

2250 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
PHONE: 225.389.8920



EXECUTIVE STAFF

Bill Deville
Chief Executive Officer

Charles Odingbe
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Dwana Williams
Chief Operations Officer

EXECUTIVE REPORT

November 2019

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

AGENCY UPDATES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS, along with the City-Parish and Build Baton Rouge, has been awarded the BUILD grant for \$15 million. The agency was informed of the award on Wednesday, November 7th, by Congressman Garret Graves, and the official announcement was made the following day.
- CATS is concluding the process to procure ERP software for the agency and plans to bring a recommendation to the CATS Board in December.
- Work is beginning on the revisions for the CATS Strategic Plan and those revisions will be brought to the Planning Committee when they are complete.
- CATS has planned a Don't Drink and Drive event for New Year's Eve. In partnership with Healthy Blue, the agency will be extending fixed route service until 2:30am on New Year's Eve night. Passengers will be able to ride the system for free from midnight until 2:30am. More information on this event will be forthcoming.
- CATS is working with the City-Parish, the Louisiana Housing Corporation, and St. Vincent de Paul for their annual Thanksgiving Day lunch at the Raising Cane's River Center. The agency will provide a shuttle to take members of the community to the River Center to participate in the event.
- CATS employees are hosting a potluck lunch on Friday, November 15th at the Maintenance Shop. The event will be from noon until 6pm, and our Board members are welcome to join in at their convenience.

HUMAN RESOURCES: *Jim Fight*

- CATS will have open enrollment for benefits from November 14th through 22nd.
- Open enrollment will have a new component, a Benefit Fair, where providers will be onsite to answer employee questions.
- Flu shots for employees will be offered on Friday, November 15th and again on Tuesday, November 19th.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- We currently have 129 active operators working. There are 139 total operators; the remaining operators are on FMLA and light duty.
- See attached Performance Measures.

CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- The CATS proposed 2020 budget has been posted on the CATS website for public inspection and the board members will be contacted to meet regarding the budget prior to the December F&E and Board meetings.
- CATS attended a meeting requested by Congressman Graves and his staff with BRAF, where paratransit stakeholders were present. The meeting was productive and the agency looks forward to working with the ARC.

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- CATS was invited by the Mayor of Baker and CRPC to participate in several meetings to review updated conceptual designs for the proposed Baker Park and Ride and how it would function within the parameters of the mixed-use development: retail, hotel, and apartments. Baker Mayor Waites also held a media event, and the CEO was invited to participate and be interviewed for the project.
- CATS was invited by the BRC Housing leadership to attend BR Choice – Neighborhood Key Implementation, where a mixed-use housing project at the former Earl K. Long site was discussed.
- Southern University is beginning an inclusive planning initiative that will create a community-driven vision for the Baton Rouge campus and the surrounding Scotlandville community. There will also be an implementation strategy, and CATS has been identified as a key leader in expressing views and advancing the project.
- The Complete Streets Technical Advocacy Committee is proposing updates to their cross sections and would like to obtain feedback from the technical committee as outlined in the 2014 City-Parish Complete Streets Policy.
- CATS was invited to attend the Build Baton Rouge Plank Road Master Plan reveal on November 5th, where the agency was recognized for our role in advancing this project. BBR's President and CEO expressed his appreciation for the collaboration from the beginning with CATS on this revitalization effort.

ON CALL SERVICES: *Pearlina Thomas*

- CATS solicited a Request for Proposals for On Call Services to expand the breadth of resources available to provide a variety of services. A number of interested vendors submitted proposals to provide services in the following areas:
 - Corporate Affairs
 - General Administrative Support
 - Information Technology
 - Marketing and Advertising
 - Operations
 - Planning
 - Procurement
 - Project Development and Delivery
- A Proposal Evaluation Committee evaluated proposals on the following criteria:
 - Staff/Firm experience
 - Proven ability
 - Technical requirements
 - Approach to the project
 - Proposer qualifications
 - References and performance records
 - Proposer price and fees schedule
- With consideration of the PEC scores and after evaluation, the agency is reporting on the on call proposal submittals.

PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

- CATS and the City-Parish received notice of an award of \$15 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD grant program for the entire ten-

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mile Plank-Nicholson Corridor. CATS is now revising the scope, schedule, and budgets for the BRT projects.

- NEPA and preliminary engineering are underway for the ten-mile Plank-Nicholson BRT corridor. It has been determined a Categorical Exclusion is the appropriate level of environmental review. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is anticipated by March 2020.
- HNTB, the engineers for the project, conducted a NEPA Environmental workshop on October 29th to update stakeholders on the project. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) representatives were in attendance for the workshop as they will be part of the NEPA process. FTA and SHPO are coordinating the Section 106 review process for historic and potentially historic resources along the corridor.
- The Florida BRT project is in its early stages and will be refined based on the BUILD award.
- The project will require environmental review and preliminary engineering.
- Funding for construction of the project has yet to be determined and obtained.
- FTA officials and CATS staff toured the Florida BRT corridor on October 30th.

FACILITIES PLANNING: *Bill Deville*

North Baton Rouge Transit Center:

- Legal counsel indicated the title attorney is working to clear an old lien on the property; the timeline to clear the lien is not known at this point.

East Baton Rouge Transit Center – Cortana-Walmart Transit Center:

- Construction is substantially complete, with only minor items remaining.
- Cameras are being installed and a punch list has been developed.
- CATS staff is completing the timeline to begin revenue service and have an unveiling of the new site.

Downtown Baton Rouge West Transit Center:

- CATS staff made FTA Region VI officials aware of the move to the I110 Underpass at Florida and they have indicated they will help where possible with the relocation.
- Planning staff will begin work on developing the Preliminary Engineering (PE) for the project, and it is possible that analyses of previously considered sites may be sufficient for the initial feasibility and site selection of I110.
- CATS staff will begin outreach to the Downtown Development District, LaDOTD, and other stakeholders to begin negotiations regarding ownership and co-locations with the current users.

Medical District South Baton Rouge Transit Center:

- CATS Board member Laurence Lambert offered to assist the agency with locating a suitable site in the Medical District for this project through his association with key stakeholders.

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OFFICE FACILITIES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS administrative staff has relocated to the 350 North Donmoor office from the AOM facility at 2250; there are some items remaining at the new site due to the urgency of the relocation. Some of the remaining items include:
 - Cubicles in large, open areas
 - Wiring for cubicles and other spaces
 - Seeking federal funding due to the nature of the former office building's sudden shutdown in August.

Finance: *Mr. John Cutrone*

- See attached financial report.