

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**May 11, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority held a meeting on May 11, 2016 at 1:35 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  
Juanita Jones Abernathy  
Robert L. Ashe III  
Robert F. Dallas  
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr.  
Noni Ellison-Southall  
Jerry Griffin  
Barbara Babbit Kaufman  
Christopher Tomlinson

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/CEO Keith T. Parker, AICP; C-Suite Team Members – Chief Operating Officer Richard A. Krisak, Chief of Staff Rukiya Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer LaShanda Dawkins (Interim), Chief Financial Officer Gordon Hutchinson, Chief Legal Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill; AGMs Wanda Dunham, Robin Henry, Benjamin Limmer, Ryland McClendon, David Springstead (Interim) and Terry Thompson; Executive Director Ferdinand Risco; Sr. Directors Rhonda Briggins, Joseph Erves and Amanda Rhein; Directors Lyle Harris and Jonathan Hunt; Manager Ed Bishop, Alisa Jackson and Christopher Pitts; Manager Executive Office Administration Tyrene Huff; Sr. Executive Administrator to MARTA Board Kellee McDaniel; Finance Administrative Analyst Tracy Kincaid. Others in attendance Davis Allen, Abebe Girmay, Nicholas Gowens and Akio Turner.

Also in attendance were Robert S. Highsmith, Jr., Holland & Knight LLP; Robert Alexander, Yolanda Clater, Frank Clemons, Willie Fortson, Tracy Nolles, Preyonda Price of ATU; Joe Bemby; Ray Carini; Chestina Crawford of ATU; John Evans of NAACP; Marisa Ghani of AKC; Brian Gist of Environmental Law Center; Sam Gude; Henry Ikwut-Ukwe of ABI; Jill Johnson of Atlanta Beltline; Maggie Lee of Creative Loafing; Paul McLennan; Forrest Rose of City of Atlanta; Winston Simmonds of LTK Engineering; Bernie Tokarz of GRTA; Alex Trachtenberg of Southface; Tom Weyandt of City of Atlanta; Betty Willis of Emory University Government & Community Affairs.

**Recognition**

---

Chairman Ashe welcomed community partners: Board member Bernie Tokarz of GRTA; Jill Johnson of Beltline; Tom Weyandt of City of Atlanta; Betty Willis of Emory University

**Public Comment**

---

Mr. John Evans addressed the Board regarding I-20, heavy rail to Stonecrest. He stated that DeKalb was not getting support from DeKalb Commissioners or MARTA Board members. Going forward, the community will hold the four Board members representing DeKalb County accountable. The community will back Brad Hubbard to fill the vacant DeKalb position on the MARTA Board.

Mr. Stanley Smalls stated that he fully supports Mr. Evans' statement. Additionally, he noted that he was attending the meeting today to speak on behalf of ATU Local 732. One of the vendors that were selected as a DBE raises a conflict of interest in violation of the MARTA Act. Mr. Dortch's wife is Chief of Staff for the Commissioner. The mobility transition has been a nightmare. Healthcare is skyrocketing. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, some workers will have to go without healthcare because the cost is too high. He asked MARTA Board members to get involved.

Mr. Joe Bembry noted that he is a DeKalb resident of 45 years. He stated that he is running for DeKalb CEO and trying to get his arms around the problem. He is supportive of heavy rail going to Stonecrest as it will be a major contribution to DeKalb County. He is opposed to outsourcing mobility.

Mr. Alex Trachtenberg, an employee of Southface. Thanked MARTA for bringing equitable transit options to the City of Atlanta with the proposed sales tax referendum in November. Trans Formation Alliance (TFA) is a broad partnership of organizations from the private, public and nonprofit sectors, dedicated to creating thriving mixed income communities anchored by transit. TFA's mission is to offer residents the opportunities for high quality of life, linked by the regions invaluable transit system.

Ms. Marisa Ghani, staff person for the Trans Formation Alliance. The referendum is a huge opportunity for the region. TFA wants to ensure that there is community involvement in the process. Through MARTA, we already have great bones. Now it's about expanding the system.

**Minutes of the April 12, 2016 Meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors**

On motion by Mr. Dallas seconded by Mrs. Ellison-Southall, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with 9 members present.

**Planning & External Relations Committee Report**

Mrs. Ellison-Southall reported that the Planning & External Relations Committee met on April 12, 2016 and received the following briefings:

- a) FY 2016 Mid-Year Ridership Review
- b) I-20 East Update
- c) FTA Fast Act Update
- d) Legislative Update

**Operations & Safety Committee Report**

Mrs. Kaufman reported that the Operations & Safety Committee met on April 27, 2016 and approved the following resolution:

- a. Resolution to Accept the Contract for Project P22526, Design/Build Doraville Structural Rehabilitation

On motion by Mrs. Kaufman seconded by Mrs. Ellison-Southall, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with 9 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) MARTA Police Department Security Overview
- b) Bus Collisions for the Period – July 2015 to December 2015

**Business Management Committee Report**

Mr. Daniels reported that the Business Management Committee met on April 27, 2016 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing a One (1) Year Extension and Additional Funds to Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP for Annual Financial and Single Audit for Fiscal Years 2012 Through 2016, Request for Proposals P26298
- b. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for Annual Financial and Single Audit Reports for Fiscal Years 2018 Through 2022

On motion by Mr. Daniels seconded by Mrs. Kaufman, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with 9 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 briefings:

- a) Ridership Initiatives
- b) Proposed FY 2017 Operating & Capital Budgets
- c) FY 2016 February Budget Variance Analysis and Performance Indicators

### **Other Matters**

---

Mr. Limmer provided a briefing on the City of Atlanta Sales Tax Referendum Draft Project List

#### *SB 369 Overview*

- Sales tax for up to 0.50% is allowed in the City of Atlanta for MARTA
- Purpose is to significantly expand MARTA transit service
- Concurrent with existing MARTA tax through 2057
- Must serve in whole or in part, the City of Atlanta
- Receipts projected at \$2.5B over life of the tax
- Referendum in November 2016 or 2017

#### *Potential Sales Tax Overview*

- Proposed service options for a 0.50% sales tax in City of Atlanta
- Current MARTA initiatives are potential options to be included in the project list
- City of Atlanta will engage community stakeholders to fully develop the project list
- Final list will be determined in coordination with the City of Atlanta

#### *Potential High Capacity Improvements*

- I-20 East Bus Rapid Transit
- I-20 West Heavy Rail Transit

**Board Meeting**  
**5/11/16**  
**Page 5**

- Northside Drive Bus Rapid Transit
- Atlanta Light Rail Transit
- Clifton Corridor Light Rail Transit
- Capacity Improvements
- Station Enhancements

*Potential Bus Service Improvements*

- Five (5) Arterial Rapid Transit Routes
- Two (2) Transit Centers
- Frequent Local Service
- Supporting Local Service
- Community Circulator Service

*Potential Pedestrian Improvements*

- Pedestrian/ADA/Bicycle Improvements
  - Arterial Rapid Transit Corridors
  - Station Areas

*Next Steps*

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| ➤ Adoption of the Project List by the MARTA Board          | May 11                |
| ➤ COA City Council Work Session Briefing                   | May 18                |
| ➤ COA Public Meetings                                      | May 25 & 26           |
|  | June 1 & 2            |
| ➤ Draft List Submitted to COA City Council                 | May 31                |
| ➤ City Ordinance Adoption for November Referendum          | by June 30            |
| ➤ Final List presented to COA City Council                 | July 31               |
| ➤ Public Education and Outreach Campaign                   | July – November       |
| ➤ Ads of Notice of Proposed Referendum                     | October 10-October 31 |
| ➤ Referendum Vote  | November 8, 2016      |
| ➤ Amendment to the RTCAA (with a positive Referendum vote) | November – December   |

Mr. Parker stated that the Board is being asked for approval as an initial effort to have conversation with the City of Atlanta. He also noted that MARTA hopes to hear from the public. This effort will ultimately result in a comprehensive list that will be used as a guide for years to come. He noted that this is a game-changing opportunity. While the rail projects will get a lot of attention, the bus service will be amongst the most innovative in the country.

Mr. Daniels asked about coordinating overlap with DeKalb and City of Atlanta. How will that happen?

Chairman Ashe responded. When MARTA went to the General Assembly to seek expansion funding, MARTA asked for expansion funding for all of Fulton, all of DeKalb and Clayton as well. Ultimately the General Assembly made the decision to extend the authorization for the City of Atlanta only. Most people share the expectation that in the 2017 General Assembly, MARTA will come back and seek authorization to have transit expansion funding for portions of Fulton County outside the city of Atlanta and portions of DeKalb County outside the City of Atlanta, as well.

Mr. Limmer said MARTA anticipates pursuing federal funding to help service as a match to build those projects. It's a long extensive process. Staff is continuing to conduct environmental review for each of the corridors.

Mrs. Abdul-Salaam asked in terms of learning the many phases of BRT – will some corridors be BRT or “BRT-like”.

Mr. Limmer said a comprehensive operations analysis identified a set (11 total in the MARTA service area), of projects that will be continually evaluated, i.e., does a route need to go from 40-foot bus to 60-foot buses, should a route have a dedicated guideway, etc.

**Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Submit a Project List to the City of Atlanta**

---

On motion by Mrs. Kaufman seconded the Mrs. Ellison-Southall, the resolution was added to the Agenda by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0, with 9 members present.

\* \* \*

On motion by Mrs. Ellison-Southall seconded by Mrs. Abernathy the Board unanimously approved the resolution by a vote of 9 to 0, with 9 members present. A copy of the resolution, **AS APPROVED, IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

**Comments from the Board**

---

Mrs. Abdul-Salaam thanked and commended Chairman Ashe for his commencement address to the 2016 graduating class at Clayton State University.

\* \* \*

Chairman Ashe informed Board members that Mr. Parker would provide an update on paratransit implementation.

\* \* \*

**Adjournment**

---

The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 2:30 p.m.