

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

November 29, 2010

The Board of Directors Planning & Development Committee met on November 29, 2010 at 12:42 p.m. in the Board Room on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

Board Members Present

Juanita Jones Abernathy
Clara H. Axam
Harold Buckley, Sr.
Jim Durrett
Walter L. Kimbrough
Gloria Leonard
Jannine Miller
Michael W. Tyler
Michael Walls

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/ CEO Theodore Basta, Jr. (Acting); AGMs Johnny Dunning, Jr. (Acting), Ben Graham, Jonnie Keith, Ryland McClendon, Elizabeth O'Neill and Tim White (Acting); Directors John Crocker and Reginald Diamond; Managers Robert H. Thomas, Marvin Toliver, Richard Wallace and Don Williams; Finance Administrative Analyst Tracy Kincaid; Administrative Assistant Markisa Davis. Others in attendance Srinath Remala.

Also in attendance Charles Pursley, Jr. of Pursley of Pursley, Lowery & Meeks; Jim Brown of URS.

Approval of the October 25, 2010 Planning & Development Committee Meeting Minutes

On motion by Ms. Axam seconded by Mr. Buckley, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with members present.

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Request to Hold Public Hearings for the Proposed Bus Service Modifications for the April 23, 2011 Mark-Up

Mr. Dunning presented this request for Board of Directors' approval to hold Public Hearings during January 2011 for the Proposed Bus Service Modifications. These proposed bus service changes address unresolved issues and concerns received from the public as related to the September 25, 2010 reduction in service. These modifications respond to the most recent comments received after the finalization of the changes scheduled for implementation in the December 18, 2010 Mark-Up.

The April 23, 2011 proposed service changes are within the same categories as the initial service changes following the implementation of the September 25, 2010 service changes. The categories are overcrowding relief, safety/operational capacity and on-time performance/running time adjustments.

On motion by Ms. Leonard seconded Mr. Tyler, the request was unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with 9 members present.

Briefing – Transportation Investment Act of 2010's Process

Mr. Crocker briefed the Committee on the next steps in the process for a possible 2012 referendum as defined by the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 (HB 277 or Act).

Overview

- HB 277 signed into law on June 2
- Statewide Planning Director required to develop Draft Investment Criteria – August 3
- MARTA comments on criteria delivered on September 30
- Final recommended criteria and first meeting of Regional Roundtable announced on November 15
- First Roundtable meetings – December 17

Roundtable Membership

- City of Atlanta
 - Mayor Kasim Reed

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- **Cherokee County**
 - **Commissioner Buzz Ahrens**
 - **Mayor Tim Downing, Holly Springs**

- **Clayton County**
 - **Commissioner Eldrin Bell**
 - **Mayor Willie Oswalt, Lake City**

- **Cobb County**
 - **Commissioner Tim Lee**
 - **Mayor Mark Matthews, Kennesaw**

- **DeKalb County**
 - **CEO Burrell Ellis**
 - **Mayor Bill Floyd, Decatur**

- **Douglass County**
 - **Commissioner Tom Worthan**
 - **Mayor Mickey Thompson, Douglasville**

- **Fayette County**
 - **Commissioner Jack Smith**
 - **Mayor Don Haddix, Peachtree City or Mayor Ken Steele, Fayetteville**

- **Fulton County**
 - **Commissioner John Eaves**
 - **Mayor Ralph Moore, Union City**

- **Gwinnett County**
 - **Commissioner Shirley Lasseter**
 - **Mayor Bucky Johnson, Norcross**

- **Henry County**
 - **Commissioner BJ Mathis**
 - **Mayor Lorene Lindsay, Locust Grove**

- **Rockdale County**
 - **Commissioner Richard Oden**
 - **Mayor Randy Mills**

Final Criteria Overview

- **Guiding Principles for Project Selection:**
 - **Focus on deliverability**
 - **Projects are from existing plans/studies**
 - **Consistent with Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan and PLAN 2040**
 - **Encourages multimodal solutions to appeal to broad spectrum of regions' citizens**

- **Specifying the performance goals that the benefit metrics will be tied to from the Strategic Statewide Transportation Plan**
 - **Support Georgia's economic growth and competitiveness**
 - **Ensure safety and security**
 - **Maximize the value of Georgia's assets, getting the most out of the existing network**
 - **Minimize the impact on the environment**

- **Allocation range for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program area raised from 0%-5% to 1%-5% (\$74-\$370M over 10 years)**

- **Bicycle and pedestrian projects include projects that provide connections to/from existing or planned transit including bus stops and multi-modal centers**

- **Funding for Transit Capital or Transit Operations & Maintenance Program areas must meet two of the following:**
 - **Cross a county border**
 - **Directly serve a major regional employment or activity center (as defined by ARC as a Regional Center or Regional Town Center)**
 - **Carry a forecasted average 4,000 weekday boardings upon opening; and/or**
 - **Connect to an existing or under construction fixed guideway facility as defined by the Federal Transit Administration**

- **Except for MARTA operations, funds from the Transit Operations & Maintenance Program area will first go to fund services that exist on January 11, 2011**

Upcoming Dates and Milestones

- **Winter/Spring/Summer 2011 – Development of Project List**

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- Public Comment DRAFT ARC PLAN 2040 Winter/Spring
- Summer 2011 – Adoption of PLAN 2040
- Initial Investment List from HB 277 – by August 15, 2011
- Final Investment List – by October 15, 2011
- Referendum – July 2012

Briefing – Beltline Corridor Environmental Study Update

Mr. Dunning briefed the Committee on the status of the Beltline Corridor Environmental Study being conducted jointly by MARTA and the Atlanta Beltline, Inc. (ABI).

The project team is preparing response to initial comments provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on the Beltline Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). MARTA and ABI are still working to enter into negotiations to establish a more comprehensive working relationship between the two agencies, including the right for MARTA to operate and manage the Beltline transit component.

Next Steps

- MARTA/ABI Team met with Norfolk Southern on October 26, 2010 and will meet with CSX (TBD) to discuss the options for transit in the northwest corridor
- MARTA/ABI will host meetings for the Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Committees on Tuesday, November 30th – the meetings for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be held at the MARTA Headquarters building from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- A public meeting has been scheduled to take place on December 6th at Piedmont Hospital to discuss the northwest alignments proposed to operate outside of the railroad corridors
- MARTA/ABI is preparing to submit the revised DEIS document, incorporating the comments received from the FTA review in Mid-December. With an expedited DEIS review by FTA, the document is scheduled for review by the public in February with a public hearing(s) scheduled around the same time. With the mandatory 45-day comment period required by NEPA, the Tier DEIS phase is scheduled for completion by early Spring 2011

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- Comments received during the public comment period and at the formal public hearing(s) will be incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The project schedule anticipates completion of the Tier 1 FEIS and FTA issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) in early Fall 2011

Briefing – September 25, 2010 Service Modifications

Mr. Dunning briefed the Committee on the current status of actions taken in response to feedback received from passengers regarding the September 25, 2010 Service Modifications which is also referred to as the FY11 Reduced Modifications.

Since the implementation of the FY11 Reduced Service Plan, the feedback from MARTA passengers range from instances of overcrowding, petitions/letters requesting restoration of service as originally provided to requests for more information on the new routes and schedules. Several adjustments to the routes and schedules have been implemented to date, while others will be implemented with the next Mark-Up slated for December 18, 2010. As passengers continue to adjust to the restructure routes and schedules, staff anticipates a decrease in any adverse feedback on the new service. Staff will continue to monitor/evaluate the service to identify opportunities to address concerns.

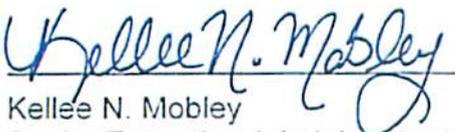
Other Matters

Mr. Walls referenced Tab 6 of the Committee Books – Planning and Development Committee Look-a-Head – asking that Board Members review the items listed.

Adjournment

The meeting of the Planning & Development Committee adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kellee N. Mobley
Senior Executive Administrator to the Board