



**MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM
AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
APRIL 18, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Ninth Floor Conference Room
5700 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME TO THE ATU REPRESENTATIVES: Mr. Jim Brandt

Present at the meeting were Messrs. Brandt, Cutrera, and Perret and Mss. Perkins and Pierre as well as Mr. Bill Deville, CATS Interim CEO and Mr. Don Palmer, CATS COO. Also present were ATU International Representatives Antonette Bryant and Anthony Garland and members of CATS staff and the public.

Mr. Brandt called the meeting to order. He welcomed Ms. Antonette Bryant and Mr. Anthony Garland, International Representatives from the Amalgamated Transit Union. Mr. Brandt noted there were no action items on the agenda; this would be an informational meeting only. He reiterated the CATS Board of Commissioners by-laws that prohibit any signs or posters from being displayed in the meeting, prohibit any discussion of personnel or collective bargaining issues, and that anyone wishing to speak must be recognized by the Board President. Mr. Brandt shared that there would be no public comments taken at the meeting and that anyone wishing to make public comments should come to the regularly scheduled board meeting on April 19th.

Mr. Brandt stressed that there would be no discussion of the bus accident that occurred on April 14th as the matter is still under investigation.

II. ISSUES THAT THE ATU WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CATS BOARD

Ms. Bryant thanked the board members for meeting with them and noted that Mr. Al Weeden and Mr. Kelvin Robinson from the ATU Local 1546 were in attendance as well.

Ms. Bryant shared that she first came to Baton Rouge in July 2015 to try to generate support for transit funding. Louisiana only receives \$4.9 million in transit funding that is shared among all transit properties in the state. The ATU is trying to build a statewide campaign to spread awareness about the need for more funding.

Ms. Bryant noted that she was very pleased to hear that privatization or contract management was not on the table for CATS as that model is not cost effective nor is it a benefit to transit. She urged those assembled to look closely at RTA in New Orleans to see what they are experiencing. She shared that this model hurts the employees, the riders, and the taxpayers because the driving force is profit.

Mr. Garland shared that they have traveled to four different states trying to secure more funding for transit and are looking for assistance anywhere they can.

Mr. Garland noted that there are issues that need to be resolved with the Maintenance and Operations Departments and listed the union's concerns.

Mr. Brandt thanked the international representatives for coming to share their ideas. He noted that CATS and the ATU share many beliefs and agree that transit funding is paramount, and both parties agree that fleet and safety of employees and customers are the top priorities.

Ken Perret noted that there had been no mention of the history of CATS and the decisions that were made in the past when there was very limited funding. Until the taxed passed, funding was very limited, and consequently, CATS is working to correct mistakes made from necessity.

Mr. Bill Deville shared that there were two times in the last six years when buses were purchased, but new vehicles have been delivered and are on order. He also noted that the Blue Birds would be gone at the end of 2016 and twelve new buses will be delivered by the end of 2016. He thanked the international representatives for sharing information with them and noted that some of the issues were old and had already been corrected prior to their visit to Baton Rouge. Mr. Deville thanked the dedicated employees at CATS for the hard work they do and their commitment to the agency and the community.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.