

## **CARSON CITY PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the January 11, 2001 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Public Transit Advisory Committee was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2001 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairperson Mary Winkler

Bob Kennedy

John Peshek

Richard Staub

**PARATRANSIT STAFF:** Marc Reynolds, General Manager

**CARSON CITY STAFF:** David Heath, Finance Director

Katherine McLaughlin, Recording Secretary

(PTAC 01/11/01; Tape 1-0001)

**NOTE:** Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Vice Chairperson Winkler. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

**I. ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0001)** - Vice Chairperson Winkler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Discussion took place regarding the current composition of the Committee, and the recording secretary called the roll. A quorum was present. Member Gowins was absent.

**II. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF AGENDA (1-0038)** - Member Kennedy moved to approve the agenda. Member Peshek seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

**III. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2000 (1-0069)** - Member Kennedy moved to approve the minutes. Member Peshek seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

**IV. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2000 (1-0045)** - Member Peshek moved to approve the minutes. Member Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.

**V. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS (1-0064)** - Vice Chairperson Winkler introduced ex-officio member Julie Rodolph, of Vocational Rehabilitation; David Heath, Director of Finance; Katherine McLaughlin, Recording Secretary; and Marc Reynolds, Carson City Community Transportation General Manager. She welcomed Supervisor Staub.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (1-0100)** - None.

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#### **VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON (1-0104)** - Member Kennedy advised of receiving a telephone call from the Mayor wherein he requested that new appointments to the Committee be postponed until the first Board of Supervisors meeting in February. Member Kennedy suggested deferring action on this item until the new appointments are made. He advised that he has resigned from the governing board of the Senior Citizens Center, and will therefore be resigning from this Committee. The Senior Citizens Center governing board will appoint a replacement. Member Peshek concurred with Member Kennedy's suggestion of deferring action on this item. **Member Kennedy moved to table this item until the next meeting. Member Peshek seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, TASKS, AND ROLE OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND IDENTIFICATION OF GOALS (1-0154)** - Vice Chairperson Winkler discussed the purpose for agendizing this item. She distributed copies of Resolution 1999-R-17, which established the Committee, and suggested that the Committee members begin to review and consider the tasks outlined therein. She advised that she has received comments regarding the expectation of the Board of Supervisors for the direction of the Committee. She referred to item 4 of the resolution and solicited input from the Committee members.

Discussion took place regarding the various agencies and the public represented by the Committee members. In response to a question, Member Kennedy advised that the governing board of the Senior Citizens Center meets on the third Friday of each month. He has informed the chairman of the governing board that a new Senior Citizens Center representative needs to be appointed to the Committee.

Member Peshek suggested reagendizing this item for discussion with the new Committee members. Discussion took place regarding existing problems including funding, the conflict between OARC's contract with the City and the actual service provided, metropolitan planning organization ("MPO") benefits, and complaints from the senior citizens. Member Kennedy acknowledged that service is only provided to segments of the public. He provided background information on the merger of the Senior Citizens Center and OARC transportation systems into the City's transportation system. He advised that the current system is based on demand/response and commented that until the City reaches the level of fixed route public transportation, nothing more than the existing program will be available. He clarified that the existing system was meant to be a "beginning point". Mr. Reynolds acknowledged that the transit system has been in existence for about three years.

Member Peshek commented that fixed route transit is very expensive and will not provide door-to-door service to senior citizens and handicapped citizens. Supervisor Staub commented that the perception of the community is that there is no public transit in Carson City other than the current system. He inquired as to whether similar systems in other communities have been researched. Mr. Reynolds advised that Carson City's system has modeled what most all other communities go through when a public transit system is started. He provided background information on consolidation of the senior citizens and OARC

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transportation systems, the City's direction at that time, and statistical information on ridership demographics. He advised that the next transition will be to a deviated fixed route or a fixed route system. The City has acquired section 9 funding through the Nevada Department of Transportation ("NDOT") to hire Peter Schauer, an independent third party consultant, to conduct a feasibility study. Mr. Schauer will begin the study in February or March. In response to a question, Mr. Reynolds indicated that the expense of a fixed route system is mostly due to equipment costs.

In response to a question, Mr. Reynolds advised that other, similar communities have gone from a demand/response system to a deviated fixed route system and that the funding source ends up being property tax revenues. Mr. Reynolds commented that Las Vegas has the only profitable, stand-alone transit system in the country with a fixed route on Las Vegas Boulevard. Member Peshek advised that the casinos contribute funding to the system. In response to a question, Mr. Reynolds clarified that there is another transit system in Las Vegas which services the rural areas. He advised that a demand/response system is required to be included in a fixed route system. In response to a question, he explained the concept of a deviated fixed route. Mr. Reynolds advised that a fixed route system could not be implemented on Carson Street. He commented that the PRIDE system has been a good test for Carson City and has been successful primarily because the stops are not on Carson Street.

Mr. Reynolds indicated that the problems with the current system are solvable. Additional funding is needed, but the feasibility study should be completed first. Member Kennedy expressed the opinion that the transit system will most likely always need to be subsidized even when MPO funding becomes available. He suggested that the Committee and Paratransit Services attempt to offer the senior citizens a program for the weekends. Discussion took place with regard to the same, and Mr. Reynolds indicated that service is available on the weekend, but fare structure is a big issue.

### **3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**AND TIMES (1-0755)** - Member Kennedy suggested deferring action on this item until the Committee has a full complement of members. He further suggested the possibility of meeting quarterly rather than monthly. In response to a question, Member Kennedy indicated that Mayor Masayko had requested that new member appointments be deferred until the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors in February. **Member Staub moved to table items 2 and 3 under subsection VII until the next meeting which is scheduled on February 8<sup>th</sup> when the new Committee members will be appointed. Member Peshek seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1-0.**

Member Kennedy left the meeting at 6:18 p.m. A quorum was still present.

**VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS (1-0815)** - Vice Chairperson Winkler concurred with the suggestion of quarterly meetings. She expressed frustration over the service being provided to the disabled community. She indicated that it is no reflection on Mr. Reynolds, but is a result of the structure of the system. She advised that OARC has people who cannot be placed in jobs, people who are losing jobs, and people who are having less access in the community than ever before. She suggested developing goals for considering and solving the issues. In response to a question, Mr. Reynolds advised that service needs are not being met because of excessive demand. He discussed several issues including that OARC

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client rides are specifically needed during peak hours - morning and late afternoon. He advised that any transit system has the greatest peak demands in the morning and the late afternoon. Carson City Community Transportation ("CCCT") has been working with OARC to accommodate their needs, and Mr. Reynolds discussed various ways in which he has attempted to address the problem. He reiterated that peak demands are always a challenge to a transit system.

Mr. Reynolds discussed productivity which is measured in passengers per hour. He indicated that the average across the country is about 1.8. Citilift in Reno was 2.1 and CCCT is operating between 4.5 and 5 passengers per hour. He advised that the problem with the system is not efficiency, it is capacity. He indicated that hours could be increased and more peak service provided with additional funding. He has worked with Member Kennedy, Vice Chairperson Winkler, and others to determine how to accommodate the needs. He indicated that several studies have been done by Paratransit consultants, and that the same conclusion of inadequate capacity was reached. Mr. Reynolds advised that equipment maintenance is another issue which causes capacity problems. Before the new vehicles were acquired, the transit service averaged three broken down vehicles every day. Mr. Reynolds indicated that fuel is not as big an issue. CCCT is paying \$1.23 per gallon for diesel whereas gasoline was up to \$1.90. Improvements have been made and CCCT will acquire another vehicle at the end of January which will provide more relief.

Mr. Heath advised that the system costs a little over \$400,000 to operate, \$250,000 of which is paid by the City. The system collects approximately \$80,000 in rider fees; NDOT provides approximately \$80,000. He discussed the Board of Supervisors' perspective on additional funding for the transit system. In response to a question, Mr. Heath advised that when the City is eligible for MPO status, federal dollars will be available. He indicated that the feasibility study will provide more information.

In response to a question, Vice Chairperson Winkler indicated that the OARC governing board is not sure what to do to address the problem. She advised that when OARC agreed to consolidation, guarantees of at least as much service were made. Discussion took place regarding funding which was available to OARC prior to consolidation, and Vice Chairperson Winkler provided information regarding funding which has been lost from various agencies. Mr. Reynolds acknowledged that a deviated fixed route system normally reduces the demand/response service. He advised that the feasibility study will provide more detailed information.

#### **IX. ACTION ON PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2001 MEETING (1-1144) - Previously addressed.**

#### **X. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1147) - Member Peshek moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Member Staub seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-2-0.**

The minutes of the January 11, 2001 meeting of the Carson City Public Transit Advisory Committee are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2001.

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MARY WINKLER, Vice Chairperson