



**MINUTES  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
WORKSHOP MEETING**

**November 9, 2009**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman

Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Monday, November 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

**Press:**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeese.com/council](http://www.oconeese.com/council)]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler - Anderson Independent Mail, Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio and Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal

**Call to Order:**

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

**Workshop Discussion with Representatives of the City of Seneca regarding the CAT Bus System:**

Mr. Thrift welcomed representatives of the City of Seneca; Mr. Greg Dietterick, Seneca Administrator, Mayor Dan Alexander and Mr. Ed Halbig, Planning; along with CAT Bus personnel: Mr. Al Babinicz, Executive Director, CAT Bus and Mr. Keith Moody.

Mr. Dietterick noted that the recent expansion in the High Pointe Community has generated requests for CAT Bus service expansion in Oconee County.

Mr. Babinicz addressed Council reading from a PowerPoint presentation [filed with these minutes]. He noted over a 300% increase in rider ship in Seneca from 2006 to 2007 and a 54% increase in 2008. CAT Bus serves the county currently from 6:20 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. five days a week. Discussion followed regarding potential expansion of the system to the other two municipalities in Oconee County; Westminster and Walhalla. Routes were discussed utilizing 1 or 2 busses. Mr. Dietterick noted that in order to expand the system the County needs to identify the areas they wish to serve so that CAT personnel can then identify the best routes and provide cost estimates. Funding options to include grants and federal monies were discussed to assist with any expansion plans. Mr. Babinicz noted that federal funding is derived from the fuel tax [\$.18 in South Carolina] and will continue to be a stable revenue source.

Mr. Dietterick noted that additional input will be solicited from form the municipalities to identify their needs and wants related to routes, frequency, etc. In addition, he stated that all parties [county & municipalities] need to understand that a financial commitment on their part will be required for any expansion in Oconee County.

Mr. Thrift suggested that the next Transportation Committee meeting [date to be determined] should include CAT representatives and representatives from the two municipalities for further discussion of CAT Bus expansion in Oconee County.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 3 - 0 to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council