

## **MINUTES**

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

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

**November 14, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority held a meeting on November 14, 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  
William "Bill" Floyd  
Roderick A. Frierson  
Jerry Griffin  
Freda B. Hardage  
Alicia M. Ivey  
Russell McMurry, P.E.\*  
John 'Al' Pond  
Rita A. Scott  
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 Michael Burrows (Acting), Chief of Bus Operations Collie Greenwood, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hurley (Interim), Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax, Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill 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 Pia Forbes, Lyle Harris (Contractor), Jennifer Jinadu-Wright, Colleen Kiernan, Erica Pines and Jacob Vallo; Directors Rhonda Allen, Robin Boyd, Donna DeJesus, Debbie Frank, Jacqueline Holland (Acting), Jonathan Hunt and Douglas Miller; Manager Stephany Fisher; Manager MARTA Board of Directors Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Manager Executive Office Administration Tyrene Huff and Sr. Executive Administrator Keri Lee. Others in attendance Ed Bishop, Adrien Carter, Ralph Clinton, Abebe Girmay, Tamara Hunte, LaToya Hunter, Canedra Kleckley, Leeshu Kennedy, Courtne Middlebrooks, Janki Patel, LaTonya Pope, Marcellus Rowe, Negesha Stone-Boyd and Nicholas Waters.

\* Russell R. McMurry, P.E. is Commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and is therefore, a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors

Others in attendance were Robert Highsmith of Holland & Knight; Pam Alexander of LTK Engineering; Lucy Andre of Stadler; Binh Dam; Jonas Bonderer of Stadler; Ansgar Brockmeyer of Stadler; Eric Burton of HNTB; Amanda Chatman; John Crocker of FTA; Dan Foley of Wabtec; Scott Haggard of ATL; Michael Hightower of The Collaborative Firm; Paul Jones; Rudolph Kvetan of Stadler; Saba Long; Lukas Mani of Stadler; BJ Martin of Pond & Company; Keith Parker of Clayton County Citizens Advisory Group; Shayna Pollock of Central Atlanta Progress; Tracey Pruiett of CRRC MA/Smith Carrie & Hancock; Martin Ritter of Stadler; Jim Schmidt of HNTB; Carla Smith of City Hall; Chris Speed of U.S. House of Representatives, Antrell Tyson of U.S. House of Representatives and David Wicket of *The AJC*.

### **Public Comment**

---

Ms. Shayna Pollock. Thanked MARTA staff for incorporating feedback from the Summerhill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) alignment into the proposed Locally Alternative Preferred (LPA) which would be voted on today. There are significantly deliverability concerns for the route north of Decatur Street. We're pleased to see that the new alignment has been considered. When developing the BRT Route, we ask that staff consider plans for Corridors linking Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Drive and Mitchell Street. Atlanta City Council has adopted street concept plans for MLK and Mitchell Street that include two-way restorations. This project is critical to re-connecting the downtown grid. The plan is partially funded which remains a priority for CAP and ADID. Additional information regarding project street sections are needed before proceeding further. As the project advances, we also request an inclusive planning process with a design that is well vetted with key stakeholders, a technical committee and public involvement. We also rely on the Authority to complete the development of the ART/BRT standards and the to take a more holistic look at the downtown bus network. There are no dedicated bus facilities for loading and unloading in the downtown area. In addition, we request that no additional bus services lay over in downtown area, until a plan and facility is developed.

Ms. Tracy Pruiett. A representative of CRRC MA, an American Company employing Americans to assemble and deliver rail cars to American customers. We respect and appreciate all the hard work to represent MARTA patrons and taxpayers of respective communities. I'm here today to address the MARTA Board with two questions regarding the intended award of the new railcar procurement to Stadler. Can it be explained to patrons and taxpayers why MARTA should spend an additional \$64M to purchase railcars. Also, would another round of best and final offers provide the best proposal to patrons and taxpayers. It took MARTA six months to decide CRRC MA protest in this matter. It would be beneficial to take a few extra weeks to take advantage of what everyone has learned over the past six months and conduct another round of discussions.

The evaluation was scored so that every evaluation point was worth \$42M based upon CRRC MA was scored 1.53 points better for price than its nearest competitor. Are the discriminators relied upon in the solution decision worth \$42M per point. It would be beneficial to conduct another round of discussions to select the best and final offer.

Mr. Paul Jones. Distributed a map of the original Atlanta Transit Rail System to the MARTA Board. Based on the comments from Ms. Pruiett and having read the RFP for railcars, a connection to the map can be made. The original Atlanta Transit Rail map was voted on by four counties and approved by two counties. Therefore, the ATL should 95% mirror the original map. Although, no one has taken initiative to improve the rail lines on the map, it is included in the RTCA. On the note of rail cars, Exhibit A of Atlanta had the purchase of thirty railcars. Being that Senate Bill 369 from 2016 could purchase an additional seventy railcars, the Authority should indefinitely delay any railcar purchase. If the Authority proceeds with this matter, the Authority could face financial straits.

Mr. Marcellus Rowe. A current MARTA employee expressed concerns regarding working in a hostile environment. I truly love working for the Authority, however, it is difficult to be treated unjustly in a work setting.

Mr. Binh Dam. Spoke of reducing the fare for the Atlanta Streetcar. It would be virtuous for the Atlanta Streetcar fare to be integrated with the Authority's bus and rail services. This would allow employees and patrons to utilize passes and transfers between the Streetcar, rail and buses.

Councilmember Carla Smith. Spoke in favor of the Summerhill BRT Resolution. Three years ago, it was heart breaking to hear that the Atlanta Braves were leaving Turner Field. Today, the stadium neighborhoods continue to thrive. Small business owners are opening up shop and the sense of community is now becoming clear. Many of you know that I am a regular MARTA customer. In fact, I ride the bus every day. My neighbors and I were excited to hear about the TIGER Grant and the BRT that will be placed along Hank Aaron. We want and need high frequency transit that is fast, safe and convenient. Patrons can take the BRT line to work, school, run errands, spend time with family and friends. We also want a transit system that could take patrons to special events at the Georgia State Stadium. To alleviate buses being delayed in traffic, we request BRT and dedicated Right of Way. When staff surveyed Los Angeles Metro's BRT Line, it was fantastic. Their buses almost exclusively were in transit only lanes. Their service was easy to use and convenient to get on and off the raised platforms. Summerhill in our neighborhoods deserve a high-quality BRT and we want this to be something patrons are lined up to ride. This can and should be the most successful transit in the country.

**Minutes of the October 10, 2019 Meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors**

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Mr. Pond, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0, with 11 members present.

**Planning & External Relations Committee Report**

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

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Service Modifications for December 2019 on Routes 19, 123 and 823
- b. Resolution Directing MARTA's Legal Department to Work with Local Jurisdictions to Conform the Rapid Transit Contract and Assistance Agreement

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0 with 11 members present. **A copy of the resolution, AS APPROVED, IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

Mr. Griffin abstained.

The Committee received the following briefings:

- a) ATL Regional Transit Plan Update
- b) Results of Public Hearings on Service Modifications for December
- c) Summerhill Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative
- d) Quarterly Media Impressions
- e) Digital Media Strategy

**Operations & Safety Committee Report**

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

- a. Resolution Authorizing Additional Funds for Mobility Operations and Maintenance Services

On motion by Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolution was approved by a vote of 10 to 1 with 11 members present. **A copy of the resolutions, AS APPROVED, ARE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

Ms. Abdul-Salaam voted no.

**Business Management Committee Report**

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

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for Transit Oriented Development Projects at Seven (7) MARTA Stations in Opportunity Zones
- b. Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of MARTA Parcel C32141, Permanent and Temporary Easement Rights for a Streetscape Project at 5200 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, DeKalb County, Georgia
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of MARTA Parcel C3217J, Permanent and Temporary Easement Rights for a Streetscape Project at 6010 New Peachtree Road, Doraville, DeKalb County, Georgia
- d. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of Bond Counsel Services, RFP P43586-A

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mr. Pond, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0, with 11 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:

- a) FY 19 Year-End Financials and Key Performance Indicators

**Resolution of the MARTA Board of Directors Adopting a Locally Preferred Alternative for Summerhill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Initiative**

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Ms. Abdul-Salaam, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0 with 11 members present.

**Resolution Authorizing Award of a Contract for the Procurement of New Rail Cars,  
RFP P38186**

---

On motion by Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Ashe, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0, with 11 members present.

**2020 Nominating Committee**

---

Mr. Durrett motioned the following members serve on the 2020 Nominating Committee:

Ryan C. Glover, Chair  
Roderick A. Frierson  
W. Thomas Worthy

Mr. Ashe seconded. The Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 11 to 0, with 11 members present.

\* \* \*

**Comments from the Board**

---

- Ms. Abdul-Salaam thanked staff and volunteers for a job well done. The Townhall meeting was a great success. Special thanks also went to Mr. Parker and Ms. Ivey for their role in making the meeting a success.
- Ms. Scott recognized and thanked MARTA employees for the Breast Cancer Awareness luncheon. She reminded everyone breast cancer is not a female-only disease. She encouraged men to be a support for their wives and other female family and friends, but to also self-check, as men can have breast cancer as well.

\* \* \*

**Adjournment**

---

The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 2:00 p.m.