

McKINNEY URBAN TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD

September 12, 2018

The McKinney Urban Transit District Board (MUTD) met in regular session in the Council Chambers of McKinney City Hall, 222 N. Tennessee Street, McKinney, Texas, on September 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Board Chair Brian Loughmiller, Board Vice Chair Chuck Branch, Board Secretary Scott Elliott, and Board Members George Fuller, Tracy Rath, Derek Borg, and Derek Stephens.

Mr. Fuller stepped away from the meeting at 7:45 p.m., not returning.

Mr. Branch stepped away from the meeting at 7:52 p.m., returning at 7:55 p.m.

Members Absent: La'Shadion Shemwell, Rainey Rogers, Charlie Philips, Jason Little, Corbett Howard.

Mr. Corbett was appointed to the board on August 19, 2018 by City of Celina to replace departing member Ben Rodriguez.

City of McKinney Staff Present: City Manager Paul Grimes, Assistant City Manager Barry Shelton, Assistant City Attorney Alan Lathrom, Housing and Community Development Manager Janay Tieken, Transit Administrator Anthony Cao.

There were 7 guests present.

Chairman Loughmiller called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. after determining a quorum of the Board was present.

18-747 Chairman Loughmiller called for Consideration/Discussion/Action on the Minutes of the McKinney Urban Transit District Board of May 30, 2018. The Board unanimously approved the motion by Board Member Borg, seconded by Vice Chair Branch to approve the Minutes of the McKinney Urban Transit District Board of May 30, 2018.

18-748 Chairman Loughmiller called for Consideration/Discussion/Action on a Resolution Accepting FY19 TxDOT State Award. Transit Administrator Anthony Cao requested Board approval to authorize the City Manager to enter into a program grant agreement with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for fiscal year 2019 state funds, in the amount of \$459,079 to be utilized for MUTD transit services in 2020. There are no

fund matching requirements for accepting the award. The Board unanimously approved the motion by Board Member Fuller, seconded by Secretary Elliott, to approve the Resolution Accepting FY19 TxDOT State Award. Resolution caption reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-09-003 (MUTD)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MCKINNEY URBAN TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY19 SMALL URBANIZED AREA STATE AWARD; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

18-749 Chairman Loughmiller called for Consideration/Discussion/Action on Revision to Personal Care Attendant (PCA) and Guest Fare Policy. Transit Administrator Anthony Cao explained the current policy requires a \$2.00 out-of-pocket fee for each PCA and/or Guest who accompanies qualified riders, which is consistent with other similar programs in the area. The PCA and Guests fees cannot be paid by MUTD subsidies allocated to qualified riders. Mr. Cao offered recommendations to either leave the policy unchanged or change the policy to allow the subsidy to cover 75% of Guest fees for riders under the age of seventeen. The change would apply to the entire program, including elderly, disabled and low-income users of the program. Mr. Cao stated this issue has been raised by one customer among the 319 elderly and disabled participants and 15 low-income participants. Vice Chair Branch recommended trying the policy change for 60-90 days to encourage increased ridership. Board Member Rath recommended no change until more than one person demonstrated need. The board discussed potential impact changes would have on the budget. Chairman Loughmiller stated the results of a survey related to a previous consideration of expanding the program demonstrated the existing demand did not warrant increasing funds to allow for growth. Michelle Bloomer of Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA) stated additional factors such as service operating hours and on-time performance influence ridership more so than Guest fees. Among the 15

certified low-income customers, 10 have utilized the service, and Guest fees have not been an issue within the elderly and disabled rider programs. Ms. Bloomer requested that any change to the policy take place for at least 6 months to allow for appropriate communication, implementation and data feedback. The Board approved the motion by Vice Chair Branch, seconded by Board Member Stephens to Revise the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) and Guest Fare Policy, allowing for a minimum of six months, the subsidy to cover 75% of the \$2.00 Guest fees for individuals under 17, with 50¢ remaining the out-of-pocket responsibility of the Guest. PCA/Guests fares for all others will remain the same. The motion passed 5 to 1, Board Member Rath voting against.

18-750

Chairman Loughmiller called for an Update on Mobility 2045 and High-Speed Rail. Kevin Feldt, Mobility 2045 Program Manager for North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), presented information on the regional long-range transportation plan which was approved June 2018 by the Regional Transportation Council. The mobility plan is required by Federal law for any region of 50,000 or more people, to identify policies, programs and projects, and federal and state funding of a multimodal transportation system over a 20-year period. Expenditures for the plan are expected be \$135.4 billion by 2045 to maximize existing system of infrastructure, management operations and technology development; and strategic infrastructure investments to support rail and bus, increase auto occupancy and add roadway capacity, to support an estimated 3.5 million people in Collin County at future build out. The four overall goals of the plan are Mobility, Quality of Life, System Sustainability, and Implementation. The plan for the High-Speed Rail System is to connect three stations in the cities of Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington with a “one seat ride.” Current activity on the Dallas to Houston Bullet Train includes working with a Design/Build partner, land purchases and preparation for construction with completion expected generally between 2024-2026. Mr. Feldt presented concept information about Hyperloop

transportation which moves passengers and cargo through a near-vacuum tube at up to 700 miles per hour using electric propulsion. Testing on the Hyperloop is being conducted near Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr. Feldt expressed the need for an oversight entity for high-speed rail; however, the state has not demonstrated interest in providing governance or funding for such.

18-751

Chairman Loughmiller called for an Update on Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA) Transit Service. Raymond Suarez, the new Chief Executive Officer of DCTA was introduced to the Board by Vice President of Transit Operations Michelle Bloomer. Mr. Suarez thanked the MUTD Board members for their service and stated his commitment to continue working with staff to improve current transit services; share industry data, standards, and mobility platforms; and explore innovative options such as Uber, Lyft and Via to create an expanded network of providers. Ms. Bloomer presented information on 2018 DCTA programs. There are 334 total participants across the elderly/disabled (319) and low-income (15) programs, averaging about \$7,300 monthly expenses. The top users of the program utilize services regularly Monday through Friday for work and medical related services such as dialysis treatments. There has been an increase in the number of new riders. The highest percentage of trips for participating cities occurs in McKinney. Ms. Bloomer stated the pilot program for low-income had an increase in ridership since the last meeting, with a total of 15 participants taking 115 trips. Additional information was provided about the Customer Satisfaction Survey (see Minutes Appendix – 2018 Passenger Survey) in which approximately one-third of the customers responded. The general results of the survey found a majority of respondents were elderly female riders who had no other means of transportation; most customers considered the service good to excellent and would recommend the service to friends and family. 79% considered the \$400 monthly cap sufficient, while the remaining 21% considered it insufficient due to the distance of trips, number of trips

needed, such as regular travel to work, and limited destinations. Ms. Bloomer stated the survey found customers were not aware of the availability to some of the desired destinations and more could be done to effectively communicate those options. 54% expressed interest in around town routes, day trips, evening and weekend hours, expanded service area, online scheduling and low-balance text notifications. The survey also included customer feedback which consisted of both positive and negative comments. Ms. Bloomer stated a large amount of data exists for the program and customized reports could be provided to different cities to address specific questions and interests. Ms. Bloomer stated DCTA is assessing ridership data to determine service expansion, listing the primary origin and destination locations for riders across the area, and peak hours of usage throughout the week. Ms. Bloomer addressed issues with Lyft services including indemnity clause and driver background checks; upcoming Transportation Forum intended to take place in October or November; and the Surface Transportation Technical Committee of NCTCOG recommended the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approve \$2 million to conduct a transportation study in Collin County. The RTC would take action on the study as part of the regional Transportation Improvement Program, as well as included in the TxDOT statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

At the end of the DCTA Transit Service Update, the board revisited the issue of PCA/Guest Fees, potential ride sharing opportunities, and the impact to budget. Ms. Bloomer stated additional payments for PCA/Guest riders would not utilize more budget funds but would merely deplete customer monthly allowances more quickly. Ms. Bloomer suggested other ways to utilize budget funds would be to attract additional riders by extending operating hours and offering broader service areas. The Board requested staff to provide at a future meeting, recommendations for increasing the monthly allowance and a cost analysis for using MUTD vehicles to create some established pick-up routes.

- 18-752** Chairman Loughmiller called for an Update on 121 commuter Service. Ms. Bloomer provided information a proposed Route 70 commuter express service along the Highway 121 corridor, which would involve DCTA and the cities of McKinney, Frisco, Lewisville, Plano and The Colony. Operating between Old Town Lewisville and Downtown McKinney and linking into the Regional Transportation network, it would help riders access employment, retail and entertainment along Hwy 121; provide northbound connections to the University of North Texas, Texas Women's University and North Central Texas College; and provide southbound connections to Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) bus and rail services. Buses starting in both McKinney and Lewisville would have stops along Hwy 121 including Medical Center McKinney, Sheraton Hotel, Collin College, Craig Ranch Retail among others. The service would have primary bus stops from where riders can disperse via Lyft service. Ms. Bloomer presented vehicle usage, projected ridership and operating costs over several years, as well as information on the grant requested to fund the program and contingency funds. This program will be discussed among the involved cities at the upcoming Transportation Forum.
- 18-753** Chairman Loughmiller called for an Update of Federal Grants. Transit Administrator Anthony Cao presented information on the status of transportation Federal Grants, stating fiscal years 2016 and 2017 are both programmed into the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awards management system with only one outstanding compliance requirement (the disadvantaged business enterprise plan) to be completed. The plan is currently under attorney review and pending additional direction from FTA. The plan is expected to be submitted in October or November as opposed to the desired September which will result in some delay in federal funding but not expected to impact Collin County transit. Separately, the Title 6 plan was approved by FTA.
- 18-754** Chairman Loughmiller called for Staff Status Report on Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 Budgets. Transit Administrator Anthony Cao stated

the current presentation for FY2018 included updated information since the last meeting, noting increased activity in Princeton and Melissa and plans to generate activity in Lowry Crossing before the end of year. Based on calculations, there is a budget surplus of \$215,812. For FY2019, \$369,000 available from local contributions and TxDOT can be used for 1-to-1 matching FTA funds. Unused local contributions will be carried over to the next year. Mr. Cao also discussed identifying customer engagement opportunities such as community event to promote transit programs and support growth.

Chairman Loughmiller called for Citizen Comments. There were no Citizen requests to speak.

Chairman Loughmiller called for Board and Commissioner Comments.

Board Member Rath thanked DCTA for the cumbersome work of responding to the many Board requests for information at meetings which helps the Board make decisions about the important transit issues.

Chairman Loughmiller thanked staff for including NCTCOG representatives to discuss road construction.

The MUTD Board approved the motion by Secretary Elliott, seconded by Vice Chairman Branch to adjourn. Chairman Loughmiller adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

BRIAN LOUGHMILLER
Chairman

ATTEST:

SCOTT ELLIOTT
Secretary