MINUTES

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

November 5, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room at FREDericksburg Regional Transit

Members in Attendance:		Dennis Carney, Caroline County Fulton deLamorton, Stafford County Jan Erkert, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce Jack Green, King George County John Moen, WFLS Lloyd Robinson, Alternate, George Washington Regional Commission Fred Sisk, Citizen Representative Diana Utz, George Washington Regional Commission Rodney White, Spotsylvania County
Others Present	:	Kathleen M. Beck, Director of Public Transit/FRED Marilyn Graves, Administrative Assistant/FRED Wendy Kimball, Assistant Director of Public Transit/FRED Arnold Levine, Manager of Policy, Planning and Compliance
Members Absent	:	Rev. Lawrence A. Davies, City of Fredericksburg Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center Edd Houck, Mary Washington Hospital Dr. Roy Weinstock, University of Mary Washington Sara Woolfenden, Alternate, Stafford County

The meeting was called to order by Jan Erkert at 8:35 a.m. on November 5, 2008, in the conference room at the FREDericksburg Regional Transit facility (a/k/a The Lawrence A. Davies Transit Center), 1400 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg, VA.

The minutes for the meeting of September 3, 2008, were presented for approval and a motion was made by Mr. Moen and seconded by Mr. deLamorton that the minutes be approved as written; the motion was passed unanimously. The minutes for the special meeting of October 8, 2008, were presented for approval and a motion was made by Ms. Utz and seconded by Mr. Carney that the minutes be approved as written; the motion was passed unanimously.

Report by Director of Public Transit:

- Mr. Levine passed out a chart, "Fare Comparisons – FY2007", a copy of which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof. He reviewed this document in detail for the members of PTAB.

Mr. Levine further reported that FY2008 was the first full year of no free transfers and a raise of other ridership fares. Revenue from fares went from $55,000 to $116,000; ridership numbers went up significantly, in part because of the VRE service that began in October of 2007; those riders pay a premium fare of $1.00 each ride. On our core routes with the no transfer policy, our ridership still increased. Our twenty-five cent fare is still a bargain even with paying for transfers and the alternatives also became expensive in the past year. Mr. Levine does not feel that increasing our fares would cause a decrease in ridership. Possible options for FY2009:

- No change in fares
- Increase regular fares fifty cents each boarding; increase VRE feeder service to $1.25 each ride
- Have base fare of fifty cents with twenty-five cents transfer each time
- Distance based fare
- Establish a service based level

The earliest FRED would probably be able to implement a change in fares would be late winter or early spring. Mr. Levine will prepare a document for review by members of the PTAB to be sent to them before the next meeting.

Mr. White asked if the survey will be completed before a decision is made about fares and Mr. Levine replied that it would; an intern will be helping with that. Mr. Carney asked how this would mesh with the Memorandum of Agreements to be presented to the counties and Mr. Levine stated that the agreements are now on the back burner until after the budget numbers are developed with the localities. Ms. Utz asked what savings the jurisdictions would see if fifty cents was implemented; Mr. Levine says that the jurisdiction would get credit for all the revenue generated by their ridership.

The 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, Summary of the Public Draft, dated October 2008, was then presented to PTAB by Mr. Robinson, a copy of same being attached hereto and made a part of the minutes of this meeting. It is divided into a Needs Plan and a Constrained Plan. After reviewing this document with the Board, he asked that the PTAB endorse this draft plan. After discussion, Mr. Moen made a motion to put it to a vote and Mr. Carney seconded the motion. Mr. Green stated that he felt if the Board was going to endorse the document, it should pick a scenario and Ms. Utz agreed with this. Mr. Levine suggested that someone on the Board write a paper expressing the views of the PTAB since it is a complicated matter. A vote was taken on the motion to recommend the draft plan with no scenario. The vote on the motion presented by Mr. Moen was as follows:

Ayes: Carney
No: Sisk, Erkert, Utz, Green
Abstain: White, deLamorton

Mr. Robinson suggested that possibly the PTAB would endorse the Transit Constrained Plan instead. Ms. Utz made a motion to recommend approval of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and recommend that FAMPO take a look at scenario number 3. Mr. Green seconded this motion. There was no discussion and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Utz, Green, Sisk, Erkert
No: None
Abstain: Moen, White, deLamorton, Carney

The motion was passed.

Committee Reports:

(1) **Mission, Goals and Objectives** – no report.

(2) **Partnership/Marketing** – Ms. Erkert reported that there is a new FRED brochure ready to go. A new Partnership has been obtained with The Free Lance-Star; their contribution will be $32,000 with in-kind advertising. A new ad will appear tomorrow for the holiday season and will be in the newspaper every Monday through the end of the year. The "Faces of FRED" will appear after the first of the year in the newspaper. Money has also been budgeted for some radio ads on B101.5 and WFLS. On-bus advertising will be looked at for the future.

(3) **Services to the Underserved** –no report.

(4) **Operations and Oversight** – FRED carried over 53,000 passengers in October.

(5) **Safety and Security** – Mr. Sisk had questions about the traffic that cuts through the parking lot at FRED. He suggested that staff talk with the Public Works department to see if they have any remedies. Staff has been working with Public Works and the City Police Department to try to curb this problem.

Other Business:
None.

Announcements:
The next PTAB meeting will be held on January 7, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Approved by the Public Transit Advisory Board:

Marilyn M. Graves — 1-7-09

Marilyn M. Graves — Date