

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

August 2019

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

### AGENCY UPDATES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS has contracted with Pearlina Thomas of PLACEenterprise, LLC, to serve as the Interim CAO with the retirement of Darrell Brown.
- DCEO Charles “Mr. O” Odimgbe has been meeting with all the departments and working on department goals, expectations, etc.
- The agency had its Triennial Review August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A summary of the review and follow up process will be provided to the Board once it has been received by CATS staff.

### HUMAN RESOURCES: *Jim Fight*

- CATS is interviewing 41 candidates for employment in various departments.
- A New Hire Orientation for bus operators has been scheduled for August 26, 2019.
- We have completed interviews for the Comptroller position and should have a candidate identified by the August board meeting.
- Training modules are being introduced to all departments and the initial effort will be tailored to the supervision for the agency.

### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Dwana Williams*

- We currently have 126 active operators working. The department lost approximately 5 operators to termination and FMLA. We have 10 operators in training and just hired approximately 20 more bus operators to begin training August 26, 2019.
- See attached Performance Measures.

### CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS is planning a couple of press events to occur by October to announce the launch of the three easily identifiable and “branded” electric buses into fixed-route service on a temporary basis.
  - Initially the electric buses will be briefly assigned to various routes in all service areas as an introduction to the general public. Subsequently, they will settle on Route 41 – Plank Road in morning and afternoon peak, rush hour service until the BRT project is complete and revenue service is initiated.
  - The first electric bus press event is scheduled for September 16, 2019 at the CATS Terminal. More information regarding this event will be forthcoming from the Communications Department.
- CATS is also preparing another press event for late September to October, depending on the weather, for the grand opening of the Cortana Transit Service Hub/Center.

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- CATS is preparing to conduct stakeholder/non-rider surveys that will be administered by the ETC Institute, a group that performs the customer satisfaction survey. This information will be used by multiple departments in the agency in preparation for our community outreach campaign.
- The Microtransit Pilot Program work continues and CATS hopes to have an RFP ready for solicitation by September, 2019, whereby two North Baton Rouge zones will be merged for a service area in North Baton Rouge that includes the Airport, Southern University, and the city of Baker; we will have a timeline of this pilot program for the board at the September board meeting.
- CATS Paratransit “on demand” Uber/Lyft like service pilot program is being reviewed for possible introduction to Baton Rouge later this year; Operations and Business Development leadership made a site visit to Dallas to learn how the project works for them with MV.

### **PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:**

- CATS received a Low-No grant award notice for \$2.6 million for the purchase of three more electric buses from its May 2019 application.
- On August 7-8, 2019 CATS staff participated in the FTA Triennial Review. CATS is responding to open items prior to the draft report in order to address and close items.

### **BUS RAPID TRANSIT:**

CATS staff provided an overview of BRT activity for the past year at the request of FTA Region VI. The NEPA/Preliminary Engineering project has been authorized and awaits notice to proceed.

FTA provided recommendations for the BRT projects and suggested using the preliminary design from the NEP /preliminary design phase to guide other design firms under contract for Architectural & Engineering services.

### **FACILITIES PLANNING: *Bill Deville***

#### **North Baton Rouge Transit Center:**

- Legal counsel indicated that LSU and the Division of Administration have completed the process of notifying the previous owner(s) of the intent to sell the property. The title search is underway and closing is anticipated shortly.
  - Staff is prepared to commence the RFP process upon execution of 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.
- Inclement weather has caused some minor delays but construction continues at the site.
- Transit furnishings including benches, bike racks, light fixtures, and trash bins are arriving and their installation will begin shortly.

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EXECUTIVE STAFF

- Weather permitting, the site will commence revenue service in September.

#### **BUS RAPID TRANSIT:**

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

- The Plank BRT Phase One project's final engineering is on hold until the completion of the NEPA process and receiving environmental approval for the entire Plank Road BRT and Plank-Nicholson BRT projects. HNTB is the consultant on record and slated to complete the environmental and NEPA process.

##### **Plank-Nicholson BRT, Phase II:**

- The Plank-Nicholson BRT project will pursue funding under the BUILD grant application. HNTB has prepared the grant documentation and submitted the grant application on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **2250 Florida Boulevard Facility Improvements:**

- With the support of the Department of Public Works, management is undertaking a series of improvements at the 2250 location, including critical paving repairs and the construction of two temporary parking lots.
  - DPW will provide all required materials and labor, and CATS will cover the costs.
  - These improvements are necessary and overdue given the deteriorating conditions of the pavement at the bus terminal area as well as the main parking lot.
  - Management has identified two City-Parish controlled properties that can provide nearly 50 additional parking spaces.
- Deputy CEO Charles Odimgbe has taken the lead in having the facility at 2250 cleaned and freshened; this is one of a number of initiatives being undertaken by Mr. Odimgbe.
  - This will occur for both the interior and exterior of the facility and will work in conjunction with the rebranding efforts.
  - This is an important step in our efforts to let both our employees and the community know that we take pride in not only the work we do but also where we do it.