

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: June 18, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 4:32 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Ron Gibson, Chair
Vernon Brown
Sherron Franklin
Scott Keller
Robert Lutz

ABSENT MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley
Isaac Randolph

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 271,2007- appoints Richard K. Bacon to the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board
“Postponed” Vote: 4-0

PROPOSAL NO. 272, 2007- reappoints Danny Crenshaw to the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Board
“Do Pass” Vote: 5-0

UPDATE: IndyGo—Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation:
Gilbert Holmes, President

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

The Municipal Corporations Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, June 18, 2007. Chairman Ron Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Scott Keller, and Robert Lutz. Sherron Franklin arrived shortly thereafter. Lonnell Conley and Isaac Randolph were absent.

PROPOSAL NO. 271, 2007- appoints Richard K. Bacon to the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board.

Chairman Gibson recognized Councillor Lutz as the newest member of the Municipal Corporations Committee.

Mr. Bacon was unable to attend the committee hearing today. Therefore, Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Lutz, to “Postpone” Proposal No. 271, 2007 until the August 9, 2007 meeting of the Municipal Corporations Committee. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0

[Clerk’s Note: Councillor Franklin arrived at 4:37p.m.]

PROPOSAL NO. 272, 2007- reappoints Danny Crenshaw to the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Board (IndyGo)

Councillor Gibson introduced Mr. Crenshaw and asked him to explain his term with IndyGo.

Mr. Crenshaw described the changes that he witnessed during his tenure with IndyGo. All IndyGo buses have up to seven cameras installed in order to capture any incidents that may take place. IndyGo negotiated with the Union for the first time without going to arbitration. IndyGo was able to resolve pension problems.

Councilman Gibson asked Gilbert Holmes, Indianapolis Transportation Corporation President, to comment on Mr. Crenshaw’s reappointment and his service on the board. Mr. Holmes fully supported the reappointment of Mr. Crenshaw.

Councilman Gibson inquired about the future challenges that face IndyGo. Mr. Crenshaw replied that funding is the challenge facing public transportation.

Councilman Lutz moved, seconded by Councillor Brown, to send Proposal No. 272, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

UPDATE: IndyGo—Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation:
Gilbert Holmes, President

Councillor Gibson introduced President Gilbert Holmes, and Vice President Mike Terry of IndyGo. Mr. Holmes recognized IndyGo employees: Chief Operating Officer Trevor Ocock, Human resources Director Bruce Curry, Director of Information Technology Dale Meyers, and General Counsel Janice Kreuzer.

Mr. Holmes, President for the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the committee members (Exhibit A).

Mr. Holmes said that IndyGo has been able to lower operating costs and became more accessible by relocating the IndyGo Customer Service Center to the Indianapolis City Market. IndyGo also came into compliance with a Federal Government mandate of “zero denials” by creating para transport vehicles. Creation of the Red Line, from downtown to the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), has created over 12,000 riders per month, and may allow for IndyGo to become the campus transport, partially funded by IUPUI.

Mr. Holmes said IndyGo has become more visible by increased advertising. The revenue from advertisements on the buses has funded this aggressive ad campaign. Also the preventative maintenance operations have reduced operating costs as well as creating transports that are more reliable, cleaner, and more acceptable to the public who ride.

Mr. Holmes said IndyGo has installed over 900 cameras with audio throughout the fleet to monitor activities on vehicles. False claims have decreased as a result of the camera system. There are seven cameras per bus and five per para-transit unit.

Councillor Brown asked about the number of buses within the IndyGo fleet. Mr. Holmes responded that IndyGo operates with a total of 150 fixed route buses, of which 120 run at peak hours in the morning and in the evening.

Councillor Brown inquired about creating links with the bus drivers and law enforcement. Mr. Holmes stated that he would like to see IndyGo drivers trained to report crimes that they see while on duty in order to assist law enforcement.

Mr. Holmes discussed bus appearance and fuel mileage for IndyGo buses. IndyGo has installed new bus-washers to keep vehicles clean. Also, IndyGo has passed their recent fire inspection without any defects.

Chair Gibson inquired about the bus shelters that are being installed throughout the city. Mr. Holmes reported that in 2006 IndyGo installed one-third more shelters on city streets, and are working to create more shelters.

Mr. Holmes announced that IndyGo ridership is up 4.3% in 2006 from 2005. Nationally, the number of public transportation riders grew 3%.

Chair Gibson asked about the spike in riders in August of 2006, as compared to the rest of the year. Mr. Holmes explained that the spike was due to higher gas prices. Mr. Holmes went on to discuss that IndyGo will not be hit as hard by gas prices, since the corporation was able to purchase ultra low-sulfur bio-diesel fuel at \$2.19/gallon for all of 2007.

Councillor Keller asked on diesel fuel price hedging and increasing cooperation with Fleet Services. Mr. Holmes stated that he is willing to work with Fleet Services so they too could negotiate lower fuel prices, but neither IndyGo nor Fleet Services have combined their efforts. Councillor Keller commended IndyGo for taking advantage of low prices to keep costs low.

Mr. Holmes discussed the fixed routes that run throughout Marion County, addressing that significant gaps in service do exist. Flexible Services offer smaller vehicles that do not follow fixed routes and go into neighborhoods to provide service. Under Flexible Services, IndyGo also operates Late Night Job Access, Northside Dial-A-Ride, and Airport Area Dial-A-Ride services.

Mr. Holmes addressed the positive impact the new and easy-to-read bus stop signs have had on the number of riders on IndyGo. The website, www.indygo.net, offers a way to calculate savings for both individuals and businesses by using public transportation.

Mr. Holmes announced that Indy Youth Passes will be available to students under 18 for the duration of the summer for a fee of \$27.50. These passes allow for unlimited rides on IndyGo to all areas serviced in Marion County. IndyGo also offers "How to Ride Guides" that give detailed information on routes, stop times, and accessibility. "Dump the Pump" day is time for people to ride public transportation and give up their automobiles, due to high gas prices.

Mr. Holmes discussed the recommendations that were made by the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA). These recommendations included near-term objectives to improve the overall experience of riding IndyGo. (A full list is found on slides 25-29 of Exhibit A)

Mr. Holmes addressed plans for IndyGo to create "Reverse Commute" service to Carmel and Fishers. This would allow for shuttle service out of the city in the morning and into the city in the evening. Mr. Holmes also addressed plans to create shuttle service connecting Indianapolis International Airport to downtown.

Councillor Franklin inquired as to why municipal governments outside of Marion County are cooperating with IndyGo, while the Town of Lawrence is not. Mr. Holmes responded that Lawrence has opted out of service with IndyGo and does not pay for fixed route services. Mr. Holmes stated that the communities of Carmel and Fishers will be responsible for 20% of the fees incurred by IndyGo for this service. The Federal Government is paying for the other 80% during this trial period through a grant.

Councillor Lutz inquired about the map (slide 26, Exhibit A) and the projected service of IndyGo to the far west-side of Marion County. Mr. Holmes discussed that IndyGo has plans to expand IndyGo to all parts of Marion County within the next 15 years.

Mr. Holmes discussed routing issues that will be improved by creating cross-town routes to cut down ride and travel time. Mr. Holmes discussed the advantages to family budgets of using public transportation, noting the rising price of gasoline.

Mr. Holmes reiterated the point that IndyGo has plenty of room for improvement. Mr. Holmes brought to the attention of the Council that Indianapolis is the twelfth largest city in the United States, but ranks 99 based on bus fleets.

Councillor Keller asked Trevor Ocock, formerly of the Columbus, Ohio Transit Authority, (COTA) about that city's bus system. Mr. Ocock said that Columbus passed a sales tax referendum that will start to collect revenue in 2008 to fund their transit system. Mr. Ocock stated that the demand for service outweighs the supply of vehicles to transport passengers in Indianapolis.

Councillor Lutz asked about the capacity of buses throughout the day. Mr. Holmes stated that he will send the information to Councillor Lutz, but the information will be misleading, since the hours of operation along routes varies throughout the day. He also stated that more city buses on the street will increase frequency of buses at pick-up stops. The average wait time between buses is thirty minutes, as compared to ten minutes in similar sized cities. Frequency of buses will increase ridership.

Councillor Franklin recognized IndyGo employee Ms. Mason, for her outstanding work outside of the office.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Municipal Corporations Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Gibson, Chair
Municipal Corporations Committee

RG/brs