



CATS Community Relations & Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2024

3:00 p.m.

350 N. Donmoor Ave. | Baton Rouge, La.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Commissioner Thomas.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Carolyn Coleman	Member at Large	Absent
Melissa deGeneres	President	Present
Michelle Dennis	Member	Present
Patrick Downs	Secretary	Absent
Johnathan Hill	Member	Present
Tremaine Sterling	Member	Absent
Frederick Thomas	Member	Present
John Vukovics	Treasurer	Absent

2. Introduction

Commissioner Thomas welcomed everyone gathered for the January Community Relations & Planning Committee Meeting.

3. Certifications – Karen Denman

Ms. Denman noted 82,640 rides were completed YTD. In December, 7,235 rides were completed. For applications, 18 applications were mailed from 350 N. Donmoor; 7 were received from other agencies, 21 were certified, 3 were granted temporary ridership; 0 were ineligible; 2 rescheduled. Ms. Denman also shared that for the year of 2024, 329 applications were mailed from 350 N. Donmoor, 104 were mailed from other agencies, 225 were certified, 143 were granted temporary ridership, 1 was ineligible, 54 were rescheduled, and 58 were recertified. She also shared the rides by purpose results from the month of December.

5. Customer Service / Complaints – Syliva Franklin

Ms. Franklin reported Customer Service reports for the month of December. She noted that for the month of December there were 29 contacts, none were valid. In addition, it was noted that the call center offered 25,957 calls and 25,894 were answered. The monthly average for productivity was 99.76%. There were no performance issues or pass ups for December 2024.

6. CATS Communications update – Jada Davis

Ms. Davis noted the engagement rate for each social media platform in comparison to our peer agencies. CATS had one negative story covered in the media during December. The topic of the story was regarding union contract negotiations. Ms. Davis also shared statistics for the 2024 media coverage and website views.

7. Lynx by CATS – Brandon Songy

Mr. Songy reported LYNX summaries. LYNX completed 6,657 rides in the month of December. The average pick up time is still 19 minutes, however, the time dropped about 30 seconds. The planning department is requesting a three-month extension for March 1 – May 31, 2025.

8. SmartCATS – Brandon Songy

The Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) will be implemented in April 2025. Changes to bus routing and frequency based on safety, workforce availability and ridership.

9. All Stops Accessible Program (ASAP) – Vanessa Dargin

Seventy-five bus stop pads were substantially completed in 2024 Twenty site verifications complete to date

No ROW maps are needed

Construction drawings underway; Ten drawings are complete thus far

Currently scheduling meetings with DPW and LSU Facilities Planning Dept. To establish procedures to expedite construction permit review process

10. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Update – Cheri Soileau

Construction- Plank Road, 22nd Street & Florida

Construction-Nicholson

Staff coordinating with Construction team during this time regarding bus stops/operations

North Transit Center

Permit Issued: January 9, 2025

35' Gillig Electric Buses –first 2 arrived January 9; another arrived January 16

Package 1 Status

Plank-Nicholson BRT
Monthly Call



North Transit Center
Plank-Nicholson BRT



Overview

Contractor: Build Commercial Construction LLC

Contract: NTP – May 28, 2024

Contract Original Time: 400d

Net Additional Time: 132d

Original Completion Date:
July 2, 2025

Current Completion Date:
November 10, 2025

Construction (% Complete):

Cost: 20.8%

Work: 14.0%

Time: 42.3%

Costs

Original Contracted Amount: \$4,078,000

Local Match: \$815,600

Net Change Orders/Amendments: \$300,477.00

Current Contracted Amount: \$4,378,477

Amount Paid (To Date): \$910,107.10

Contract Balance: \$3,468,369.90

Contingency Remaining: \$189,523

Challenges & Issues

- Contractor on hold from 08/29/24 through 1/9/25 due to permitting. Permit was issued on 1/9/25 and contractor to proceed with work the week of 1/13.
- Contractor submitted permit delay claim. After negotiations, CATS added claim via change order.
- Contractor working to fulfill BABA requirements for canopy structure, Original designed canopy discontinued. CM Team & POR finalizing alternate canopy that meets BABA.

Progress Summary

Previous Month: Construction on hold due to permitting, working through submittals and RFI's. HNTB permitting support contract executed. State Fire Marshall, Curb Cut, Water Quality, Traffic Drainage/Sewer, and Building permits approval received. Contractor now proceeding with construction.

Next Month's Look Ahead: Team working on BABA and canopy RFI's. Continue working through submittals, shop drawing and RFI's. 22 Submittals approved; 4 Submittals under review. Working on 4 active RFI's, 2 RFI's closed out.

Meeting Adjourned