

Special Meeting of the  
Downtown Development Authority to Discuss Transit  
Friday, August 18, 2006  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
Einstein Room

**ROLL CALL**

**BOARD PRESENT:** Alan Hooper, Chair  
Peter Feldman, Vice Chair  
Jack T. Loos, Secretary  
Gale Butler, Treasurer  
Charles B. Ladd, Board Member  
Doug Eagon, Board Member

**NOT PRESENT:** William R. Scherer, Board Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel  
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director  
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager  
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator  
Neil Sterling  
Phil Smelley  
Eric Liberman  
John Lafferty

**PRESIDING:** Alan Hooper, Chair

Mr. Hooper called the special meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Eagon indicated he had to leave at 9:15 and asked if today was just an informative meeting or whether Board action was needed. His concern was with respect to establishing a quorum.

Roll call was taken by Mr. Wren. Mrs. Butler had not arrived yet.

Mr. Wren said three actions of the Board was needed: 1) authorization to start the distribution and public outreach for the various alignments the Board has been discussing over the past couple of weeks, 2) a contract amendment to fine tune the subcontractors with the contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff and 3) to allow the contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff to go forward to work authorization #2. He said formal action would be needed on all three.

Chairman Hooper asked what the highest priorities were and Mr. Wren said all. Chairman Hooper asked if they would have a quorum if Mr. Eagon departed and Mr. Milledge said yes.

Mr. Smelley gave an overview on where they are in the process. He said a SAC Committee is being set up and indicated that any major milestones would go to the Board first and then the SAC

Committee. He discussed the process of going to the Broward County Commission as well as what needs approval by the FTA. He indicated they are in the scoping process now.

He went through the No Build and TSM alternatives. He discussed single track versus double track and said the double track is more expensive to build because it is more track, more stations and more cars. He said the plans do not show going east past Federal Highway. An arrow indicates future service to beaches.

Discussion was held about parking garage opportunities with the County.

Mrs. Butler arrived.

Mr. Eagon said one of the major routes for the east/west loop has on street parking. He doesn't feel it's a big issue and that he's comfortable it will work. Mr. Loos did not agree with his conclusions. He feels parking issues exist in the easterly link. He said it's the worse segment with the greatest impact.

Mr. Ladd talked about east of the tunnel and said it's more congested. It's a pedestrian way so he feels it's logical to end at the tunnel. He said there's no reason to take the public off the sidewalk.

General discussion was held.

Chairman Hooper said connecting the beach to the downtown is the most important thing and he said he's not sure the arrow needs to be there indicating future service to beaches.

Mr. Smelley said there could be service down Las Olas during the day and it could stop at Cheesecake Factory at night. The Board discussed this further.

Mrs. Butler said she feels they could leave the arrow because it says "future". She added that big trucks on Las Olas are an issue. Mr. Loos said they could leave the arrow and they can alter the language. He said they don't want anyone on either side of the issue to be stirred up. Mr. Eagon talked about leaving the arrow and what the risk was of doing so. He said the routes can always be added later. Mr. Eagon departed.

He went through all the alternatives and discussion was held with the Board. He said that once alternatives are chosen, they will update the costs. He said the issues now are coverage, cost and taking the trains where there is the most opportunity for redevelopment. He said that tunnel issues need to be resolved. They discussed bridges and the additional weight of the rail.

Mr. Loos thanked Mr. Smelley and Mr. Wren and said he had an informative meeting with them. He said he'd like the ability of tighter routes depending on the time of day.

Mr. Smelley talked about transferring from the East/West trains to the DDA transit system and that it is important to know their operational plan. Mr. Wren talked about this issue further.

Mr. Ladd said it seems like more loops make sense versus a straight line and Mr. Loos agreed.

Chairman Hooper said he'd like to see an alternative with Andrews, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Las Olas on a line.

Mr. Wren said the Board can pick and choose and combine the routes. Chairman Hooper said he feels it's important to be specific when they start developing maps.

The Board continued discussion on the various routes.

Mr. Loos said the TMA convention connection operates 4 days a week and that the ridership is generated by grocery stores, restaurants, etc. They've generated 5000 riders in a week.

Chairman Hooper said the TMA loops through Flagler Village and loops through Publix and that the anchor is important.

Mr. Loos discussed the size of the streetcars saying they are over 8 feet high and 67 feet long and that the Board should think about the size of the car so they look and appear to scale to be successful.

Mr. Smelley said that 67 feet seems huge and that the perception is that it's out of scale, but in Portland it does fine. There are 174 people with 1 driver. Mr. Loos said they could use multiple size cars over the lifespan. As the need to accommodate more riders comes, a larger vehicle can be supplied.

Mr. Milledge asked what the life of the cars was. Mr. Smelley indicated that rehab is 22 years and the life of the car is 28 years. Chairman Hooper added that thinking of size is important.

Chairman Hooper asked if there could be an alternate of the original loop they did showing a track maybe at the courthouse, that if the bridges were down for a long period they could circle the area and continue running the train. He further stated that the Performing Arts Center is an important anchor to the downtown. He asked if they've considered a hybrid and whether the FTA would allow them to do rail plus rubber lines. Discussion held.

Mr. Ladd mentioned that with the TMA, they don't have stations so he doesn't know where to wait. Mrs. Butler added that they need stations to sit and stand.

Chairman Hooper said that crossing the FEC will be an issue. Mr. Milledge said that a rubber/rail combination might address the bridge issue. Mr. Wren stated that he would have Mr. Smelley look at that and he is analyzing both systems. Chairman Hooper said he would like that to be considered.

***Mr. Wren said they were looking for Board approval for either three separate motions or one combined motion that authorizes them to go forward for public comment on these alternatives and to do the various alternatives and analysis by Parsons Brinckerhoff and to allow contract amendments to the Parson Brinckerhoff's contract for subcontractors and work authorization 2.***

Mr. Loos asked if they had the money for that and Mr. Wren said yes. Mr. Milledge elaborated on the contract issue. Mr. Wren added that work authorization 2 is to allow Parsons to go to the next \$600,000 of the contract. Mr. Wren explained the contract further and said this would allow them to continue the whole project. ***Mr. Loos moved approval of staff's recommendations on all three and Mr. Ladd seconded.***

Chairman Hooper asked if they could add when they go for the public meeting, where they go over two bridges, that there's some sort of line and Mr. Smelley said he would add a dotted line. ***Roll call was taken and all approved.***

Mr. Wren mentioned that the Public Workshop is scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and 6:30.

Mr. Feldman asked if invitations were sent out and Mr. Smelley said 1500 people are on the list which was comprised from the DDA and the list Parsons has within the RAC area. He said they sent newsletters and letters and are putting an ad in the paper.

Mr. Feldman asked if the list could expand to include the advisory boards. Mr. Loos asked if it could include all neighborhood presidents. Mr. Smelley said they are on the list as well as the churches. Mr. Wren asked if the advisory boards were on the list and Mr. Smelley said he would check and offered the list to the Board members if they would like a copy. **Chairman Hooper said he would like a copy.**

After closing the item, Chairman Hooper said that he had a meeting with the City Manager yesterday on the CIP regarding the City being an applicant in the County Redevelopment process and said the City Manager is open to working with them.

Hearing no other comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

A taped recording of the full proceedings of the August 18, 2006 Special Meeting of the Board is on file in the DDA office – 305 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 301.