT. My understanding is that the festival will continue on throughout until one a.m. or until that time of closing. At some point they will instruct participants to go towards MLK and India Street. Of course there will be direction there will be officers directing as to where to walk where to go. Once they are in that location there will be a gated area for them to come in purchase ticket or whatever means there is to board the bus. We will have twelve buses in that area staging to load and drop off at the various locations and return back and continue that shuttle. It’s a forty minute round trip basically for the bus to get to Oglethorpe Mall and return to that location and when you factor in 204 and Pooler area you are now looking at one hour thirty minutes time we will accommodate those based on the needs. If they are not individuals of bus load that will go to the airport or to Pooler then we will continue to use Oglethorpe Mall majority of those that need to go to Pooler we will shuttle the buses to that are and if I am answering your question there will be about twenty minute wait if all buses are there and if all buses are going hopefully you are not looking at a twenty minute wait at any time.

Mr. Kicklighter – Will you have small buses there. Little tiny vans in case there are a few people waiting to go somewhere

Mr. Dumas – Chatham Area Transit we do not have means to small buses or vans

Mr. Kicklighter – I mean will Savannah where the whole advertisement thing is

Mr. Dumas – well I can only address the Chatham Area Transit portion and I do not have the answer as to what other transportation modes will be available. We will have twelve buses available on both nights and there will transport passengers as quickly as possible.
Mr. Kicklighter – Will we have buses from the end sites at two a.m. to any regular routes at that point.

Mr. Dumas – no, our regular service will be discontinue at its normal time. What is important to understand here when we provide this type of service we are pushing our entire department particularly our maintenance department to the verge of turn around for we have to provide service the very next day so if we don’t stop at some point for that passenger who needs that bus on Saturday to get to work will to have a bus available so we are stopping at that particular time so that we can turn around quickly and provide service. So our regular service will stop.

Mr. Kicklighter – Okay yall have done good putting it together but ultimately the goal of the combined effort amongst the CAT staff and the City of Savannah is to provide ease on traffic congestion because dropping drunk people off at there cars ultimately is not going to help out a bit. That just means that they will crash somewhere else but downtown.

Mr. Dumas – The goal is not to just drop them off just at the parking lot we are designated to make certain hotel drop offs as well. So the intent is trying to avoid that same issue by just moving from one area to another area to create a traffic accident

Chairman Liakakis – Like to call on Chief Berkow for he can answer some of those questions for he has worked with the City and with CAT so he is quite familiar with the way that this is going

Mr. Kicklighter – I just want an answer and I was hoping that somebody can do that

Chief Berkow – I can do that. I think I can explain it and we this was really a police department from the start we have historically been left at the end of the festival event with thousands of people with very limited transportation trying to get home to a variety of hotels. With expansion of hotels particularly at some of these what I guess I would call them is a cluster the airport and 95, and at 204 and 95 and the full corridor down Abercorn. We have been left with the problem of how to get all these people of whom have been drinking for a long time how do we safely getting them home and so the city is basically contracting with CAT and giving them an hourly rate per bus. City Staff Marty Johnson’s staff from the Civic Center will be set up supporting the police department and we are only running the CAT buses at one location because experience tells us that the folks that are trying to get out of there we have got to make it very simple. And we are doing it if you think of Bay Street, River Street, and that little strip there of MLK you are creating a circle using Pham and Indian to stage buses and taxi cabs. We are going to have two lines and what we are going to do is we are setting up a corral systems. Think of Disney land, as people come up they will buy a ticket no advance sales of tickets we are afraid that we will get into where they bought a ticket and I lost it we do not want to get into that. You will buy your ticket and the city staff will collect that money, Marty Johnson’s and they will go into a corral, for one of these three destinations. South on Abercorn to hit all the hotels. We are not taking people back to there cars for them to

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drive home in an intoxicated fashion. But to hit the hotels down that avenue going to hit that cluster of hotels at 204 and 95, and hit that cluster of hotels at 95 and the airport. This is not something we have done in the past so this is learn as we go what we are doing in response to your question on the timing and I think what we are trying to explain is that this is a 95 airport bus and this bus is a 95/204 bus. Let’s say we walk up and we got people waiting in line waiting for 204 and 95, guess what both those buses will go to 204 and 95. and so we are going to have basically a bus wrangler there working with CAT working with city staff as they collect the money and one of CAT’s real concerns is security with there staff so we are going to prescreen people. We will police officers there so if they are disruptive then they will not be allowed on the bus that is why we are using one location and that is why we are setting up specific points outside the festival for taxi cab staging. Whitaker Street we are going to have taxi cabs and also some shuttles. Also at Price and Bay Street there will be just a taxi cab stand. There is three hundred and twenty licensed taxi cabs in the city and we are trying to direct everyone. That is why we have worked very closely with the visitor’s bureau and the hotel owners, other sort of merchants to prepare in advance packages and they have been working quite extensively and I understanding that there will be detailed set of maps and instructions coming out in the Savannah morning news in the very near future on this same topic.

Mr. Kicklighter – Does the airport plan on allowing people to utilize there overflow parking lot out there that is actually grass?

Chief Berkow – There is no intention to use that because then again we would be transporting, we would be encouraging people to park a car in an offsite

Mr. Kicklighter – I am saying not assuming that not everybody is going to be drunk because not everybody will

Chief Berkow – we have not made any arrangements in that regard for this year. This is the first year we have actually had a transit plan for the end of the festival. So we are going to have to look at it and see what happens historically the problem in not enough cabs and the cabs are reluctant to make that run out because they know that they will be coming back empty so they tend to focus on the short runs this will be a very real attempt to move people from the festival area at the end of the night to there respective hotels

Mr. Kicklighter – You all do a great job and that answered my questions. I was worried that buses would be riding normal routes and no weather or not to get on them so

Chief Berkow – absolutely sir, thank you

Chairman Liakakis – James

Mr. Holmes – Question that I was going to ask, I think you just answered it in many ways the two hours that we are dealing with that twelve to

Chief Berkow – yes sir
Mr. Holmes – Is that considered a critical two hours?

Chief Berkow – Friday night the city ordinance the bars must close at one a.m. and just to clarify that is really driven by sanitation. Sanitation must start cleaning River Street by three a.m. so we have to have the street clear so the bars close on Friday at one a.m. which allows us to move people off and that is why that bus is going to two a.m. should accommodate a great deal of that and we may get to two a.m. and say wow we got a lot more people to move and we may have to have a discussion but we are stuck with some external factors between a rock and a hard place. Sanitation has got to hit River Street at that time or they can not operate. CAT has got to get the buses back for maintenance or they have problems servicing them the next day. So what we are trying to do is expand the service within the margins that are provided.

Mr. Holmes – okay, next question. This is the first time we are doing this Joe that you have any knowledge of?

Chief Berkow – yes sir

Mr. Holmes – We do not have a model to model by?

Chief Berkow – no sir

Mr. Holmes – okay, who are we trying to serve and who are we putting this on for?

Chief Berkow – I think historically we’ve recognized that there are a significant number of visitors to the city that come to enjoy the festival. And I guess I am always very careful when I talk about the parade as compared to the festival. They two radically separate events and there are historically a large number of people that come in to enjoy the festival and I actually saw it myself last year where we had people sort of walking off trying to get home trying to find some way to get home and trying to get back to these cluster of hotels. One of the things we have been doing very carefully since this run off of St. Patrick’s day is monitoring occupancies at the hotels of the fill rates so we have a pretty good sense of how busy the hotels are going to be and 95 and the airport and at 95 and 204 as you know there has been a lot of growth in those areas. So that is why we are doing this of running the buses to these locations where we know people are staying and trying to get them to there locations.

Mr. Holmes – So we are concentrating on the tenants of the hotels and the motels other than the regular

Chief Berkow – Absolutely. Not a sense that this is a service that is needed or would be utilized by the average Savannian trying to get home from downtown.

Mr. Holmes – One more question, the safety
Chief Berkow – yes sir

Mr. Holmes - After twelve o’clock, leaving a bar on St Patrick’s Day celebration. We know the mind set of that person buses will probably be over crowded. Have we ever considered the safety of the operator?

Chief Berkow – Oh there is not question about it. That is why we are only doing this from one location. I can not; I do not have the personnel to staff people on each bus. That is just not a realistic possibility. We are going to prescreen the riders if someone is disruptive, first of all we are not going to allow the bus to be overcrowded we are going to work with CAT and we are going to load the bus appropriately everyone will have a seat. If someone is one of the advantages of having this at one location is that we will have port a potties there we will have a couple of officers there we are going to have a couple looks at the rider before they get on the bus. So were going to try our best to minimize any problems. We do not have a base of experience sir, we will try it and we will sit down and the end of it, we will debrief it, learn, if we end up with empty buses CAT doesn’t lose because there is a contract price secondly we will evaluate any safety issues or disruptions that we may have later on. But as we have said we have made some substantial efforts this year to dramatically shift the police presence from the very safe and orderly parade where we are prominently dealing with traffic issues towards the night time issues and dramatically shifted our police presence to the night side issues where we have many more public safety concerns.

Chairman Liakakis – Patrick

Mr. Shay – You know I live in the downtown area not far from where your offices are and I think it is worth reminding folks that this is where people live, this is a neighborhood where only seven thousand people that live downtown. But we are going to be hosting seven hundred and fifty thousand visitors. The visitors for the most part aren’t watching this telecast but I would like to remind folks that this is not a license to misbehave if you are coming to this festival and you are intent on misbehaving then Chief Berkow has a fleet of small vehicles which will be used to transport you to a place you didn’t mention which is the Chatham County Sheriff’s complex. We want to make sure that everybody that wants to have a good time has a good time and we are going to do the kind of things that we have talked about today to make sure that people who are enjoying a good time and maybe had a little too much to drink have another strategy for how they are going to be able to get back to there hotel or what not but this is not a license to misbehave in my neighborhood.

Chief Berkow – Just to drive that point home in fact we have already sent advanced letters to every alcohol establishment in the downtown area actually the entire county I think we have sent over four hundred letters out reminding everyone of the state law that makes it a misdemeanor crime to serve alcohol to an intoxicated individual and no new laws no new statutes we have not asked for any additional authority. We have made it clear to everyone this year we are enforcing the statutes that we do have.
Mr. Kicklighter — Mr. Chairman if I may.

Chairman Liakakis — all right Dean

Mr. Kicklighter — Chief I know you can’t do this, this year it is to late but maybe next year another designated area such as you do at the mall, the overflow at the airport with direct shuttles running back and forth. I think that could greatly decrease traffic in the area. And I do think that the great majority we have responsible people that they are not dying to get and drink and drive that would utilize the parking area at the airport. Many of the people that are flying in could just utilize that you know area there and have two designated areas that have the definite back and forth little shuttles running. Just something to look at

Chief Berkow — Well, we are going to look at everything and we do an after action review of everything we do and in quite great detail so we will be taking a detailed look at this because we have experience with transit

Mr. Kicklighter — Great job.

Chief Berkow — we are very optimistic about it. So

Chairman Liakakis — Thank you very much Chief, we appreciate it and as always you do a great job at you know putting these things together

Mr. Rivers — Mr. Chairman

Chairman Liakakis — yes

Mr. Rivers — Now you see why I didn’t funnel you information until everything was concrete and solidified because this is the first year we are doing it and didn’t know how we were going to approach it and unfortunately some wrong information but this is your outcome of being just a little bit patient and patience is going to be our greatest value

Chairman Liakakis — I understand Joe, but the news media pounding on us and those kind of things and then people writing letters to the editor and vox popular and all we need to give them kind of some information and that is why I talked with you about that individually so that the people know that we are doing something to make sure that we have safe citizens and you know the necessary for safe transportation.

Mr. Rivers — Let me mention one important thing all though we have planned we have made good plans we got twelve buses that are out of service. Twelve. They are either in the shop replacement of transmissions, replacement of engines. Today on the street I have one spare bus if a bus breaks down if two buses break down we do not have service to that line. That is how critical we are operating. And at some point when I get time because everything is of urgency with this transit system. When I get time I will sit down
and explain and get you guys up to snuff and we can get organized so that we can see the big picture and where we have to go.

Chairman Liakakis – Okay, next item MMB circulator update Joe

Mr. Rivers – I’m going to make that short and sweet we were supposed to have the circulator on the street March third and it looks like March 17th. We were about to delay it until about April and I told them no we can not do that because we have bus operators sitting there and we just can’t go past April 17th. I mean March 17th we will have the circulator on the street, some form of service

Chairman Liakakis – next item,

Mr. Rivers – I will be ready and all that

Chairman Liakakis - FY 09 federal funding request, Joe

Mr. Rivers – What has happened on this federal funding had an urgency on that. We sent our request up to meet the deadline. Some forms we sent up, they were incorrect. Well, they weren’t incorrect they didn’t have sufficient information on it and that information was not because we didn’t have that information at hand but we and we can work on those things. The fact is that we got the request in. The second thing on that is John Barrow is going to be the lead. The primary person on that and his office is straight. He will take the lead and Jack Kingston will back it up and then the senators will work in conjunction with them. Our lobbyist advised me to cut this thing down to two requests. To the two top priorities. We will do that and I have given her that to cut our request for appropriations down to two. That will be it. We may get some money. I put eight in there but we had the stimulus bill coming and I tried to get as much money off the table from them as I could possibly can for future years. But the stimulus package is not there so we do not have that to worry about so we needed to cut that down to two and we may or may not get money but earmarks are a difficult thing in this atmosphere.

Chairman Liakakis – okay, thank you Joe, uh yes go ahead.

Ms. Stone – What two requests have you made Joe?

Mr. Rivers – One would be for buses and that is down there for bus and bus facilities but the 3.2 million dollars will be for buses and then Preventative Maintenance would be my next one because I am anticipating we are going have to do a lot of preventative maintenance before we get our buses back into a rotation. We have got twelve buses that that is why we have got this kind of list of twelve and they are in and out of shop these buses area at there end of there life expectancy over five hundred thousand miles so we can expect that they are going to cost us. And then we got thirty one buses on lease and they are all going to become in operational at the same time and I am trying to get ahead of that with ten of those in the pipe before we get to that point.
Ms. Stone—I realize that they are getting really strict about getting the earmark what are our chances of getting any of this money.

Mr. Rivers—It is helter skelter. But the fact is folks we will get together and talk about some things but trust me we are going to be alright if we just tow the line we are going to be all right

Ms. Stone—I just want to make sure that our applications are definitely complete and we have all necessary paperwork to my understanding was due today in Washington and just make sure that all that is done so that we do not lose any federal money and hope that we get some of these critical earmark for our public transit.

Mr. Rivers—It will be done timely I assure you

Ms. Stone—all right

Mr. Shay—Also Joe if I might jump in I think the top three is all critically important to us. Item number two is not a capital request and so I can see why it would not make it down for two but the Job Access Reverse Commute money which is reauthorization is a very very high priority and I would not want that to fall off the table in these discussions.

Mr. Rivers—There are two things that will be high on our plate reauthorization Mr. Shay that would be additional money that we need for the transit system and the JARC

Mr. Shay—thank you

Chairman Liakakis—okay Wayne do you need to make a statement

Mr. Kicklighter—sir there is something important that he needs to say. This is urgent

Chairman Liakakis—A little while ago you heard the sirens go off. And what those sirens were, were Tornado warnings for specifically for Wilmington Island and Skidaway Island and Clayton Scott who is now executive director for this point for our CEMA would like to make a statement concerning that.

Clayton Scott—I apologize for the interruption but we have had repeated tornado warning now for Wilmington and skidaway island and also Tybee island as you hear the sirens go off we are sounding them not for the same warning but subsequent warnings that the national weather service is giving us we are going to go through probably for the next couple of hours some nasty pockets of weather that are passing over us that are conducive to tornados no sightings on the ground just talked to Chief Berkow which has talked to dispatch and again no sightings. We have advised all of police chiefs in each of the areas Thunderbolt is the result of the siren that is going off or has just gone off but that is the purpose for them and that is why we have a great siren program It is extremely important to us to that we can notify all of our citizens. If I get any change I will give yall an update. Thank yall very much. Any questions?
Russ Abolt – Mr. Chairman I am glad that you allowed this for this is a live broadcast right now so in addition to sirens those folks at home are appreciating that to allow Clayton to brief y'all.

Mr. Scott – thank you

Chairman Liakakis – Thank you Clayton. Uh, Wayne

Mr. Dawson – yes Joe I just wanted to compliment you I spoke to somebody in representative kingstons office last week and they were very complimentary of the relationship that we have been able to re establish with there office and I hope that we continue to have such a good presence on capital hill.

Mr. Rivers – they will be the primary and they will be the lead and they are satisfied they knew that we were going to send them complete information but he is handling it and we will straighten it out.

Ms. Bell – I just want to commend the different agencies for the coordination of services because I do believe that if we are going to accomplish anything we must do it together and I think it is a fine job you have done coordinating this transportation and stuff and I would like to see this type of corporation throughout all of our intake of agencies with the county and the city.

Chairman Liakakis – okay thank you Viola, okay yes

Mr. Farrell – I just wanted to also let my fellow board members know that Helen Stone and I were in Washington DC and spent the better part of the day on Capital Hill speaking with Senator Chambliss and Senator Isakson. We were in John Barrow’s office and Jack Kingston’s office. And one of the items we brought to the attention was the funding difficulties that this board is having with Chatham Area Transit. We are addressing this issue on many different fronts and just want people to know that.

Mr. Shay – Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis – Okay, meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

[Signature]
Gennetta M. Krahling, Secretary, Treasurer
Chatham Area Transit Authority

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