

2250 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
PHONE: 225.389.8920



## EXECUTIVE STAFF

### EXECUTIVE REPORT

June 2019

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

#### SAFETY MOMENT: Renee Simpson

June is National Safety Month, and the agency would like to recognize the following operators who have had zero accidents in the last twelve months:

- |                      |                    |                     |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Frederica Albert   | • Toye Hebert      | • LaDonna Robertson |
| • Tabitha Armwood    | • Kimla Hudson     | • Diana Robinson    |
| • Falesha Augustus   | • Kimberly Johnson | • Juanita Sanford   |
| • Janie Brown        | • Natasha Johnson  | • Sandra Sparrow    |
| • Jerry Brown        | • Charisa Jones    | • Terrica Tanner    |
| • Michael Butler     | • Janice Kinchen   | • Robert Tate       |
| • Jacqueline Cain    | • Reginald Lanieu  | • Debra Taylor      |
| • Regina Celestine   | • Samuel Lee       | • Ebony Thomas      |
| • Shontel Chenevert  | • Gretchen Major   | • Evette Thomas     |
| • Michelle Cockerham | • Walter Mattire   | • Tiffany Variste   |
| • Shekar Gibson      | • Beverly McMorris | • Andrus Walker     |
| • Marlon Gotch       | • Alethea Olinde   | • Jennifer Watts    |
| • Demetrice Green    | • Jamira Patterson | • Chaundra White    |
| • Alfreda Harrison   | • Zaldreka Reddix  | • Terez Wicker      |
|                      |                    | • Tammy Wilson      |

#### HUMAN RESOURCES: Jim Fight

- CATS hosted its Behind the Wheel Job Fair on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Automotive Campus of BRCC.
  - More than 250 job seekers came to the event and more than 196 were interviewed by CATS staff on hand for the event.
  - The agency looks to make up to 35 potential offers based on the interviews conducted.

#### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: Dwana Williams

- Operations now has 127 active.
- See attached Performance Measures.

**Bill Deville**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Darrell Brown**  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

**Dwana Williams**  
*Chief Operations Officer*

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### CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- ETC Institute will be in Baton Rouge beginning June 17<sup>th</sup> to conduct the next round of customer satisfaction surveys.
- Will Scott & Company, an executive search firm specializing in transit industry hires, developed profiles on 26 candidates for the newly created Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DECO) position.
  - After reviewing the top ten candidate profiles, four finalists were determined. Under the guidance of the Scott Company and our own HR Director Jim Fight, two interview panels were established, comprising a cross section of management staffers who conducted group session interviews with candidates.
  - Follow-up interviews were also held with ATU leadership as well as a close-out interview with the HR Director and CEO.
  - Two of the four candidates were interviewed; one declined to take a higher paying management position with a southern Florida transit agency, and the other removed themselves for personal health reasons.
  - A decision will be made within the next week to ten days. All candidates were actively working and requested confidentiality in case they didn't get the position so they could maintain their current jobs.
- The CEO was invited by the new BREC Superintendent, Corey Wilson, to meet and discuss how BREC and CATS could collaborate. Mr. Wilson explained he would like to see access to and from all of BREC facilities as this is key to its current and future success.
  - Mr. Wilson felt it was important to create a dialogue with CATS as BREC embarks on several multimillion dollar capital investment projects.
- There was discussion with Chris Tyson, President and CEO of the newly rebranded Build Baton Rouge (formerly the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority) regarding any potential for New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC), within our existing program and project sites
  - Additionally, a meeting was had with BBR's new markets tax credit consultant group to review our capital and operation plans, looking for potential NMTCs within the confines of our capital program sites.
- The CEO was invited to attend an Urban League Urban Round Table Luncheon meeting on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), comprised of mayors and presidents of East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes as well as CATS, met on June 12<sup>th</sup>; the CATS Preliminary Program of Projects was on agenda for approval.

### PLANNING AND GRANTS: *Garrick Rose*

- CATS Five Year Program of Projects was adopted at the June 12, 2019 MPO Transportation Policy Committee.

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- Planning and Grants staff attended an FTA-sponsored Triennial Review workshop in Baton Rouge on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Planning has a follow-up meeting scheduled with Our Lady of the Lake staff to continue the discussion regarding CATS service to the new hospital campus, slated to open in October 2019.
- Planning submitted a Bus and Bus Facilities grant award application for four electric trolleys and six electric buses.
- The National Transit Database (NTD) report was submitted on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **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:**

- Construction is underway at the Cortana Transit Center and the passenger loading area is also proceeding.
  - Demolition, site preparations, and electrical and security camera lines are in place.
  - Concrete work is progressing regardless of the recent rain events.
  - DPW has approved the contractor's traffic plan along Oak Villa Drive, which allows the demolition of the bus staging area to proceed.

### **BUS RAPID TRANSIT:**

#### **Plank Road BRT, Phase One:**

- The SJB engineering team continues to collaborate with the HNTB design group as well as the City-Parish Department of Public Works to ensure seamless cooperation and coordination for all station engineering and amenities design decisions.
- It has been agreed that advancing the final engineering phase of Plank Road Phase One is subject to environmental clearance for the entire Plank-Nicholson BRT Project. Based on HNTB's assessment, the environmental approval is projected to be received in the fall.

#### **Plank-Nicholson BRT:**

- It has been agreed that the Plank-Nicholson BRT Project will pursue funding under the BUILD grant application, which is due July 15<sup>th</sup>. HNTB has discussed on several occasions the rationale to pursue the BUILD grant. CATS management has reviewed HNTB's proposed work program to prepare to advance conceptual design and NEPA materials as well as the BUILD application.
  - The project justification, work plan, schedule, and budget has been determined to be acceptable. Critical in this effort is the expedient production of material for the NEPA process and environmental approval.

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#### **BRT Transit Amenities:**

- After a successful RFQ evaluation process, a design firm has been deemed qualified and responsible and has been selected to provide the necessary design services for the fabrication, delivery, and installation of custom transit shelters, an information kiosk, BRT signage, and other related amenities for the BRT stations and high profile transit sites. A recommendation for an approval to award a contract is listed as an action item.