

2250 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
PHONE: 225.389.8920



## EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Bill Deville**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Charles Odimgbe**  
*Deputy Chief Executive Officer*

**Dwana Williams**  
*Chief Operations Officer*

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

January 2020

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

### AGENCY UPDATES: *Bill Deville*

- Former CATS operator Christopher “Chris” Huddleston suddenly passed last week. Please keep his wife and three kids in your thoughts and prayers. Chris worked here for several years and was the ATU local Vice President.
- CATS received a commendation that was shared with the board members regarding the Customer Care department. This commendation was from the Columbia, SC transit President/CEO.
- The new BYD Vice President visited staff to update CATS on their new reorganization and the status of pending federal legislation. He also inquired about the electric buses remaining on the purchase order and the timeline to purchase those.

### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- There are currently 134 active operators working. There are 146 total operators; the remaining operators are on FMLA and light duty.
- See attached Performance Measures.

### HUMAN RESOURCES: *Jim Fight*

- The HR Department will be focused on wellness and wellbeing for the workforce. The department will be providing tools for the agency to create a healthy lifestyle.
- There will be an emphasis on organizational training and development in 2020. There will be leadership training offered in February.
- The agency is in the process of completing performance management evaluations.

### CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- The CATS CEO participated in a Bus World Academy panel regarding the implementation of electric buses to the agency’s fleet. The conference took place in Omaha, Nebraska on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussions continue regarding the Baker Park and Ride. Garret Graves’s Chief of Staff Paul Sawyer contacted CATS to say that the Congressman expressed enthusiasm about all the economic activity going on in North Baton Rouge, and heard good things about the vision of Baker Mayor Darnell Waites and the participation by CATS and CRPC, and said if there was anything his office could to help, please let them know.

### PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: *Charles Odimgbe*

- CATS staff continues to work towards service improvements that will be implemented in the Spring. These are designed to improve on-time performance and enrich the customer experience.

### FACILITIES PLANNING: *Charles Odimgbe*

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**North Baton Rouge Transit Center:**

- Legal counsel indicated the title attorney is working to clear an old lien on the property and there should be an update shortly.

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

- Cortana opened for revenue service on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- After an all hands on deck meeting with all Cortana Transfer Transit Center project contractors and CATS staff, it was determined that the few remaining punch list items should not hold up starting up revenue service.
- All punch list items, including a newly added passenger and wheel chair access directly from Walmart, have been addressed. Walmart offered the parking spaces adjacent to the Transfer Center, and all other punch list items were resolved by Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. O, having to leave for a short time for personal reasons, gave me a status report on the construction punch list and revenue service status, and I immediately met with all members of the Operations team and we resolved all questions regarding starting up revenue service
- I also met with Communications Director, Amie McNaylor, and we decided to be cautious in terms of identifying a press event date and will wait until the first couple of weeks of revenue service before deciding a date.
- FTA, the City-Parish, and CATS have held two preliminary conference calls for BRT that were technical in nature, discussing the need for the SHPO report before NEPA can get underway, but that a CAT Exclusion is still expected by March; the last meeting was just to point out that a “white” paper is needed before the more formal meetings and conference call with FTA Region regarding the BUILD grant can get started.

**Downtown Baton Rouge West Transit Center: *Charles Odimgbe***

- HNTB is working on a preliminary draft of what the station could look like.
- 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: *Charles Odimgbe***

- CATS Planning staff will be conducting a feasibility study of four potential sites for this transit center and an update will be provided upon its completion.

**OFFICE FACILITIES: *Bill Deville***

- The administrative office facilities renovations are nearing completion. The FTA asked that we formally compile a report and write them about meeting federal funding eligibility. A full report will be compiled upon completion.

**Finance: *Mr. John Cutrone***

- See attached financial report.