

## **MINUTES**

### **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**August 15, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority held a meeting on August 15, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

#### **Board Members Present**

Roberta Abdul-Salaam

Robert L. Ashe, III

Jim Durrett

Roderick E. Edmond

William "Bill" Floyd

Roderick A. Frierson

Jerry Griffin

Freda B. Hardage

Alicia M. Ivey

John "Al" Pond

Rita A. Scott

Christopher S. Tomlinson\*

W. Thomas Worthy

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/CEO Jeffrey A. Parker; C-Suite Team Members – Chief Administrative Officer Luz Borrero, Chief System Safety, Security & Emergency Management/Police Wanda Dunham, Chief of Bus Operations Collie Greenwood, Chief Financial Officer Gordon L. Hutchinson, Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill, Chief of Capital Programs, Expansion & Innovation Franklin Rucker and Chief of Rail Operations David Springstead; AGMs Heather Alhadeff, Marsha Anderson Bomar, LaShanda Dawkins, Virgil Fludd, James Sibert (Interim), Kirk Talbott, Emil Tzanov and Thomas Young (Interim); Chief Information Security Officer Dean Mallis; Executive Director Paula Nash; Senior Directors Erica Pines, Jacob Vallo and Don Williams; Directors Donna DeJesus, David Emory, Jonathan Hunt and Adam Shumaker; Managers Jacquelyn Bentley, Stephany Fisher and Justin Kimon; Manager MARTA Board of Directors Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Manager Executive Office Administration Tyrene Huff; Sr. Executive Administrator Ashanti Boothe and Sr. Executive Administrator Keri Lee. Others in attendance Adrien Carter, Alphonso Eugene, Abebe Girmay, Leeshu Kennedy, Courtne Middlebrooks and LaTonya Pope.

\* Christopher S. Tomlinson is Executive Director of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and therefore, is a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors

Also in attendance were General Counsel Robert Highsmith and Koko K. Lewis of Holland & Knight; Pam Alexander of LTK Engineering; Amanda Chapman; James Davenport of Hit and Run Help Foundation; Joel Edwards of Restore DeKalb; Doug Edwards of Moreland Altobelli/ATLAS; John Evans of Operation Lead; Jordyn Jones of Arcadis; M. John Jones of GSA City of Atlanta; Maggie Lee of Saporta Report; Edward Leidelmeijer of Fulton County; Gina Mangham of Constituents of Southeast DeKalb; Fabricio Ponce of VHB; Willie Pringle of Restore DeKalb; Crawford Schneider of Dentons; Cara Vojdani of Arcadis; David Wickert of *The AJC* and Sherri B. Williams of Georgia Standup.

### **Public Comment**

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Ms. Gina Mangham. A resident and tax payer of DeKalb County. Spoke about the recently passed transit plan for south and east DeKalb. Many are aware there was a resolution passed by the health delegation for DeKalb County, the City of Lithonia and many other groups including the Board of Commissioners. This resolution indicated that all parties express their commitment to provide rail in south and east DeKalb. DeKalb residents are asking MARTA to join in the commitment. We are looking for planning dollars to make this a reality. VHB have done estimates of the plan, but estimates cannot be funded. There needs to be a conceptual plan detailing the cost to install rail in DeKalb County. There were several options considered such as LPA coming down I-285 and I-20. However, additional options such as Covington Highway should be considered. We are asking the Board to support to this commitment made by DeKalb County's elected officials. Allocate resources so that residents can get the information to make this a reality. As you may know, we've been looking at installing rail for several years and it's time to put plans into action. Again, we are making a formal request that we get the funds to provide a conceptual plan that can be taken to the ATL and perhaps a referendum.

Mr. John Evans. Thanked the Board for their presence. Voiced support for new rail down I-20 and a resolution in lieu of support. Besides race and politics, there should be some concern for DeKalb County. Money has been taken out of our pockets for the last twenty to thirty years with no results. There have been several studies on the east line, but no one is answering any questions. It would be great to get some answers, preferably in writing. If MARTA supports rail down I-20, pass a resolution to let us know that you support us. The Authority has conducted several studies, and we don't want that anymore. There are residents who are concerned about why we have not gotten what we've requested. If my experience tells me anything, it's that the MARTA Board can do better. We want rail down I-20 and we're concerned that we have not received our fair share for the money we've contributed.

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We want the Board to consider resolving this matter. We want to be added to the list for rail consideration, just as you've added others to the list. Put DeKalb County on the list so we could at least have some satisfaction about paying our penny for several years. We'd like to think that you would do good by us and we're asking you to do that.

Mr. Joel Edwards. A member of Restore DeKalb and a constituent of Rail to Southeast DeKalb. Thanked MARTA for installing bus shelters in needed areas throughout DeKalb County. Voiced concern regarding issues with bus routes along Snapfinger Woods Drive. There are safety issues where buses are parked back-to-back, causing traffic stalls and poor visibility between Snapfinger Woods Drive and Home Depot. There are also a lot of shelters being installed without electricity. We request that you install electricity for the patrons that ride MARTA during the night. When it comes to rail, as Mr. Evans said, DeKalb have been paying funds for forty-seven (47) years. It's imperative that we receive rail in southeast DeKalb. Whatever the Board decides, it is important to know that a primary job is to fund rail throughout the Metropolitan Atlanta area and south and east DeKalb. Other than the Clifton Corridor, DeKalb County was not mentioned on the project list and that needs to change. We won't accept anything less.

Mr. James Davenport. First of all, giving honor to God who I often call my conductor. I don't have a PHD, but I do have a G-O-D. The God in me at this time is telling me something. Josa Williams said before we voted on MARTA, the fifteen-cent bus ride was a trick and we witness the trick today. You all should not be proud to charge patrons three dollars to ride MARTA's system. I want to know how many of you have visited the restrooms at each rail station. I happen to have visited all of them and I don't like what I see. When you walk into those restrooms, there's a stench that's been there for thirty years. The simple matter is just clean out the traps. MARTA bus drivers and employees were one of the most well compensated individuals throughout the Metro area. However, the moral has decreased because people are not treated well and this is why people refuse to work for MARTA. The City of Atlanta and the hotel industry have been complaining about the homeless panhandling. If staff was to go under some of the city's bridges, advertise to the homeless, MARTA could find someone to clean the restrooms and oversee the stations. Station Agents are closing the restrooms at 8:00pm and it's against the code of ethics to do so. What about the senior patrons who ride MARTA at 10:00pm and need to use the restroom. Would you want your parents have access to station restrooms or simply use the restroom on themselves while riding home on public transportation. I don't think so. There was a lot of money spent on bus shelters and I can't seem to understand why. Bus shelters are an inconvenience and did nothing but pad someone else's pocket. Bus Route 114 are missing routes and the buses on Route 813 are not in good shape. It seems that the buses assigned in the north area are always in good shape and are fairly new but what about the south.

Mr. Ron Shakir. God blesses America even when she does wrong. America is a strong county with strong people and strong wheels. It's time that the people and the Board come together and help each other. Neighbors and communities need help to be able to do the right thing. We have been hearing the cries of citizens regarding station restrooms for over ten years. A friend told me that all the restrooms on the east side were shut down with instructions and directions to use the westside restrooms. Not to mention that the Atlanta City Council attend Board meetings to thank the Board for a wonderful job on a decision made to jump the Beltline ahead of Stonecrest. Other areas were considered and Stonecrest was left off the list. Recently, I attended a meeting regarding Beltline where I asked an attendee what did she appreciate about the Beltline. She said, the nice people. It's not nice that MARTA ignored the people who have used and built the MARTA system.

Ms. Sherry B. Williams. A resident of DeKalb County and a representative of Restore DeKalb. The new fleet of buses that the Authority has rolled out are much quieter than the old fleet. We can't wait until the entire fleet are replaced. What are the future plans for electric buses and where does the Authority stand in those plans. There are safety issues with sidewalks and crosswalks within DeKalb County. Restore DeKalb is working with the City of Atlanta to ensure that infrastructure can be installed in bus shelters throughout the system. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the GDOT meeting. However, I've been working more closely with them, so they remember to work with local municipality. It's challenging standing at the bus stop without a shelter, but we know there's a plan in process. Also, there are some safety issues with vehicles being able to pass MARTA buses along the Martin Luther King Jr. Corridor. We've been working with Renew Atlanta to discuss potential fixes that would allow emergency vehicles to pass MARTA buses.

**Minutes of the July 11, 2019 Meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors**

On motion by Dr. Edmond seconded by Mr. Pond, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0, with 13\* members present.

Mr. Ashe abstained.

**Audit Committee Report**

Mr. Pond reported the Audit Committee met on July 26, 2019 and received the following briefings:

- a) Internal Audit Activity Briefing
- b) Department of Internal Audit's Preliminary FY 20 Goals
- c) Cybersecurity Update

**Planning & External Relations Committee Report**

Mr. Ashe reported the Planning & External Relations Committee met on July 31, 2019 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing an Increase in the Authorization for Planning Support and Technical Services, RFP P39820

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13\* members present. **A copy of the resolution, AS APPROVED, IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

The Committee received the following briefings:

- a. Overarching Branding for Capital Projects Improvements
- b. FY19 Fourth Quarterly Media Impressions

**Operations & Safety Committee Report**

Mr. Griffin reported the Operations & Safety Committee met on July 31, 2019 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Supplemental Contract Utilizing the State of Georgia Contract for the Procurement of Ultra-Low Sulphur Clear Diesel Fuel and Unleaded Gasoline With 10% Ethanol, RFPP P43949

On motion by Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolution was approved by a vote of 11 to 1 with 13\* members present. **A copy of the resolutions, AS APPROVED, ARE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

Dr. Edmond voted no.

The Committee received the following briefing:

- c. MARTA Police Department Overview

**Business Management Committee Report**

Mr. Durrett reported that the Business Management Committee met on July 31, 2019 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing a Request for Qualifications to Commission New Public Artworks
- b. Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Amendment to King Memorial TOD Ground Leases
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of the Replacement of the Computer Assisted Dispatch and Automated Vehicle Locator (CAD/AVL) System, RFP P44859
- d. Resolution Authorizing Restatement of the MARTA Non-Represented Defined Contribution Plan and MARTA Deferred Compensation Plan
- e. Resolution Authorizing a Plan Restatement to the MARTA Non-Represented Pension Plan, Effective January 1, 2019

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mr. Pond, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13\* members present. **A copy of the resolutions, AS APPROVED, ARE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

The Committee received the following briefing:

- d. FY2019 May Financial and Key Performance Indicators

**Other Matters**

Ms. O'Neill requested Board approval in the matter of Anderson Hightower vs. MARTA, Fulton County Superior Court action 2018 CV301206, a settlement in the amount of \$600K.

Ms. O'Neill requested Board approval in the matter of Robin Todd Haney vs. MARTA, Fulton County Superior Court action 2018 CV306014, a settlement in the amount of \$425K.

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Dr. Edmond, the settlements were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0, with 13\* members present.

Mr. Highsmith provided an update on DeKalb County activist, Ed Williams. Mr. Williams filed suit seeking to invalidate extensions of the Rapid Transit Contract Assistance Agreement. The lawsuit failed and was dismissed in its entirety.

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**Adjournment**

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The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:57 p.m.