

## CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

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**Thursday March 12th, 2015  
RTA Board Room  
1240 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
8:30 A.M.**

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### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:35am

The following members were in attendance: Steve Albro, David Applefeld, Karl Benz, Johnny Brewington, Marie Fratus, Martin Golob, Donaldson Hill, Ron Jackson, John McGovern, Edward Opett, Donna Prease, Joseph Sopko, Marjorie Sutton, Tyler Stillings, Jessica Whale, Andre White and George Zeller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair McGovern & Secretary Sutton will be working to ensure all minutes are complete, approved, signed off and posted to the website prior to the next meeting April 9, 2015.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Joseph Calabrese, General Manager and CEO

- Ridership – year to date:
  - Bus – down 3.2%
  - Red line – marginally up .6%
  - Light rail – down 5%
- All February numbers are not in yet however probably down by 5% because of the very difficult month especially rail – due to terrible weather conditions.
- Board to approve construction for the Brooke Park station next week, bids are in with a possible groundbreaking in April
- Public meeting held on February 17 regarding the E 116<sup>th</sup> station design. Very well presented meeting that was well attended and Council person Mamie Mitchell was in attendance
- The Board of Trustees have approved funding to move ahead with the design and construction of the E 34<sup>th</sup> Street Station as well as the E 79<sup>th</sup> Street Station design has been approved however funds have not been identified for the construction
- NOACA is providing additional funding for the Section 5310 program for enhanced mobility for seniors and paratransit individuals with disabilities. A resolution will be presented to the Board in March for application for additional paratransit vehicles
- Ohio Department of Transportation has awarded additional funds in the amount of \$1.7 million for more trolleys
- Jose is servicing the new Student Advisory Committee – created to share their route usage, advocacy efforts and how students can take advantage of public transportation. Next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2015
- First Hispanic Blue Ribbon Committee meeting was held on February 27, 2015. The purpose of this group is to determine how to increase employees at RTA
- On March 1 RTA routes were changed on Public Square, on March 6 ground was broken for the construction to begin and on March 9 the square will be closed for through traffic
- It is confirmed that the shelters that will be replaced on Public Square after construction will be illuminated
- Cleveland Sight Center will be hosting an event on March 17. Consumers from North East Ohio who are interested in learning more about RTA services will be in attendance. The

event to be held at 1909 East 101<sup>st</sup> Street starts at 5:30pm and is expected to last until 7:00pm. Director of Paratransit, Oliver Draper, is scheduled to be there

- RTA is preparing for St. Patrick's Day, the busiest day for RTA of the year.
- 140 people letters were sent regarding Access Cleveland
- There have been many complaints regarding the weather and lack of snow removal. As a result an apology from RTA's CEO Joe Calabrese, was posted on RTA's website and sent to all that are connected via email and social media
- 30 million in bonds were sold for capital projects to pay for various projects throughout RTA
- RTA received an upgrade from Moody's Investors Service from AA2 to AA1
- Customer Satisfaction surveys results are in:
  - Paratransit:
    - over 90% satisfied with the process to schedule their trips
    - On-time performance was rated as good
    - 95% satisfied with service and provided suggestions for improvements
  - Trolley:
    - 80% very satisfied with ambassadors, stops locations, information availability, cleanliness and service hours
  - Correction actions based on both surveys will be developed and implemented
- Parker Hannifin to partner with RTA with the new Gillig CNG bus unveil in late April
- There has been an extreme level of media attention with:
  - Channel 3 focusing on the trolleys and future funding for them
  - Crain's ran an editorial on the trolleys
  - The Plain Dealer ran a story on the infrastructure challenges focusing on the upcoming Tower City multi-phase project
  - WTAM/WCPN held a "State of RTA" interview focusing on nation ridership trends and US Senate testimony relating to rail funding needs
- RTA in conjunction with NOACA is planning a Stand up for Transportation day to be held on April 9 – to show what needs immediate attention on our roads, rails and buses
- Rail construction at Tower City – hope to be able to work in phases over a five year period to keep from having to shut down Tower City, open track 3 to close track 2 and the same for track 1.
- There was plenty of conversation with the City regarding snow removal. RTA does not plow bus stops and walks, it is a city responsibility.

#### CAB CHAIR REPORT: John McGovern, CAB Chair

- Elections for leadership with CAB – John read the guidelines for membership. John has announced that he is stepping down as Chair effective today March 12, 2015.
- Nominations:
- Chair: Don Hill nominated Ron Jackson, Ron declined the nomination  
David Applefeld nominated himself and accepted the nomination  
Johnny Brewington nominated Marjorie Sutton, Marjorie declined  
Don Hill nominated Jessica Whale, Jessica accepted  
Marjorie Sutton nominated Donaldson Hill, Donaldson accepted the nomination  
Marie Fratus nominated George Zeller, George accepted the nomination – Andre White requested nomination be closed – nomination closed
- Vice Chair: Andre White nominated Steve Albro – Steve accepted – Andre White requested nomination be closed – nomination closed
- Secretary: Don Hill nominated – Marjorie Sutton – Marjorie accepted the nomination – Andre White requested nomination be closed – nomination closed

#### ADA COMMITTEE REPORT: Ron Jackson, Committee Chair

Next ADAC meeting 3/19/15 9:30am

#### TIAC REPORT: Marjorie Sutton, Committee Chair

Next TIAC meeting 4/16/15 - joint with ADAC

ADVOCACY REPORT: Don Hill & Jessica Whale Co-Committee Chair

- o January 29 last meeting – three items were discussed in length
- o 1) influence the state budget (letter to governor)
- o 2) public education program
- o 3) media campaign – work with Joe and his list of 319 people(movers & shakers) and 70 individuals

The report shows such a tremendous need; will figure out the need and devise a plan

Next Meeting TBA

Annual meeting of R.U.N. (Rail Users Network) to be held Saturday September 26, 2015 at RTA HQ

Proclamation was given to John McGovern by Steve Albro by City of Cleveland

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Intihar (440.317.1064) - difficulty boarding the minivan (contractors) being used by the Paratransit (head is hitting the top of the door opening) – Michael York will look into this and get back to John

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am

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**Next CAB meeting April 9th, 2015**  
**RTA Board Room**  
**1240 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**<http://www.riderta.com/CAB>**

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John McGovern, Chair

Date

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Marjorie Sutton, Secretary

Date