



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, November 17, 2008 , for the purpose of a briefing on the Transportation Lane Use Connection (TLC).

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building .

PRESENT WERE: *Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.*

STAFF PRESENT WERE: *Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

ALSO PRESENT WERE: *Doug Love, Greenbelt Greens; Kevin Thornton and Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation; Brian Madison, County Councilmember Turner's Office; Laura Moore, County Councilmember Dernoga's Office; Bay Woods, Greenbelt News Review; Don Comis, George Branyon, Bill Norwood, Bill Orleans, John Stith, Steve Holland, Bob Rand, Suzette Agans, Mellissa Ehrenreich , Yohance Ford, and others.*

Mayor Davis explained the purpose of the meeting was to receive a briefing on the Transportation Land Use Connections report completed by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) which had been funded by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board. The purpose of the report was to evaluate the existing public transportation service and future transit needs and to determine if there were opportunities to make improvements that would result in better service in the City.

Ms Hruby presented a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the findings of VHB, along with VHB's recommendation regarding the Prince George 's County Transit Service and Operations Plan (TSOP).

- *Existing Transit Service*
- *TheBus*
- *Metrobus*
- *University of Maryland Shuttle*
- *Connect-A-Ride*
- *Demand Response Services*

- *Fixed Route Service Coverage*
- *Overlapping Service Areas*
- *Community Input*
- *Lack of transit service on Sundays*
- *Need rapid, direct service to Greenbelt Metro and other Metro stations*
- *Lack of ease in accessing and understanding transit system information and alerts*
- *Increase the span of service throughout the day*
- *The Greenbelt Connection is underused*
- *Bus routes should be more frequent and direct*
- *Many of the current routes are redundant across different providers*
- *Desire to have access to the University of Maryland shuttle for non-students*
- *Creation of a Greenbelt Circulator*
- *Use of a common fare system for all systems*
- *TLC Recommendations*
- *Operational*
 - *i. Provide basic transit service on Sundays*
 - *ii. Implementation of the County's TSOP service improvements for Greenbelt with the exception of those that would result in a reduction in service*
 - *iii. Provide limited service to the Beltway Plaza Mall during peak periods*
 - *iv. Reduce the amount of time passengers have to wait between transfers*
 - *v. Offset schedules for buses operating along the same routes*
 - *vi. Incorporate transit service into new development*
 - *vii. Conduct feasibility study of local transit routes*
 - *viii. Conduct feasibility study of transfer stations*

- *Coordination*
- *i. Increase market and coordination*
- *ii. Establish a common fare system*
- *iii. Pursue an agreement with the University of Maryland to allow all residents to use the shuttle*
- *iv. Designate a transit coordinator*
- *TSOP Recommendations*
- *Saturday Service - Provide Saturday service on TheBus Route 16 and expand Metrobus Route T16/17 Saturday service to start at 6:30 a.m.*
- *Improve Headways - Improve peak period headways on TheBus Route 14, 15 and 15X from 60 minutes to 30 minutes*
- *Improve Route Efficiency - Divide Metrobus Route R12 into two separate routes (R12 and T14)*
- *Route Elimination Eliminate TheBus Route 11*
- *Route Reduction Cut service on a segment of Metrobus Route C2 that operates between Greenbelt Metro Station and Historic Greenbelt*
- *Reroute Reroute the new Metrobus T14 to Greenbelt Road from R12's route through historic Greenbelt*

Mayor Davis then opened the floor for audience comments.

There was discussion regarding sign boards at bus stops and accessing bus information with cell phones. Mr. Weisberg said he wasn't sure when these features would be available. Mr. Herling suggested written bus schedules be available at all bus stops.

Steve Holland commented that interlocking bus routes are needed, not independent bus routes. He also stated that the bus route map used in the TLC report was more than five years out of date and contained several errors.

Doug Love said there was a need for better accommodations on busses for disabled and elderly riders.

Bill Orleans said the City could operate bus routes in the City better than the County and the County should consider allocating resources to the City to allow them to do so.

Bill Norwood said more marketing was needed to encourage residents to use public transportation.

John Stith said he had identified several ways to improve bus transportation routes and connect all Greenbelt neighborhoods directly to Metro. He also said he had shared his ideas with the City, County and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Terry Vanzetti and several other members of the audience commented on their dependency on good public transportation services.

Ms. Hruby said she had met with the County on the TSOP on two occasions and the County has indicated its commitment to work with the City to identify opportunities for making improvements to public transportation. She mentioned no changes can be made to current TheBus or WMATA routes without holding public hearings.

Mr. Weissberg said the goal of the TSOP is to enhance public transportation service and not reduce current service. He thanked Ms. Hruby for her work with the County and said they would consider the recommendations of the TLC as an addendum to the TSOP. He emphasized the TSOP is only a plan at this time and there would be further consultation with the City before moving forward to the implementation stage.

Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Hruby for the presentation and thanked everyone for their comments. She mentioned a public hearing on the Purple Line would be held tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. at Ritchie Coliseum.

Informational items

Council requested a communication be sent to County Councilmembers Dernoga and Turner asking for a delay of action on TDR bill to allow more time for a review.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm .

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray

City Clerk