

**MINUTES OF THE  
ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON  
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission was held at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Building, Melfa, Virginia, on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chairman  
C. Reneta Major, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ron Wolff  
Granville F. Hogg, Jr.  
Laurence J. Trala

Absent:

Oliver H. Bennett, Chairman

Ex-Officio member present:

Jeremy Latimer

Nonmembers present:

Larry LeMond, Bay Coast Railroad  
J. T. Holland, Bay Coast Railroad  
Mark McGregor, Virginia Regional Transit  
Bruce Simms, Virginia Regional Transit

In Re: Call to Order

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order and indicated that a quorum was present.

In Re: Invocation

The invocation was given by Ms. Major.

In Re: Statements from the Public

There were no comments.

In Re: Account Balances

The monthly Assistant Secretary-Treasurer's report showed an ending balance at October 31st of \$18,821.83.

In Re: Minutes of October 7, 2014

Motion was made by Mr. Wolff, seconded by Ms. Major, that minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2014 be approved. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Bennett and voted "yes". Motion was unanimously passed.

In Re: Public Transportation Report

The following Management Report was distributed:



**STAR Transit Management Report  
November 4, 2014**

**Operations**

The STAR Transit Manager is completing an on/off study on each of the routes individually to determine route optimization.

**Transit Capital**

*The septic system replacement has been placed on hold while we collect additional data to determine possible leak in the system.*

**Human Resources**

No items for discussion

**Marketing and Outreach**

**Management Outreach** – The STAR Transit Survey regarding public interest in service connecting to VA Beach and Hampton roads has been distributed via the following: hard copies have been placed on the North and South bus routes, post cards have been mail to all residents on the route 13 corridor containing the survey website for those who want to fill out

the survey electronically, an ad has been placed in the Eastern Shore News and several of the local business partners such as Eastern Shore Community College are assisting in spreading the word.

**Transit Maintenance**

*Preventive Maintenance Program* - All Star Transit vehicles have been serviced for the month of October and all vehicle maintenance records are up to date.

**Ridership Statistics**

*Ridership Statistics* – The October 2014 STAR Transit passenger statistics show over 8,700 rides which is 13% higher than the same month a year ago and the highest monthly boarding since 2009.

**Finance**

In reviewing the local match, we have identified a shortage of \$31,133 due to the Chincoteague route. If this funding is not available, the service will be cut effective December 01, 2014.

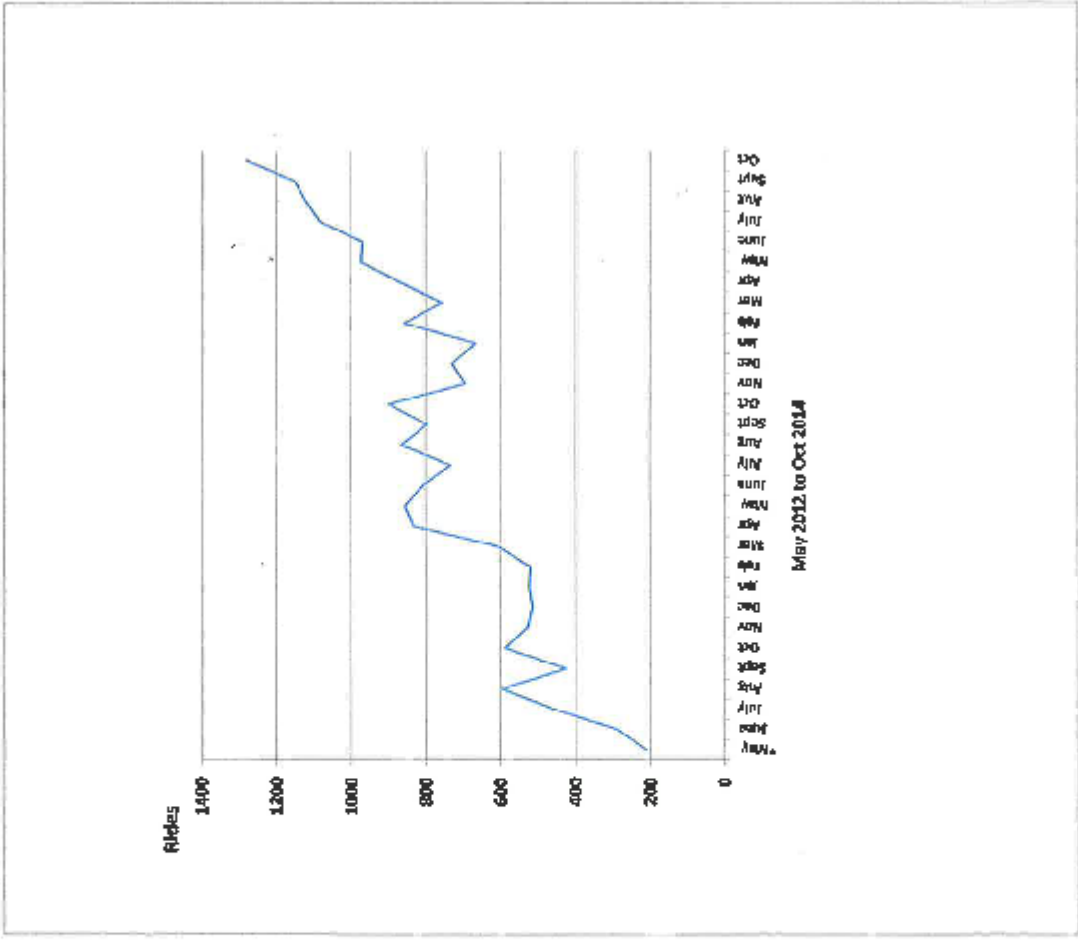
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As referenced at the last meeting, Mr. Mark McGregor discussed with the Board an On-Board Passenger Survey, designed to solicit input on the establishment of a route to serve southern Northampton County and connect with Hampton Roads. Mr. McGregor indicated that 85 surveys have been returned as well as 8 electronic responses since the survey was released approximately 1.5 days ago. Once the results have been tabulated, they will be shared with the Board who can then make a determination as to whether an application should be submitted for a new route. Hampton Roads Transit has been contacted and has agreed to connect with us. He reminded the Board that a local match of 30-35% is needed to fund a new route.

Mr. McGregor also noted that there is a need for new signatures on the Shore Bank (STAR Transit) account. Motion was made by Mr. Trala, seconded by Mr. Wolff, that Mr. Oliver Bennett, Chairman, and Mr. Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chairman, be added as additional signatories (along with Mr. McGregor) on the account. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Bennett and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

With regard to the Chincoteague route, Mr. McGregor indicated that the route was established in May 2012 and initially funded through a New Freedom (95%-5%) Grant. Those grant funds disappeared last year and additional local match was requested in the FY 2015 budget cycle to fund this route. Mr. McGregor has learned that the additional local match was not funded by Accomack County. He distributed the following graph showing the outstanding performance of the Chincoteague route:

# Chincoteague Route Start Of Service May 2012 Thru Oct. 2014



Year	Month	Rides	Total		
2012	May	212	9619		
	June	280			
	July	458			
	Aug	917			
	Sept	427			
	Oct	460			
	Nov	525			
	Dec	516			
	2013	Jan		525	8874
		Feb		521	
Mar		606			
Apr		833			
May		856			
June		809			
July		735			
Aug		885			
Sept		798			
Oct		899			
Nov		696			
Dec		731			
2014	Jan	667	9756		
	Feb	896			
	Mar	758			
	Apr	887			
	May	974			
	June	871			
	July	1085			
	Aug	1123			
	Sept	1153			
	Oct	1280			
<b>All Total</b>		<b>27,229</b>	<b>27,229</b>		

The members directed Mr. McGregor to write a letter to the Accomack County Administrator informing him of this oversight and requesting that the additional funding be provided.

In response to a question from Mr. Latimer, Mr. McGregor indicated that he was not certain how the proposed state budget cuts would be implemented.

In Re: State's Comments

Mr. Latimer reported that rail applications are due December 1<sup>st</sup>. Those grant funds have not been affected by the state budget reductions.

In Re: Airport Update

Mr. Hart had no report.

Mr. Wolff reported on the recent Antares rocket explosion. He said that while no formal statement has been issued yet, it appears that the launch pad was only damaged cosmetically. A 12-ft. crater was left between the seawall and the launch pad with most of the debris falling straight down. Six additional launches are planned by Orbital Sciences. NASA has indicated that it was pleased with the emergency response of its staff.

In Re: Railroad Comments

Mr. LeMond distributed the following report:

1. In October, we handled 183 carloads which brings our 7-month total to 1,084 cars. Our largest shippers were Coastline Chemical = 15 cars; PEP-UP = 12 cars; Gordon Paper = 19 cars; Mid-Atlantic Transload = 23 cars; and DCP Butane = 70 cars (under our new transportation agreement). Plus we had 8 hi-wide loads out of Bayshore.
2. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had the bid opening for the construction of the new track at Coastline Chemical in New Church. We received 3 bids and the lowest bid was from Rhinehart Construction, Fallston, MD with a bid of \$254,590.

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In Re: Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Wolff, seconded by Mr. Trala, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Bennett and voted "yes". The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned.