

2250 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
PHONE: 225.389.8920



EXECUTIVE STAFF

Bill Deville
Chief Executive Officer

Darrell Brown
Chief Administrative Officer

Dwana Williams
Chief Operations Officer

EXECUTIVE REPORT

May2019

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

HUMAN RESOURCES: *Jim Fight*

- Overview of vision for Human Resources
- See attached PowerPoint that was presented to workforce stakeholders.
- The agency organized a roundtable with community workforce stakeholders. This is part of the broader initiative to create a “pipeline” for good local talent. There were representatives from various workforce agencies, BRCC, and several youth outreach programs. Also in attendance were CATS board members Antoinette Pierre and Linda Perkins.
 - Several members of CATS staff were in attendance at the meeting to represent the agency.
- CATS is planning a job fair to recruit for maintenance and operations positions.
 - The fair, “Behind the Wheel”, will be held at the Automotive Campus of BRCC on Tuesday, June 4th from 12:00pm until 6:00pm.
 - The agency will have CATS employees on hand to conduct on-the-spot interviews with the hope of hiring operators and mechanics on the spot.
 - Human Resources and Communications are working together to produce materials to distribute prior to the event, and there will be radio spots promoting the job fair as well.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- Operations now has 134 active Operators as a result of some operators returning to work. There are 13 currently inactive due to workers’ compensation, light duty, and FMLA.
- See attached Performance Measures.

CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS was invited to attend the BRNEDD (Baton Rouge North Economic Development District) May 8th “Transportation Drives Economic Development” Luncheon panel discussion. The event was part of the BRNEDD’s week of events highlighting the NBR area. CATS Board Vice-President Erika Green was the moderator for the panel discussion. CATS Board Treasurer Kahli Cohran and Bill Deville joined Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary of LaDOTD, Mike Edwards, Director of Aviation/BTR, Bryan Jones, HNTB, and Kelvin Hill, EBR Assistant CAO as panelists for the discussion.
- CATS was invited to attend and participate in the Stakeholder group meetings regarding the Baton Rouge Zoo and Greenwood Community Park Master Plans that involved various scenarios for transportation to and from both venues.

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- CATS was also invited to attend and present a CATS status report to the members of the Mid-City AARP Group that is represented by members from across Baton Rouge. The meeting was well attended, enthusiastic, and they had lots of questions.

PLANNING AND GRANTS: *Garrick Rose*

- Planning has submitted its 5 Year Program of Projects for inclusion in the June 2019 TIP/STIP.
- Planning and Grants staff met with Pierlott & Associates from May 7-9, 2019 to review the information requested by the FTA for the Triennial Review Process. There is a Triennial Review workshop in Baton Rouge, LA on June 4-5, 2019 and the Triennial Review itself is scheduled for August 7-8, 2019.
- Planning is scheduled to meet with Our Lady of the Lake staff to discuss CATS service to the new hospital campus.
- Planning continues to refine the FTA FY2019 grant award applications.

FACILITIES PLANNING: *James Baker or Garrick Rose*

North Baton Rouge Transit Center:

- Legal counsel for CATS is working with LSU officials to complete certain legislative requirements prior to executing the purchase agreement.

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

- Operations has safely and successfully relocated its service stops and shelters from the Walmart side to the Mall side of Cortana Place. Kelly Construction continues to work with DPW to resolve traffic and safety issues.
 - Demolition of the site is underway. Safety fencing and debris controls are in place, along with construction equipment and a construction trailer.
 - Further demolition of the Oak Villa Street side is pending approval of the traffic and safety plan.

BUS RAPID TRANSIT:

Plank Road BRT, Phase One:

- The SJB engineering team is collaborating with the HNTB design group, along with the City-Parish DPW to ensure seamless cooperation and coordination for all station engineering and amenities design decisions.
 - The team is meeting to identify and resolve technical and budgetary issues necessary to advance the Plank Road Phase One and the Plank-Nicholson Phase Two.

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

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unacceptable because of traffic issues, ADA compliance, space limitations, etc. have been replaced with alternative sites.

- CATS and the City-Parish are currently in discussions to review additional costs requests to cover the NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) study for the Plank Phase One and Plank-Nicholson Phase Two projects. The NEPA process is necessary as part of the Small Start submittal process.
- Once additional funding has been approved, CATS and HNTB will prepare support documentation to secure environmental clearance for the Plank (Phase One) and Plank-Nicholson (Phase Two) projects. A Categorical Exclusion is anticipated permitting both phases to proceed.
- HNTB has generated renderings illustrating the BRT station design proposed at Chippewa and LSU. Though preliminary, these renderings illustrate the context and setting for these planned transit improvements.

CITY OF BAKER:

Baker Transportation Center Project

- The Baker Transportation Center, a bus layover facility and a park-and-ride, is a collaborative project among CATS, the City of Baker, and CRPC. CRPC is spearheading this project.
- The first step this project is feasibility / Site planning and design concept study.
- CRPC solicited a planning service contract to begin a site planning and design concepts study. The study is expected to be completed before end of the calendar year 2019.