

Muskegon County Transportation Committee

*Bill Gill, Chairman
Don Aley
Charles Buzzell
Lew Collins
James Derezinski
Marvin Engle*

*Kenneth Mahoney, Vice-Chairman
Louis McMurray
Robert Scolnik
I. John Snider
Roger Wade*

Board of Commissioners Room
990 Terrace

December 11, 2008

The Transportation Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bill Gill, at 4:02 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Aley, Buzzell, Collins, Derezinski, Engle, Gill, Mahoney, McMurray, Scolnik, Snider, and Wade

Excused: None

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Engle, seconded by Derezinski, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008, Transportation meeting.

Motion Carried

Informational Items

Transit Operations Report - Moved by Engle, seconded by Wade, to accept and place on file.

Motion Carried

Transit Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force Report – Executive Summary - Moved by Aley, seconded by Snider, to accept and place on file.

Motion Carried

Transit Parking Ramp Update - Moved by Aley, seconded by Snider, to accept and place on file. This item was opened to audience participation. The following comments were made:

Commissioner Engle suggested we should be cautious until we hear more about the federal funding that will be available but we should be ready to go ahead with the bidding process when we hear something.

Commissioner Scolnik is a supporter of the ramp project but is concerned about the revenue estimates.

Commissioner Snider asked if anything had been discussed about leasing parking spaces. Paul Roy said they have forms for the developers to use but do not have any numbers of potential leased spaces.

Commissioner Aley supports this project. We have a problem with parking now and should be proactive and move forward.

Byron Mazade, Muskegon City Manager, was asked about the parking lot behind the arena. Does he think people would park there instead of paying for parking in the ramp? Mr. Mazade said that the lot is controlled by the Arena Management Group. Parking is not free during events at the arena. It is free during the day, but is not a good location for people to park for non-arena events.

Cindy Larsen, Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce, believes we should go after the federal funds, but recommends we wait a little longer to find out more about the transportation funding. It is too speculative to go ahead without some type of additional funds. Other chamber colleagues say we are doing the right thing by dealing with the parking problem now; it would be much more expensive later.

Jim Riley had concerns about the cost of the structure and the operating expenses. He feels the revenue estimate is high. If there is any shortfall

in the revenues, tax payers will have to make up the difference. Need to get an analysis of who is expected to park there and what the revenue loss would be if people don't park in the ramp. Revenue and expenses don't follow the same schedule during the first four years. There are no safety guarantees shown in the specifications. These issues should be addressed before investing more dollars.

Commissioner Gill is opposed to this project saying the County is wasting this money on a parking ramp when other things are needed for the community. There are students and workers who need to get to school, training, or jobs but can't because our transit system stops at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Gill stated he will contact everyone he can; he does not believe we should be spending tax dollars for private parking at a cost of several million dollars.

Motion Carried

Airport Operations Report - Moved by Engle, seconded by Aley, to accept and place on file.

Motion Carried

Action Items

T08/12-45 Approval of MDOT Project Authorization 2007-0264/Z4/R1

Transit recommends, moved by Engle, seconded by Wade, to approve MDOT Project Authorization 2007-0264/Z4/R1 with the Muskegon Area Transit System providing \$108,680 in additional state match funds for the Transit Center and Parking Structure project, and to authorize the Chairperson to execute the contract.

Motion Carried

T08/12-46 Approval of Bylaws of the Muskegon County Airport Advisory Committee

Transportation Chairman Gill requested this item be removed from the agenda for further review by the Commissioners.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Audience Participation

Ms. Karen Wynne from Disabilities Connections asked that the Commissioners consider investing in public transportation in addition to the other investments such as the parking ramp and the airport.

Adjourn at 4:47 pm.

Pam Homan

Pam Homan
Administrative Secretary
Muskegon County Airport