

2250 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
PHONE: 225.389.8920



EXECUTIVE STAFF

Bill Deville
Chief Executive Officer

Rod Goldman
Chief Operating Officer

Darrell Brown
Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE REPORT

September 2018

Bill Deville and Executive Staff

HUMAN RESOURCES: *Darrell Brown*

- CATS made the following new hires in August: Admin – 1 Grants Manager; Maintenance – 1 Body and Paint Technician.
- A new training class began September 10th for 11 Bus Operator Trainees.
- CATS has begun its work study program with Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School. We have four students who work one day a week in Human Resources, Operations, Communications & Business Development, and Finance.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: *Rod Goldman*

- Operations now has 141 active Operators
- See attached Performance Measures

CEO NOTES: *Bill Deville*

- CATS has completed the public meeting process for the proposed Service Improvement Plan (SIP); meetings were at BREC, Downtown Development District, the Charles Kelly Community Center, and the Jewel J Newman Community Center. The final plan has been sent to you for your consideration, and we will be asking you to recommend the plan for final approval. The SIP will be taken to the Metro Council on September 26th for public hearing and their approval.
- CATS began Touchdown Express service for 2018 on September 8th. We have gotten positive responses from our customers who look forward to this service every year. We transported over five hundred customers for the first game.
- FTA Region VI held its joint BRT Plank/Nicholson BRT Corridor project conference call with the City-Parish, the RDA, HNTB, and CATS engaged all together for the first time.

PLANNING: *Bill Deville*

FACILITIES PLANNING: *James Baker or Bill Deville*

North Baton Rouge Transit Center:

- In recent discussions with FTA, CATS staff has finally been given clearance and has been reassured that there are no outstanding grant issues. Based on FTA's findings, CATS is now permitted to move forward with property acquisition and engineering design activities. Staff, through CATS's legal counsel, can begin working with LSU officials regarding any pending items needed to conclude execution of its purchase agreement.

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

- Final engineering design documents, which include the “bus staging addition”, should be completed as of this report. These documents (construction bid documents) are being reviewed by staff and will shortly be submitted to DPW for their review and permit approval.

Downtown Transit Center:

- Management continues its efforts to identify an available, suitable, affordable and acceptable site to accommodate a Downtown Transit Center. Recent discussions with the State’s Division of Administration official have pointed us to consider locations situated between River Road and the Mississippi river. Applying the service model employed for the planned Cortana Transit Center staff is assessing the suitability of this location. Though our preliminary assessments shows promise outstanding issues such as bus staging, service routing, costs, and stakeholders acceptance need to be addressed. Going forward it is staff’s intent to present its findings at a future Planning Committee meeting.

Bus Rapid Transit:

Plank-Nicholson BRT:

On August 9th, staff received five (5) proposals to provide engineering design services for the Plank and Florida BRT projects. The proposals will be evaluated by the CATS Procurement Evaluation Committee, with the firm receiving the highest score to be determined and approval recommended in time for the October board meeting.

City of Baker:

Park-and-Ride project

- The Mayor of Baker is advocating the development of park-and-ride/transportation center on Plank Road. Per Mayor Darnell Waites’ vision, this project would not only attract and help mitigate the heavy commuter traffic currently along Plank, but he also envisions this as an economic catalyst for further private investments in the Baker/Baton Rouge area.
- Staff recently attended a meeting hosted by Mayor Waites with Mayor Broome, Chris Tyson (EBRRDA) and Jamie Setze (CRPC) regarding his plans. The meeting concluded with the following:
 - Mayor Broome expressed her support
 - Consideration will be given to extend and connect the Plank/Nicholson BRT route into Baker
 - CRPC will be identifying possible funding sources
 - Mayor Waites will be pursuing property acquisition.
- Though current discussions are in the early planning stages staff will inform the Board of any further activities.

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Service Planning: *Bill Deville*

CATS Service Improvement Plan public meetings, stakeholder, and community outreach efforts are continuing. The next steps include distribution of the CATS Service Improvement Plans to as many local, state, and federal officials, as possible, as well as individual meetings with Metro Council members who have accepted the offer to meet; The SIP plan, will be presented to the Board for its authorization before going before the Metro Council for its vote of approval later this month.

Finance: *Rhonda Williams*

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- Grant applications – The Bus and Bus Facilities grant was submitted to FTA on August 9th and consists of proposals for 30 foot buses, AVL/CAD equipment and bus facilities.
- Overtime – Overtime for August was \$68,000
 - Overtime for the first eight months of the year is as follows:
 - January – \$63,000
 - February – \$83,000
 - March – \$89,000
 - April – \$71,000
 - May – \$65,000
 - June – \$55,000
 - July – \$50,000
 - August – \$68,000
- Medicaid – CATS staff has not had any new developments since last month’s meeting with Southern Strategies and Ruth Kennedy.
- Analyzing farebox revenue – The farebox committee has been tasked with determining how to better and more accurately forecast ridership by source and time. The committee is continuing its review.