

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

March 2019

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- Operations now has 131 active Operators
- See attached Performance Measures

CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS has rebid the construction project for the East (Cortana) Transit Center and will have a recommendation for the March board meeting.
- After the BYD electric bus inspection at their facility in southern California last week, staff informed us that all three buses are in the road test/punch list mode. All three electric buses are scheduled to arrive ahead of the planned revenue service startup for CATS Plank Road BRT route. Once the buses arrive and are ready for revenue service, they will be utilized on the Plank Road route in peak hours until the Plank Road BRT route is active.
- The CATS SIP implementation on February 24th was successful, with some minor issues as expected. The free rides were appreciated by the customers.
- Operations, Scheduling, and Planning are closely monitoring the SIP startup; as usual in Transit, route changes result in punch list type issues that will be addressed. Some of the issues that have arisen are some operators saying certain route schedules don't allow enough layover time for restroom break, and some customers, in spite of the valiant effort by Communications and Operations getting the word out, needing to be helped with route changes.
- Your CEO was a guest of the Senator Regina Barrow radio program; she asked to have CATS come and talk about the SIP for her audience.
- The agency has hired a new Human Resources Manager, Jim Fight, and he comes to us with a background of more than twenty years in HR and more than ten years in transit.
- An administrative reorganization took place effective March 1st. Some of the highlights include naming Dwana Williams the Chief Operating Officer, and Garrick Rose the Director of Planning and Program Development.

PLANNING AND GRANTS: *Garrick Rose*

- Planning and Operations is reviewing the draft 5-year fleet plan produced by former COO, Rod Goldman.
- On Saturday, March 9, 2019, Planning staff participated in the "Walk the Plank" event sponsored East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority. The community walk and ride tour was held to encourage residents and business owners who live along Plank Road to tell officials what the future should look for the road.
- Grants staff is continuing to prepare information requested by the FTA for the Triennial Review Process.

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- Planning and Finance has assisted P&N with requested information regarding the FTA federal award process and oversight.

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.

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.
- Three construction bids were received on March 6th and the Procurement Department has vetted the bids. The lowest bidder is in compliance with the ITB.
- A recommendation to award the contract will be presented as an action item for the Board's consideration.

Downtown Transit Center:

- 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:

- A preliminary assessment of the BRT stations has been completed by SJB. The assessment focused on right-of-way limitations, ADA compliance, site evaluations and development of conceptual design plans. The assessment has confirmed the suitability and acceptability of the BRT station locations and allows the design phase to advance to the utility phase. The sites deemed unacceptable because of traffic issues, ADA compliance, space limitations, etc. have been replaced with alternative sites.
- CATS and HNTB met with City-Parish DPW and DOTD officials to explore the challenges associated with the Plank Road rights-of-way. Narrow rights-of-way and access management, as well as the transfer of Plank Road from DOTD to DPW were some of the issues discussed.
- Phase Two of the Plank-Nicholson BRT Corridor project is projected to start as early as 2022 if funded by the FTA. In order to qualify for FTA Small Starts grant funding, HNTB has 15 minute headways on the ten miles of station stops; this BRT service scenario would potentially bring in the highest ridership estimates, which is crucial to getting FTA grant approval competing against other cities for funding. This proposed scenario has BRT service along the Plank sector with ten station locations for review. In Phase One, the CATS Plank Road BR has planned three larger station stops identified by CATS Operations and Planning departments. Additionally, the HNTB plan also includes operating costs projects for review by CATS.

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- CATS is evaluating these all options, and the challenges that come with them, and is finalizing the Phase One plans to include station locations, designs, and service locations.

City of Baker:

Park-and-Ride project

- The Baker Transit Center, a bus layover facility and a park-and-ride, is a collaborative project 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.
- CRPC solicited a planning service contract to begin a site planning and design concepts study.
- CRPC will fund the initial phase of the project of the project.

Service Planning: *Bill Deville*

- The Service Improvement Plan began February 24th.
- While staff is closely monitoring the SIP implementation, as explained repeatedly and as much as possible at public meetings and on the website, CATS can and will make minor adjustments in real time depending on feedback from riders, customers, and stakeholders; and as noted, for bigger service and route adjustments, CATS is able to make those three times a year, and the next opportunity is June.