Call to Order:
Chairman David Foster, CSAC

Chairman Foster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions:

Committee members present were Chairman Foster, B.J. Taylor, Betsy Greenberg, Oscar Gaytan, and Rich MacKinnon

Capital Metro staff members present were Sam Sargent and John Andoh

Allen Demling provided citizens communication.

Citizen Communication:

Mr. Demling expressed his concern with the administration of Capital Metro’s MetroBike shelter program. Specifically, he hopes the agency will provide email updates to members of the program a month before their membership expires. While the expiration date is printed on the tap card, the email would be another reminder for members that it’s time to renew

Mr. Demling continued, stating that with the limited amount of space for bicycles on MetroRail trains, MetroBike is a critical program and should be better promoted by the agency. He suggested more advertising, free trial periods, demand-based pricing, or the ability to have shorter membership periods during major events like SXSW.

Chairman Foster recommended reaching out to the City of Austin’s Bicycle Advisory Committee and more outreach by Capital Metro staff on the program. Mr. Sargent stated that he is working with Marketing, Communications, and Customer Service to promote the MetroBike program through social media, a blog post, and other means. A future agenda item focusing solely on cycling and transit will be added to the committee work plan.

Mr. Demling also suggested more advertising of the CSAC and Access Advisory Committee’s to encourage more citizen’s communication. Mr. Sargent will work with the Communications and web teams to ensure that there are more reminders about the times and locations of these meetings.
New Business

June 2017 Service Change Concepts
Mr. Sam Sargent, Community Involvement Coordinator, Capital Metro

Mr. Sargent updated the committee on the proposed June 2017 Service Changes. The changes will be relatively minor, with the usual suspension of AISD school related trips and the E-bus service. UT Shuttle service will also be transitioned to summer schedules.

On the main campus of UT, two stop pairs are slated for closure along 21st Street, where the university is building a pedestrian mall. This will affect mainline Routes 18 and 412 (E-Bus) and UT Shuttle Routes 640, 642, and 663. All have been on detour during construction and the proposed service change will make these detours permanent.

One stop pair is slated for closure on Red River between the UT School of Nursing and the Frank Erwin Center as part of a rerouting off the single lane street. Those stops are presently served by mainline Routes 10, 20, 37, and 100 (Airport Flyer) and UT Shuttle Routes 670, 671, and 672. All will be rerouted to a Trinity and San Jacinto alignment.

Mr. Sargent explained that Community Involvement staff will be taking input on the proposed changes throughout the month of February, with two webinars having already occurred on Monday, March 6th and a public meeting on the UT campus midday on Friday, March 10th. The Capital Metro Board of Directors is slated to vote on the proposed changes at the March 27th regular meeting.

2017 Legislative Update
Mr. Sam Sargent, Community Involvement Coordinator, Capital Metro

Mr. Sargent provided an overview of transit and agency-oriented legislation that’s been filed in the 2017 Texas legislative session. These included construction congestion mitigation (“bus on shoulders”), removing the need for a referendum when there are changes to the agency’s rail plan, and other housekeeping legislation.

Chairman Foster asked for an update on what projects the City of Austin has used the “quarter cent” funds on. Mr. Sargent will follow up for the April 12th meeting of the committee.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Updates
Mr. Sam Sargent, Community Involvement Coordinator, Capital Metro

Mr. Sargent provided an update on the Transit Development Plans (TDP) that Capital Metro, CARTS, CAMPO, and regional city staff are working on. He explained the transit challenge in the region beyond congestion, that non-member cities of Capital Metro are already at the state’s maximum sales tax rate and cannot join the Authority as full members without rolling back Economic Development Corporations and other sales tax uses.
In June 2008, Capital Metro established a Service Expansion Policy that allowed cities outside the service area to contract for service with full cost recovery. The funding incentive for these projects comes from FTA Section 5307 funds. The policy was revised in 2014 to expand the program and provide new options for service expansion.

Mr. Sargent explained that the policy revision was regionally coordinated between Capital Metro, CARTS, TxDOT, the City of Austin, regional city governments, and CAMPO. Regional goals were established, including providing seamless service to avoid fragmentation in the urbanized area. Additionally, the program seeks to provide access to FTA funds based on a city’s proportionate share.

Mr. Sargent continued, outlining the program’s guidelines, including the yearly application process and the need for a TDP before Section 5307 funds are used for service. The regional Section 5307 Review Team is responsible for reviewing plans and providing recommendations to Capital Metro. The Capital Metro Board of Directors is responsible for the distribution of funds.

To date, public outreach for the TDPs in Georgetown, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Hutto, and Buda has included 18 intercept surveys and public meetings, 9 community event sponsorships, engagement of 41 regional stakeholders, a Spanish language focus group in Hutto, 746 online survey responses, and ongoing support to staff in the respective cities.

Mr. Sargent highlighted the status of each active TDP:

- Georgetown: TDP approved, with fixed-route service to begin in August of 2017.
- Hutto: TDP approved, funding approved for a park and ride lot in the FY2017 budget.
- Buda: TDP approved, with work continuing on securing a park and ride lot.
- Pflugerville: TDP completed, city council to consider adoption.
- Round Rock: 10 Year Transit Master Plan completed, currently coordinating with Capital Metro on implementation of transit service.

Mr. MacKinnon suggested that, moving forward, TDP cities should pay similar to UT, so that there is an annual negotiation on how much a city pays in and how much service they receive. Full members of Capital Metro should receive the equivalent of “Most Favored Nation” status in trade, where members receive the best rates of service and TDP cities have a different rate. This could incentivize full membership in non-member cities. Mr. MacKinnon also asked that CARTS work with Google to provide data that would make integrated trip planning easier.

Action Items

Approval of the January 2017 Minutes

The committee opted to table approval of the January 2017 meeting minutes until the April 12th meeting.
Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 7:45 p.m.