

2250 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
PHONE: 225.389.8920



EXECUTIVE STAFF

Bill Deville
Chief Executive Officer

Darrell Brown
Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE REPORT February 2019 Bill Deville and Executive Staff

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- Operations now has 133 active Operators
- See attached Performance Measures

CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS has rebid the construction project for the East (Cortana) Transit Center and hopes to have a recommendation at the March board meeting.
- Three electric buses are scheduled to arrive ahead of the planned revenue service startup for CATS Plank Road BRT route. Once these buses arrive and Operations has determined where they will be best utilized, there will be a planned press event to announce their arrival and early usage start date.
- CATS has been approached by BRAF after they met with Congressman Garrett Graves and staff in Washington, D.C. to look into the potential of implementing the Boston Paratransit/Transportation Network Companies on demand template that has been very successful there. They have inquired as to whether this would work in Baton Rouge, and CATS staff is investigating.
- CATS will have staff representing our agency at the SWTA Annual Conference the week of March 3rd; this year's conference is in El Paso, Texas.
- Director of Maintenance James Godwin will be traveling to the BYD Electric Bus Manufacturing Facility in the Los Angeles area to perform the final electric bus pre-delivery inspection later this month.

PLANNING: *Bill Deville*

FACILITIES PLANNING: *James Baker or Bill Deville*

North Baton Rouge Transit Center:

- CATS is anticipating FTA's approval of the 2018 formula funding.
- Legal counsel for CATS is working with LSU officials to complete certain requirements prior to executing the purchase agreement.
- An updated property survey has been completed and it confirms observations raised by legal counsel regarding encroachment issues. These issues will be presented to LSU and Division of Administration officials for reconciliation.

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

- The bid documents have been re-advertised and a pre-bid conference was held February 13th.
- Bids are due for the project on March 6th.
- Construction is estimated to begin in April with completion expected by the third quarter of 2019. Revenue service is anticipated by August 2019.

Downtown Transit Center:

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- Recent discussions with DOTD officials and DPW officials continue in an effort to identify suitable downtown sites to accommodate the transit center's operations.

Bus Rapid Transit:

Plank-Nicholson BRT:

- CATS, the Redevelopment Authority, and the City-Parish participated in a series of workshops January 28-29, 2019 to present the locally preferred alternative.
- A preliminary assessment of the BRT stations has been completed by SJB. The assessment concentrated on right-of-way limitations, ADA compliance, site evaluations, and the development of conceptual design plans. The assessment confirmed the suitability and acceptability of the BRT station locations; it also allows the design phase to advance to the utility phase. CATS and DPW project managers conducted a detailed walking tour of each proposed BRT station location to review potential challenges along the Plank Road right-of-way. There was also discussion regarding traffic, bike paths, complete streets/road diets and signalization plans in conjunction with the initial phase of BRT service on Plank Road and the forthcoming Plank-Nicholson BRT route, and as it may relate to the planned Phase 2 of the Plank/Nicholson BRT Corridor project.
- The CATS BRT project team and the Plank-Nicholson BRT committee continue to collaborate and share operational, design, and community information. Some of the topics being discussed include ridership projections, station locations and concept designs, cost estimates, construction, and procurement.
- The CATS BRT project team is collaborating with CATS Finance staff to determine the operating and maintenance cost budget effects resulting from the planned addition of the Plank-Nicholson BRT Corridor operation by 2022, which is the estimated revenue service projection.
- CATS recently participated in a planning workshop with the Redevelopment Authority, the City-Parish, and HNTB to establish parameters for the Plank-Nicholson BRT Corridor Redefinition Study.

City of Baker:

Park-and-Ride project

- The Baker Transit Center is a bus layover facility and a park-and-ride location is being discussed with collaboration among CATS, the City of Baker, and CRPC.
- Project funding has been identified by CRPC with local match to be provided by CATS and the City of Baker.

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- A site planning and design concepts study to be funded by CRPC will be initial phase of the project. The study is slated for completion in May 2019.
- The anticipated revenue start date is expected in 18 to 24 months, contingent upon funding.

Service Planning: *Bill Deville*

- The Service Improvement Plan is scheduled for an implementation date of February 24, 2019. Various departments in the agency have been working to ensure the plan will be successfully implemented and employees, operators, customers, and the community will be aware of the changes.
- The first week of service – February 24th through March 2nd – under the new plan will be free for all customers utilizing both the fixed-route and CATS on Demand service.

Finance: *Rhonda Williams*

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- Grants –staff is preparing information requested by the FTA for the Triennial Review Process.
 - Staff is analyzing the Nicholson-Plank BRT Project for possible funding from the FTA Capital Investment Program. Public meetings were held January 28th and 29th to present the preferred alternative.
- Medicaid – staff is reviewing the recertification process for Logisticare. We have reached out to the Department of Health for updates on providing non-emergency Medical Transportation Services as the process has changed.
- Analyzing fare box revenue –no updates.