

**Transcript**

**Worcester, MA**

**November 5, 2007 @ 7:00PM**

**Gymnasium**

**Mt. Carmel Recreation Center**

**Public Hearing**  
**Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St. Ann Parish**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Richard Glavin, WRTA Presiding**  
**Stephen F. O’Neil, WRTA**  
**Jim Parker, RTA**

**Joe Petty**

- Spoken at a few of these hearings already
- This is a serious issue, we’ve already had cuts within the past 3 – 4 years
- Riders depend on service for jobs and healthcare
- Spoken with Steve O’Neil re: smaller buses
- City Manager O’Brien meeting with State delegation
- Spoken with Ed Augustus
- Recommend no decision until next year as this has all come up within a 3 – 4 week timeframe
- This is on every councilors agenda
- With cuts, ridership will go down
- Contact your state delegation

**John Bradford**

- Proposed cut to route 15 will not let people go to ball game
- Some riders come from Holden and Clinton to go to work or the theater
- Run van service instead of buses

**Dotty Bradford**

- Bus 16 elimination is close to home
- Could use 23 down at Lincoln Plaza but the hill is hard to climb
- Will use the 23 more often if the 16 is eliminated to go to Target and the grocery store.

**Paul Kelly**

- Commend Steve O’Neil and the RTA for holding hearings
- Raised the issue, brought it to the public eye
- Fantastically important
- Must talk about the Environmental impact
- Bus use could reduce cars
- Conversations about this issue with Grace Ross
- Environmental issue is not in the mindset of Worcester
- We must bring up issues that aren’t popular but are right
- NYC tolls go to bus and trains

- 90% of the US population driver cars to work and 90% of those are 1 car per person
- Target this issue to a group such as kids. Kids love buses.
- Open to schools a contest, how much better it would be to use buses instead of cars. Use for radio spots.
- Market on back of buses, Cars are Crazy, Buses are Beautiful

### **John Carnegie**

- Not ridden the bus in a number of years
- Concerned about the message being sent. The 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in NE trying to be competitive, cutting back bus service
- Would be happy to volunteer service
- We need to strategically reach out to the Universities
- Noticed online that 3 of the 20 members of the Joint Committee on Transportation had links that didn't work
- Those committee members should be part of the contact list
- Riders should contact the Worcester T&G and ask why they haven't followed the MBTA abuse story. Need more investigative journalism advocated by the MBTA riders.

### **Jamie Hauer**

- Why is the state funding at only 69.8% instead of 75%
- Mentioned to Rich Glavin to solicit private sponsorship

### **Caitlin Fritz**

- Clark Student – College Hill
- Roommate says that the streets are plowed better if your on a bus route
- Use the bus when parking is not available
- College Hill area is already isolated
- There will be new development in the area and we should consider future ridership
- Concerned of the economic impact. In March, had a 6:30 flight and wanted to kill time. Wanted to see the city but it was not accessible. Went to Boston instead and spent money there.
- External costs not taken into consideration
- Environmental issues not taken into consideration

### **Michael Moschos**

- Can take or not take the bus from Salisbury Green
- Walk Salisbury Street to Assumption College for the 8:20 with one other person
- Takes the 4:50 to the Worcester Jewish Community Center
- Manage weight, keep healthy

- The idea that 300k will lose transportation is shocking
- Has a complete environmental analysis been done considering parking, gasoline, additional traffic? Then the true value of the service can be seen.
- Route 21 serves Highland street which has a college population
- Serves St. Mary's, 2 people on the 8:20
- Low income health aids use services
- Should not be profit center should be service center
- Cities, towns, and commonwealth should subsidize service
- No Sunday service on the 21 is a disservice to minorities (not Salisbury Street)
- Understand that the WRTA is confronted with these problems but we should look at different alternatives
- We need to work with the State delegation and Congressman McGovern
- The bus system should cover most if not all of the city
- College students need to get to the library
- Black eye on the city, cutting more to the bone

### **Bernd Schnitker**

- Target supervisor, takes the bus to work everyday
- Cashiers coming to work late because of the bus service
- Has to take a taxi on Sunday's
- With these cuts will now have to take taxi on Saturday
- Concerned for the other stores in Lincoln Plaza

### **Jo Hart**

- Everyone is totally correct with their comments
- This is an election year, councilors pay attention
- Borrowing money is not the solution
- CMRPC deals with highway and bridges 95% of the time and public transit only 5% of the time
- Should be separated and run by someone who knows transit
- Disparity between Boston and us
- RTA should get a proportionate share of the 1% sales tax
- We need to change the Charter
- Change needed at the Federal level
- We have a complaint driven city, no leadership
- Up to us to lead
- The charter set up the weighted vote is unfair to riders
- Change the charter to allow riders to have a vote
- Mike O'Brien has 45.5% of the vote
- Others outside (advisory board members) don't understand
- Advisory Board meeting is open to the public
- The CMRPC meeting will be in the paper
- The main thing is we need a united front to change the funding.
- No Civil Rights

- The meeting at the library was not in the paper
- Spoke with Konnie Lukes, she's done nothing about transportation

**John Bradford**

- Need plan to turn in bus passes for tax credit

Adjourned at 7:50

Thomas J. Coyne

PUBLIC HEARING

Worcester, MA

November 5, 2007

At 7:00PM

Name	City/Town	Contact Information (Optional)
✓ Joe Kelly	Worcester	508-792-9661
✓ Robert J. Fournier	Worcester	508-755-5351
✓ John D. ...	Worcester	508-471-7470
✓ Paul Kelly	Worcester	508-792-9661
✓ Joe Sacco	Worcester	508-755-5351
✓ JOHN CARMIGIS	Worcester	508-471-7470
✓ James Haber	Worcester	
✓ Caitlin Fritz	Worcester	
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