

The JATRAM fixed route riders' committee began at 10:00 a.m. in the city council chambers of City Hall on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Committee president Gladys Bunzy presided over the meeting.

Present were Shellie Dixon, Dr. Scott Crawford, Tammie Sparks, committee vice-president Vijay Shah, committee recording secretary Sheila O'Flaherty, JATRAM road supervisor Lovie Freeman, and JATRAM general manager Elvin Tobin.

**Minutes:**

O'Flaherty read the minutes of the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tobin said the phone number in the minutes is his direct number, not his cell number. Sparks motioned that the corrected minutes be accepted. The corrected minutes were then accepted without opposition.

**Old Business:**

**Update** on the bus stop sign replacements begun January 22, 2014: Tobin said the replacement process has made progress this month – John Andoh, the City's new Transportation Planning and Transit Services Manager, has been dealing effectively with other City departments. Andoh has been rearranging federal grant money for the bus stop sign replacement process. A bus stop technician will be hired to install the signs and repair the shelters. Andoh now has a job description from Tobin for this position.

Crawford said that Scott Burge from CMPDD suggested that two-sided bus stop signs are more pedestrian friendly for potential riders. The signs can be either printed on both sides or can be made with two one-sided signs. A discussion followed. Tobin said that JATRAM <sup>\* agreed, but</sup> already has all the signs, poles, and screws for the replacement process. These signs are one-sided; and the poles are designed for only one sign to be mounted on them.

**Update** on Phase II of the bus stop shelters: Tobin talked yesterday about this with Andoh. Andoh is going to talk with the project manager, George Ewing. There is a possibility of the City hiring a specific person for this project.

**Update** on the no-smoking signs in the bus shelters: The signs are up in all the shelters! The bad news is that smokers are ignoring the signs.

Dixon asked if there were a possibility that JATRAM have an extra person who would get on buses and announce rules including no cigarettes and no alcohol. Tobin said that next week RFPs are going on the street for fare boxes, cameras, and automated bus announcements. The automated announcements will help with the rules on the buses but not in the shelters.

**Update** on spelling correction of name Medgar Evers on #8 buses: The correction was made on all working vehicles as of this past Thursday. O'Flaherty asked if a procedure was in place that vehicles coming back into service would be updated before being put on the streets. Tobin said he will put a process in place to be sure that the buses are updated as they come back into service.

**Update** on purchase of new fixed route vehicles: Andoh said that the procurement has been okayed by the City. This purchase will be for two 30-foot Gilligs this year.

Purchases in future years are not limited to this size or quantity. Those purchases may be for up to five buses a year until a total of 47 buses are purchased. Buses 738 and 739 are 40-foot buses. Other JATTRAN Gilligs are 35 feet long. JATTRAN's El Dorados are 30 feet long.

**Update** on operator name plaques in the buses: JATTRAN bypassed the sign shop and the plaques have now been made.

**Update** on Route #7 information on City's website: the schedules have been corrected on the website. The map has been corrected but is not yet up on the website.

Information is being updated so that future schedule booklets will be correct. However, JATTRAN has 3,000 of the current booklets still in stock.

**New Business:** The city's new Transportation Planning and Transit Services Manager was not present, but current attendees felt that he had helped JATTRAN considerably in his short time in Jackson and all looked forward to meeting him.

**Public Comment:**

Shah asked about the staffing level of operators. Tobin said that JATTRAN is always in need of more operators; a class is scheduled for new operators in May with five to seven members.

Bunzy said that Yolanda in Customer Service is "absolutely wonderful" and added that "she's a jewel." Sparks agreed with Bunzy's comments about Yolanda.

Sparks asked about the JATTRAN stop at the former Walgreens near County Line Road. Some operators stop there; other operators say it is not a stop. Both Bunzy and O'Flaherty said that at a recent fixed route meeting, Cheatham told Jean McKinney that it is a stop.

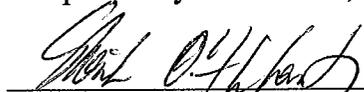
Riders asked about the condition of the seats at Union Station. Tobin said he will take up the condition of the seats with Andoh.

In answer to a question, Tobin said that JATTRAN did attempt to connect with Google Transit but the attempt was unsuccessful. Tobin said that he and Andoh talked yesterday about updating JATTRAN's technology so that bus locations will be available.

Crawford said that he brought up with Andoh the long, inefficient headways particularly on the #12. We've been told for years that changing the #12 will require talking with the city of Ridgeland, but we should do this. Getting to Target takes 53 minutes after leaving Save a Lot. Both Tobin and Freeman said that during peak hours passengers can transfer at CVS from one #12 to the other #12; the trip to Target at those times thus takes only 23 minutes. No riders present were aware of this. We were all in agreement that this transfer opportunity should be publicized to riders.

At 11:00, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila O'Flaherty, recording secretary  
[approved May 30, 2015, as corrected]