

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
FULL BLAST - CONFERENCE ROOM  
35 HAMBLIN  
April 23, 2009  
4:00 P.M.**

**Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Baldwin, Walker, and Thompson

**Committee Members Absent:** Commissioner Hersha

**Others Present:** Greg Zanotti, Jerry Hutchison, Barb Hobson, Jill Steele, Rich Werner and Charity Alderson

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Baldwin called the meeting to order at 4:08 P.M.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Comm. Thompson, supported by Comm. Walker, to approve the March 12, 2009, meeting minutes. All yes. Motion carried.

**Discussion Items:**

Jerry Hutchison spoke about the service recommendations from the previous meeting and stated they are finalizing a plan for Rolling Hills and the W. Michigan Ave route. It has been determined that the bus service could be restored in Urbandale but not to Rolling Hills. Two options for providing alternate van service to Rolling Hills were discussed. The first option would be to establish scheduled or dedicated times in which the van would pick up residents in the morning and bring them downtown, and then return them back to Rolling Hills in the afternoon. The fares for this would be \$.60 for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and \$1.25 for all others, the same as fares on the regular buses.

The other option available to Rolling Hills' residents would be for them to make their own arrangements for van service which would take them anywhere they wanted to go. Compared with the normal van fares, Rolling Hill residents would pay a reduced van fare of \$1.00 for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and \$2.00 for all others.

Greg Zanotti talked of this being a door-to-door service.

Comm. Baldwin asked what happens if the van is full?

Jerry Hutchison said that if the van is full, a person would make a reservation for the van service if the scheduled times do not fit his/her needs.

Comm. Baldwin noted the pick-up times of 8:45am, 10:45am and 3:15pm, 4:15pm to Rolling Hills.

Jerry Hutchison explained that the pick-up times are what have been the busiest and that Transit will meet with Rolling Hills' management and residents prior to implementing any service change. Ridership showed that the riders generally leave in the morning and return in the afternoon.

Comm. Baldwin asked what kind of transportation would be available on Saturdays.

Jerry Hutchison said that they would maintain the regular bus schedule on Saturdays and it would go to Rolling Hills and Arbor Pointe.

Comm. Thompson asked if anyone has gotten feedback from the Rolling Hills' residents.

Jerry Hutchison stated that they will be meeting with the Rolling Hills folks to gain feedback on pick-up times. The van will be picking up others on the way to and from Rolling Hills. They will be trying to get riders downtown as close to the schedule times of the regular buses.

Comm. Thompson asked if the van was more flexible than the bus service.

Jerry Hutchison said that it would be different everyday because the van would still be picking up and dropping off other riders.

Greg Zanotti explained that the dedicated van will follow the existing bus route in Rolling Hills, while other vans will continue to go door-to-door.

Comm. Thompson asked how anyone would know that this solution is not working.

Jerry Hutchison said that they would know by the ridership and feedback from the residents.

Comm. Baldwin asked when this would be implemented.

Jerry Hutchison said that this would be starting in early to mid July.

Comm. Baldwin suggested that they post notices on buses with information on where to call with questions and concerns.

Jerry Hutchison stated that there will be a 60-day evaluation to see what will work the best. Transit would hold off on making the changes to the Capital Avenue N.E. bus route.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Walker, supported by Comm. Thompson, to implement on a trial basis the recommended changes. All yes. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Walker was very pleased that Transit will accommodate many of the concerns raised by the Rolling Hills' residents.

Jerry Hutchison anticipated recommendations going before the City Commission on May 19, 2009.

A motion was made by Comm. Thompson, supported by Vice Mayor Walker to adopt the Corradino Group recommendations with modifications to the W. Michigan Avenue route based on public input. All yes. Motion carried.

There was discussion about posting the notices in Spanish as well as English.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

/cfa