

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

December 2019

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

AGENCY UPDATES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS provided shuttle service for St. Vincent de Paul's annual Thanksgiving Day lunch at the Raising Cane's River Center.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- We currently have 130 active operators working. There are 140 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 a number of the board members were able to meet to discuss the budget prior to the F&E meeting; those remaining are welcome to meet or discuss by conference call between now and the Tuesday Board meeting.
- Staff held its first meeting following the BRT BUILD Grant award with senior staff as well as board members Kevin O'Gorman, Kahli Cohran, and Laurence Lambert. Good progress was made in defining the path forward that will lead to a CEA between the CATS and the City-Parish; that CEA will define funding resources and allocation(s), as well as timelines for major milestones, including NEPA. A determination has been made and agreed by both senior staff and those board members present that CATS should merge the Plank and Nicholson BRT projects while still implementing Plank Road BRT as Phase One.
- The CEO met with FTA Region VI representatives in Fort Worth and was introduced to the FTA BUILD grant award project team, including the assigned FTA Director, engineer, planner, procurement specialist, and program management specialist; the Program Director expressed congratulations and wanted to find out more about DOTD Road Transfer Program and the MoveBR programs, both of which will serve as key funding resources for the BRT corridor.
- BRAC is having a one-day Leadership Baton Rouge event with a focus on City and State Government on Tuesday, December 10th, and a number of speakers have been invited including the CATS CEO; CATS will be there to discuss the CATS mission, its impact on government, and major projects and initiatives in a 30 to 45 minute talk followed by Q&A, before the BRAC 2020 Class of 45 community leaders.
- Some of CATS staff met with BYD's new Manager of their Central Division, now 3 USA divisions, Jason Yan; CATS board approved 9 BYD electric buses, we have 6 left on the purchase order, and after a caution was shared by our Congressman regarding potential tariff legislation by Congress, BYD has committed to a policy where no tariffs will be passed on the their buyers.

PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

- CATS is authorized to submit budget/ALI revisions through TrAMS and update the TIP/STIP. The revisions are reviewed by FTA typically in 5 – 10 business

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days. CATS can revise the rolling stock ALI from “diesel” to “electric”. There is language that allows for this flexibility in the TIP.

- Additional Planning staff has been trained on TrAMS and NTD to ease reporting requirements.
- Staff from Planning and Communications attended a “Mobility for All” webinar for a grant opportunity with a deadline of January 6, 2020. Staff will meet with representatives from the ARC to make a determination on the application.
- The EPA has announced the upcoming availability of approximately \$44 million in the Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA). The anticipated opening is December 9th and previous application periods have been 90 days.
- Finance and Grants continue to work on ECHOs; reimbursements from previous ECHO draws were charted incorrectly and most have been reconciled. The FTA requires planning or other sign-off as a control measure.

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 will be meeting with City-Parish engineers to identify who should be in the discussion for this site being used as a bus pull-through loop.

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.

OFFICE FACILITIES: *Bill Deville*

- City-Parish will conduct appraisals utilizing their staff, and we plan on meeting with City-Parish this week to finalize next steps for the two properties adjacent to 2250.
- GOTECH/Meyer is preparing a new scope of work to include master plan for the 2250 site. Part of this assessment will include an alternative site analysis. They recommend bringing Dr. Richardson (ESA) to the project as he has transit system planning and operations experience. Once completed, this information will enable CATS to proceed with seeking funding for the AOM project master plan.

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- CATS CAO has progressed with mediating office space needs within the confines of the existing floor space, as well as fine tuning ADA compliance needs near door entrances.

Finance: *Mr. John Cutrone*

- See attached financial report.