

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL  
FEBRUARY 4, 2008—5:45 PM**

Committee Members Present: Dave Kirlin, Chairman  
Councilman John Howren  
Councilman Keith Tidwell

Other Council members present: Councilman Dale Burkett

The City Council Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, February 4, 2008, and discussed the following items:

**Item 1. Bus Service To S. New Hope Road:**

A presentation was made on the various options to provide bus service to the S. New Hope Road area and Bradford Heights community. The Transit Expansion Study recommended serving this area with an additional bus (7-bus option; however, given budgetary constraints, an option that would use the existing fleet (6-bus option) was considered as well. The benefit of the 7-bus option would be increased service frequency for all routes to every 60 minutes. It was anticipated that this would help regain riders lost in 2004 when most routes changed to every 90 minutes. The 6-bus option provided increased service enhancements over the existing route structure; however, half of the eight routes would continue to operate every 90 minutes.

**Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council approve the 6-bus option concept plan, and also requested staff finalize the recommended route to serve the S. New Hope Road area and Bradford Heights community and present to the Committee for approval.

**Item 2. CATS 85X Gastonia Express Bus Contract**

Staff presented options to improve the existing CATS 86X express bus route contract between the City of Gastonia and the City of Charlotte. The contract is due for renewal July 1, 2008. Improvements to the route include the purchase and operation of two new buses to expand service scheduling and decrease headways during morning and evening rush hours and to decorate Gastonia express buses for promotional purposes. Route funding was discussed in detail.

**Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee directed staff to solicit funding support from the Gaston County Commission, have CATS survey current 85X riders in the near future for updated data with emphasis on fare costs, and have CATS to research new park and ride locations (including but not limited to Westfield Mall and Akers Center shopping centers) in

Gaston County. After additional funding sources are obtained, a new contract will be presented to Council before July 1, 2008.

**Item 3. Gastonia Rapid Transit Alternatives Study Recommendations**

Staff provided a report on the multi-modal site selection recommendation from the Gastonia Rapid Transit Alternatives Study. Due to various parcel size limitations, land acquisition complications, and major land development/redevelopment proposals, it is only feasible to consider two of the four sites previously studied: 1) the East Main Avenue and Broad Street site, and 2) a site adjacent to the Sears Catalog parcel. The selected site would consolidate Amtrak, Greyhound/Trailways, Gastonia Transit, Gaston County Access, and Gastonia Express bus service into one facility and location.

**Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee directed staff to move forward on hiring a firm to conduct a site selection analysis of the two proposed sites. Transportation Planning grant funds will be used for this study and a 20% local match will be required.

**Item 4. No Turn On Red—Downtown Gastonia Business District:**

Staff reported that they were reviewing all “No Turn on Red” in the Downtown area and would present recommendations for possible modifications to each intersection to the Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee accepted the report for informational purposes. No action required at this time.

**Item 5. Other Business:**

Having no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.