

The JATRAM fixed route riders' committee began at 10:05 a.m. in the city council chambers of City Hall on Saturday, June 27, 2015. Committee president Gladys Bunzy presided over the meeting.

Present were Dr. Scott Crawford, Charles Smith, Michael Horsley, Dixie Sherrill, Carl Marks, committee vice-president Vijay Shah, committee recording secretary Sheila O'Flaherty; city of Jackson employee O.J. Craft, and JATRAM director of operations Dewayne Cheatham.

Minutes:

O'Flaherty read the minutes of the May 30th meeting. Cheatham said that a sentence needed to be added to the discussion about educating operators of correct ADA compliance: "Cheatham then said operator education is the responsibility of the company."

Crawford motioned that the minutes be accepted. The corrected minutes were then accepted without opposition.

Old Business:

Update on Phase II of the bus stop shelters: Cheatham said JATRAM is continuously in contact with the City about this and has no start date yet. JATRAM "has notified the public that we are hiring a bus stop technician" to be responsible for erecting bus stop signs and other duties including getting the platforms in place. JATRAM's current green and gold bus stop signs do not meet ADA standards in color or in size and need to be replaced.

O'Flaherty asked where JATRAM notified the public of this position. Cheatham said the position is posted on the TransDev website, has been published in the *Clarion-Ledger*, and is at the WIN Job Centers. O'Flaherty said JATRAM should post the position on the JATRAM section of the City's website and that as of yesterday, the position is not posted on the JATRAM section of the City's website. The appropriate page labeled "Opportunities with JATRAM" specifically says "No Vacancies at this time." Cheatham said "JATRAM does not manage or maintain that website." Cheatham added that a position on the page might look as though it were a City of Jackson position. O'Flaherty said that JATRAM can place a disclaimer stating that the position is with TransDev and not with the City of Jackson.

Crawford said that we have made a lot of mistakes in bus platform design and installation. Crawford wants to review the designs before they are put in effect. He said, "Nothing about us without us." Crawford's services are free.

Update on purchase of new fixed route vehicles: Cheatham said there is no new information this month on the purchase.

Update JATRAM on City's website: Andoh, Tobin, and Cheatham met a few weeks ago with CMPDD [Central Mississippi Planning and Development District] to update JATRAM's service maps. Cheatham said JATRAM is not yet posting updated maps on the website because "constantly changing the maps would confuse the public" and "we wanted to avoid" that. O'Flaherty said the Route #7 information on City's website is so inaccurate that it in fact does confuse the public and cannot be relied upon: the #7 route in the color labeled "Mid Day" is the peak-times route and does not run during the midday.

Cheatham said Andoh has added a "Rider Alerts and Updates" page to the JATRAM section of the website. He added, "You will see information about the Medgar Evers parade on the website" in that section. O'Flaherty said that as of yesterday in fact the "Rider Alerts and Updates" page has only one item; the item begins "JATRAM will start installing its new bus stop signs Wednesday, January 22, 2014" and continues with the installation schedule. Cheatham said this information should not be on the website and "it will be changed."

Update on Union Station: Since our last meeting, Bunzy met with Louis Armstrong, Deputy Director of the City's Human and Cultural Services Department, and with three staff members of Hinds Behavioral Health.

Cheatham said he did not know if Tobin has met about Union Station safety with the police department since our last meeting. Cheatham said the physical elements of the Union Station platform are managed by JRA [the Jackson Redevelopment Authority], and JRA "has been notified" about the seats.

Update on Alerting riders to the option of transferring between #12s at CVS: Cheatham said he does not want to publish the information about this transfer point because the public may believe they could also transfer there to the #1 on the other side of the Interstate. Crawford reiterated that he has asked the City in the past to build the appropriate infrastructure so that a transfer to the #1 would be possible – or even unnecessary. The sidewalk is in violation of ADA and has been since it was constructed. Cheatham said this is MDOT territory and not the city's responsibility. Crawford said his request should then be forwarded to MDOT.

Cheatham added that JATRAM has no need to announce the CVS transfer point between the #12s because "any passenger" can call JATRAM and ask; the passenger would then be told that he or she could transfer there. Both O'Flaherty and Shah objected vigorously to being told that they could call and ask about something they do not know exists.

O'Flaherty added that since the actual times of the October 2011 route changes were posted, she has complained in many venues about the 53 minutes that it takes the #12 to get to Target and no one from JATRAM ever corrected her until the April fixed route meeting. Cheatham added once again that she had never asked JATRAM.

Update on Advance notice to passengers of detours (including specifically Medgar Evers Parade): Cheatham said that a Rider Alert will be posted on the buses and also on the website. By posting notices on the website, JATRAM will alert riders who do not ride JATRAM every day.

O'Flaherty asked why riders had not been informed of the Medgar Evers Parade detours. Cheatham said the parade had not yet occurred. O'Flaherty said she heard JATRAM radio traffic about operators wanting detour instructions a couple weeks ago for this parade. Cheatham was unaware of this.

New Business:

Report on recent Dump the Pump event: Cheatham said that JATRAM provided 3,600 rides that day versus an expected 2,200 rides on a normal Thursday.

Two-sided signage for on bus stop signs for passengers: Cheatham said that Robert Lee of the City brought this to JATRAM's attention six or eight months ago but JATRAM's primary goal now is to get down the non-ADA compliant signage.

O'Flaherty complimented JATRAM on the sign design of both the Dump the Pump signs and the signs about the resumption of service to Capitol Street but asked that such signs also be placed on both sides of the posts at Union Station.

Public Comment:

Crawford said that the stop-request push pads in the wheelchair securement locations never work; this is a manufacturer issue, not just a JATRAM issue. He wants JATRAM to be aware of this in the procurement of new buses.

Crawford said that the state had a public hearing yesterday about the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA, about which no one in the disability community was notified. The only other hearing on WIOA is Wednesday, July 22, at 5:30 p.m. in the Central High School auditorium. It is important that we talk about the necessity for adequate transit services to get to employment.

The state MDOT transit summit is Thursday, July 16, at the Jackson Marriott.

Cheatham said that signs are up about the service change effective Monday, July 5. The #4B will use 30-foot vehicles instead of 40-foot vehicles to get around the Capitol Street roundabouts.

Crawford asked if this committee would be involved in upcoming route revisions. We will have to ask Andoh.

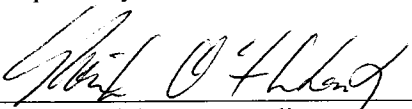
O'Flaherty asked that dates of our upcoming fixed-route meetings be put on the website. Today's meeting is the last date on the website.

At this point, 11:30, Cheatham had to leave for another engagement.

Smith asked several questions about designated stops. We said he should call Cheatham or Customer Service.

At 11:35, Smith motioned that the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila O'Flaherty, recording secretary
accepted as presented on July 25, 2015