

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PLANNING & EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

June 25, 2012

The Board of Directors Planning & External Relations Committee met on June 25, 2012 at 1:05 p.m. in the Board Lounge on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

Board Members Present

Juanita Jones Abernathy
Robert L. Ashe, III, *Chair*
Harold Buckley, Sr.
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr.
Roderick E. Edmond
Barbara Babbit Kaufman

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/ CEO Beverly Scott; Chief, Business Support Services Theodore Basta, Jr.; AGMs Davis Allen, Wanda Dunham, Rod Hembree (Acting), Robin Howard, Ming Hsi (Acting), Mary Ann Jackson, Cheryl King, Rich Krisak, Ryland McClendon, Elizabeth O'Neill and Gary Pritchett; Sr. Directors Donald Williams (Acting); Directors Reginald Diamond, Maurice Ficklin, Garry Free, Hubert Gee (Acting), Lyle Harris, Connie Krisak and Knox O'Callaghan; Managers Cara Hodgson, Janide Sidifall, Gregory Synderman, Marvin Toliver, and Denise Whitfield; Executive Manager to the Board Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Executive Administrator Renee Willis; Office Administrator II Tracie Roberson. Others in attendance Ashanti Allen, Ed Bishop, Ricky Chambers, Leeshu Kennedy and Srinath Remala.

Also in attendance Charles Pursley, Jr. and Christian Torgrimson of Pursley, Lowery & Meeks, LLP; William Jones of City of Atlanta; Anna Howell and Karim Marshall of SMART Insights Group, LLC; Jim Richie of URS.

Approval of the May 29, 2012 Planning & External Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Daniels seconded by Mrs. Kaufman, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with 6 members present.

Briefing – Transit in Managed Lanes Corridor

Ms. Sidifall briefed the Committee on the adoption of a resolution on Transit in Managed Lanes by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Board.

MARTA staff worked with GDOT to develop a resolution that guides cooperation between the two agencies with regard to the implementation of transit initiatives in designated managed lane project corridors, such as I-20 and GA 400, to foster thoughtful utilization of existing and planned assets in these corridors for both highway and transit modes.

- MARTA recently completed an Alternatives Analysis (AA) for the I-20 East Corridor as part of the I-20 East Transit Initiative
- On April 9, 2012, the MARTA Board of Directors adopted the LPA for the I-20 East Transit Initiative which includes a heavy rail connection from the existing MARTA Indian Creek Station south along I-285 and east along I-20 to the Mall at Stonecrest and premium BRT service from Wesley Chapel Road west into downtown Atlanta
- MARTA is conducting an AA to complete the prerequisite analysis and documentation for implementation of a high-capacity transit project within the GA 400 Corridor
- The study is designed to capitalize on previous work completed in the corridor with the objective of preparing a transit project for formal entry into the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project development process
- The study area for both these projects include corridors where GDOT proposes to provide managed lanes that would optimize efficiency, performance and throughput by offering travel time savings and reliability through the application of vehicle occupancy and eligibility restrictions, pricing, and access control within the corridor
- GDOT also owns the majority of the right-of-way in these corridors
- On May 17th, 2012, the GDOT Board adopted a resolution that covers highway/transit coordination for all projects in GDOT's Managed Lane System Plan (MLSP)
- MARTA staff had sought to obtain some legal commitment of right-of-way for transit in managed lanes corridors from GDOT

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- Although the resolution falls short of stating that GDOT will donate right-of-way for transit in managed lanes corridors, it does state that GDOT will "allocate as much as 40 to 60 feet within the right-of-way for the project corridors, either at-grade, on structure, or subsurface to accommodate transit in the corridor"
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed to outline specific commitments for the individual MLSP corridors.
 - This will be the next opportunity to negotiate specific commitments for the I-20 East and GA 400 corridors

Briefing - Atlanta Beltline Tier 1 FEIS

Ms. Sidifall briefed the Committee on the progress and status of the Beltline Corridor Environmental Study being conducted jointly by MARTA and the Atlanta Beltline Inc. (ABI).

Overview

- MARTA and the ABI are jointly conducting a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta Beltline project
- The purpose of the Tier 1 EIS is to permit right-of-way determination and corridor preservation for the transit and trails through completion of the following tasks:
 1. Identify right-of-way requirements and complete Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) documentation for the Beltline Northeast Corridor
 2. Identify right-of-way requirements and complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Tier 1 documentation for the entire 22-mile Beltline Corridor

Project Status

- Upon FTA's review and approval of the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), MARTA/ABI hosted two public hearings in August 2011 to receive public comment
 - The public hearings were held during the 45-day public comment period required by NEPA for completion of the Tier 1 DEIS

- Over 30 comments were received during the public comment period and at the formal public hearings for the Tier 1 DEIS
- These comments were addressed and incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
- The FEIS was reviewed and approved by FTA for public review and comment in April 2012
 - EPA has published the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the mandatory 30-day final public comment period, which concludes in July 2012
 - The FEIS has been distributed to federal and local agencies, posted on project websites and delivered to repositories for public review
 - At the end of the 30-day public comment period, FTA will approve and sign the Record of Decision (ROD)
- MARTA and ABI have negotiated and executed a Transit Services Cooperative Agreement which sets forth the terms and conditions governing the development, implementation, operation and maintenance of certain transit projects identified in the Connect Atlanta Plan, inclusive of the Atlanta Beltline transit component and streetcars
 - The City of Atlanta approved this Agreement in March 2012

Next Steps

- The project schedule anticipates completion of the Tier 1 FEIS and FTA issuance of a ROD by late summer 2012
- MARTA has initiated an equity analysis for the Atlanta Beltline Environmental Study in order to move the project forward in the Federal project development process and to provide continued planning support for further development of the project in subsequent phases – the anticipated completion date for this final task is December 2012

Other Matters

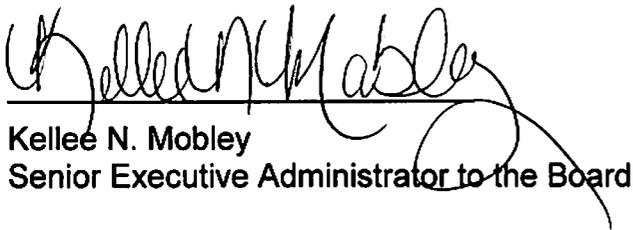
Mrs. McClendon made the following announcements:

- The Urban Land Institute – Atlanta and the Council for Quality Growth will host a program, Regional Transportation Referendum – “Countdown to July 31”, on July 13, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the Cobb Galleria Centre. The Honorable John Mica, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, will provide the keynote address.
- Please review the External Relations calendar for information on additional upcoming events.

Adjournment

The Planning & External Relations Committee meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kellee N. Mobley
Senior Executive Administrator to the Board