

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting/Work Session
April 8, 2009 @ 6:00PM
Gateway Board Room**

Chuck DeGraff called the meeting to order @ 6:01pm.

**Attendance
Board**

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Phyllis Beyers, Jerry Bixler, James Reinhard, Chet Warren

Excused

Amanda Fletcher, Ron Macala

Staff

Tom Bernabei (Executive Director, Interim), James Warner (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Everett Todd (Transportation Planning Administrator) , Robin Miller (Transit Supervisor), Chuck Koppes (Project Manager), Mark Finnicum (Maintenance, Director), Teresa Thompson (Transportation, Director), Kelly Zachary (HR/Safety Manager), Tom Williams (Transportation Manager), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Jackson Township Transit Center Project Proposal

The main reasons why a Jackson Transfer Center is perceived needed are:

- Traffic congestion
- Safety concerns
- Customer distress on Jackson businesses (restroom usage & littering)

Throughout the day, transfers are made between five (5) buses on Higbee Avenue. A temporary solution may be use of the Sears Parking lot; a meeting to discuss use of the Sears property was held between SARTA, Jackson Township and Belden Village Mall representatives on March 20, 2009 and we are awaiting response from the Belden Village Mall representative. The Planning Department will continue studying the problem; without grant funding for the project, SARTA cannot fund construction of a new transfer center. The proposal for awarding a contract for site assessments will be held, pending further development of the project.

Budget Update

Mr. Bernabei has initiated a review of the budget adopted by the Board in 2009. Sales tax revenue has declined to date by approximately 5% and the budgeted revenues from sales tax for 2009 are estimated to be approximately \$1 million short; sales tax receipts need to be closely tracked each month. The budget team is working to reduce expenditures to balance the budget; currently, the budget is approximately \$400,000 – 600,000 short. The Board

may be requested to approve implementation of the fare increase which was approved last year by the Board. A further budget review will be given at the next meeting.

Executive Director/CEO Search

Currently there are close to 20 applicants.

Special Event Transportation

In conjunction with the upcoming FTA Triennial inspection (April 23-24), the Executive Team is reviewing SARTA's policies on charter bus/special events transportation. These services generate goodwill for SARTA in the community. However, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations restrict these services to avoid federally subsidized competition to private charter bus services; there are, however, a number of exceptions and exemptions to these regulations. Staff will continue to review these services.

Advertising

Given current and future anticipated budgetary shortfalls, Mr. Bernabei asked the board to think about how much money should be budgeted for advertising. Discussion followed.

*****Executive Session*****

6:57 – 7:35PM

To discuss potential litigation

Mr. Bixler motioned to enter executive session. Mr. Warren seconded the motion.

Roll call. All answered "yes."

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:35PM.