

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, November 30, 2016, to meet with Transit Agencies.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:34 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmember Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was delayed and arrived at 7:42 p.m. Councilmember Rodney M. Roberts was delayed and arrived at 7:47 p.m. Councilmembers Judith F. Davis and Silke I. Pope were unable to attend due to personal matters.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Terri Hruby Assistant Director of Planning, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Ginger Archibald and Julie Hershorn, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); Anthony Foster and Selma Hackett, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation; Anna Socrates, Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G); Lessie Henderson, Prince George's Advocates for Community-Based Transit; Michael German, Norman Rivera and Nooshin Amipour, Woodlawn Development; Diana Ernka, Mary Ernsberger, Lisa Nelson, Mary Ann Canter, Sarah Zygmunt, Bill Orleans, Erica Johns, Tom Mellies, Patricia Walters, Ben Fischler, Renard Brown, and others

Prince George's County The Bus

Mr. Foster reviewed the County's Service Performance Monitoring data for The Bus routes in Greenbelt. He noted they were in the process of improving on time performance of routes.

Ms. Hackett said a recommendation for bus wraps was included in the proposed budget since there would be no new busses purchased. In response to a question from Ms. Mach, Ms. Hackett said advertising opportunities as well as art ideas have been considered for the wraps.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Ms. Hershorn explained that WMATA has a \$300 million shortfall that needs to be filled. She said WMATA is looking closely into establishing a more efficient operation of its bus and rail service. Ms. Hershorn advised that options being considered include increasing ridership fares, increasing jurisdictional contributions and decreasing employees.

Ms. Hershorn said the WMATA Board will be meeting tomorrow on the General Manager's proposed budget. She said one of the significant recommendations is new Metro rail service hours – Monday through Thursday 5:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. She noted that the proposed Metro hours will allow time for needed maintenance on the system. Ms. Hershorn advised that another recommendation is the elimination of the B30 bus from Greenbelt to Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport. She said the B30 requires a high subsidy (over \$9) per rider and transportation service from Greenbelt to BWI is also provided by MARC.

Mayor Jordan expressed concern about the impact that the proposed service hours will have on suburban areas such as Greenbelt. He said while safe service is essential, Metro needs to serve

the needs of all people in the region. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Mach both noted the importance of the B30 express bus to the area.

Ms. Hershorn said public hearings on the proposals will be held in January and February. She encouraged the City and residents to attend the hearings and/or send letters to WMATA.

Ms. Archibald reviewed WMATA's Service Performance Monitoring handouts.

Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G)

Ms. Socrates spoke in support of keeping the B30 bus and said that MARC is not a suitable alternative. She also noted that the time transfers in Roosevelt Center seem to be less reliable in the past few months and added that the 15X leaves Greenbelt Station late in the morning.

Ms. Socrates expressed TRU-G's appreciation for Sunday bus service and the reassignment of bus bays at Greenbelt Metro.

Public Comment

Several residents spoke in support of keeping the B30 bus which has a large ridership. One resident said there should be more advertising of the B30 service.

Erica Johns said MARC is not an equivalent alternative to the B30 bus. She said she would be willing to pay a higher fare for the B30 service.

Other Items

Mayor Jordan mentioned the physical structure at the Greenbelt Metro Station is deteriorating. Mr. Putens added that the College Park station was also in need of repair.

There was discussion regarding the connection path from Greenbelt Station to Greenbelt Metro. Mr. German explained that the connection path plans had been approved by the City but were now stuck in WMATA permit review because WMATA will not take any action until a decision is made regarding the possible FBI relocation to the North Core. Mr. German and Ms. Hruby added that they had met with WMATA and offered several different path proposals without success.

Ms. Hruby stressed the significant need for transportation for the residents in Greenbelt Station to the Greenbelt Metro. She said the shuttle provided by Woodlawn Development provided 1,700 trips for residents last month. In response to a question from Mr. Putens, Ms. Archibald said there was not an area on Greenbelt Road that would meet ADA requirements for a bus stop. Ms. Hruby said a bus stop for Greenbelt Road would be a combined project with the State Highway Administration.

Mayor Jordan requested Next Bus electronic signage for the bus stops at Roosevelt Center and Greenbelt Metro. Ms. Hruby said there had been discussions of costs and funding with WMATA for this signage at the Roosevelt Center stop. Ms. Archibald said no decision would be made at Greenbelt Metro until a decision is made on the FBI site.

Mayor Jordan suggested changes to the County's 15X and 16 bus routes. Mr. Foster and Ms. Hackett said they will consider the changes.

The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*