

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

**January 9, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority held a meeting on January 9, 2020 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  
Robert L. Ashe, III  
Jim Durrett  
Roderick E. Edmond  
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 Gena Major (Acting), Chief of Bus Operations Collie Greenwood, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hurley (Interim), Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill, Chief of Capital Programs, Expansion & Innovation Franklin Rucker and Chief of Rail Operations David Springstead; AGMs LaShanda Dawkins, Virgil Fludd, Dean Mallis, Kirk Talbott, Emil Tzanov and Thomas Young (Interim); Executive Director Paula Nash; Senior Directors Colleen Kiernan and Erica Pines; Directors Rhonda Allen, John Cochran, Donna DeJesus, David Emory, Jacqueline Holland (Acting), Jonathan Hunt, Connie Krisak and Patrick Minnucci; Manager Christopher Hatfield; Manager MARTA Board of Directors Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Manager Executive Office Administration Tyrene Huff; Sr. Executive Administrator Kenya Hammond and Sr. Executive Administrator Keri Lee. Others in attendance Tiara Allen, Ed Bishop, Adrien Carter, Keli Davis, Alphonso Eugene, Abebe Girmay, Courtne Middlebrooks, Janki Patel and LaTonya Pope.

\* 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

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Others in attendance were Robert Highsmith and Koko Lewis of Holland & Knight; Lamonte Artis of CERM; Darius Broughton of JRMT; Amanda Chatman; Nathaniel Clark of Chasm Architecture; Albert Edwards of CERM; Anna George of CERM; Scott Haggard of ATL; Adam Haplin of Arcadis; Charles E. Johnson, Sr. of WR&J/SLS; Stephanie V. Jones of Chasm Architecture; Martin Kigudde of Sykes; Shelley Lamar of CERM; Edward Liedelmeyer of Fulton County; Tommy J. Lewis; Vanessa Manley of Rohadfox; BJ Martin of Pond & Company; Helen McSwain of Rohadfox; Keith Parker of Clayton County Citizens Advisory Group ; Spencer Rogers of Rohadfox; Jim Schmidt of HNTB; William J. Stanley, III; Darien Sykes of Sykes; Soji Tinubu of WR&J; David Wickert of *The AJC*; Shayna and Carden Wyckoff.

### **Public Comment**

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Mr. Al Edwards. Managing Director and founder of CERM. A DeKalb County based engineering and program management firm. Thanked the MARTA Board for the opportunity to offer comments regarding CERM's experience with MARTA over the last twenty years. It started with a med-work visit back in 1988 while we were in the South DeKalb's Business incubator. CERM's first project was across the street at Lindbergh TOD, which led the firm to work across the system principally as a sub-consultant. Over the last twenty years, CERM has completed over one-hundred and fifty task orders and one-hundred job opportunities for MARTA. CERM has partnered with countless education and work force development entities across the region while supporting, collaborating and occasionally mentoring other small businesses. The pivotal turning point for CERM was the partnership with MARTA in 2014 which involved the Governor's Mentor Protege Program. We were teamed with multiple firms from GEC while taking a hard look at our business system investments and market focus. We subsequently won the Eagle Award and have grown consistently at 20% a year since that time. MARTA is an anchor institution for minority and female-owned businesses in the Metro Atlanta area. Many which have grown to scale and now serve transit organizations across the US. It is easy to lose sight that Metro Atlanta is an international community on the rise. For this reason, our shared sense of diversity and inclusion is envied by countless communities across the nation. Several of us are hosting business leaders from neighboring states this evening. We will discuss ways to achieve and increase diversity in procurement and capital programming. This will allow the creation of jobs with educational partners in venerable communities. During the past administrations, the goal has been to produce more minority and female-owned prime contractors. This takes deliberate, market, practice area focus capacity building as well as imparting your contract compliance. As MARTA expands execution capabilities and geographic coverage, it is encouraged not to re-create the wheel, but leverage long-standing partnerships in a community that will allow us to grow together. Being clear that small and minority businesses represents a badge of honor, with the expectation to work hand and hand with MARTA and other economic development leaders to improve our respective communities.

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Mrs. Helen McSwain. Senior Vice President for Rohadfox Construction Services. A local woman-owned firm that has been in business for forty-three years. Thanked the MARTA Board and staff for the opportunities to work with the Authority. MARTA has been key to our success. Over the past two decades, Rohadfox has had the opportunity to grow partnerships with other small and large businesses, increasing our overall footprint in the Atlanta region. Beyond the Atlanta region, this opportunity has also given Rohadfox the opportunity to grow nationally. Rohadfox remains committed to technical excellence and supporting MARTA through the CIP Program. As we reflect on the past decade, we think back over the MARTA GEC Program. This is when we had the great honor to support that program as a sub-consultant. There was unpridential minority DBE goals that were established and maintained. I think it offers the leverage and commitment of the MARTA Board as we move forward to this new decade. On behalf of Rohadfox, we look forward to the continued support of the MARTA Board and MARTA staff as we move jobs in the region forward.

Mr. Keith Parker. Discussed safety issues among state roads. Along pathways to and from bus stops there are challenges with the lack of sidewalks. As a service provider, it is important that MARTA shown concern to enhance the experience of the customer. It would be beneficial to address this issue with urgency as the Authority moves forward.

Ms. Carden Wyckoff. An Atlanta native and wheelchair user who is a full-time MARTA patron. My dream for a safe and accessible transit system, consists of being greeted by a staff elevator attendant to ensure public waste is eliminated so I don't track feces via wheels into my home. Remove individuals who are camping out in their wheelchairs or loitering in the station for hours. Ensure that every train has the correct directions of travel and loudly announce destinations prior to boarding the train. How do you know where you are going if you can't see or hear. Install bike hooks and luggage shelves so these items don't occupy wheelchair priority seating. Update and mount visible wheelchair signage to alert abled-body patrons. Shorten elevator renewal and repair issues to less than three to six months. Train bus operators on securing wheelchair with restraints and require all assessible chairs to be tied down. Enforce no littering throughout the stations with emphasis on Five Points and North Avenue Stations. Being that the state does not offer a wheelchair Uber and Checker Cab only operates 9am to 5pm with arrangement required at least two day in advance, I dream of opening access to MARTA's Paratransit to use as an accessible rideshare operating 24-7. I envision a future where I can spend an evening with friends on a late Friday night and be able to utilize public transit at 3am. Instead, I have to cut my night short, roll a few miles in the dark alone on broken sidewalks or the street since service stops after 1am, I encourage you to look through my lens and remember that I am a young millennium just trying to live my best life. There are numerous ideas that I would like to discus and I am interested in setting up a meeting to discuss them.

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Mr. Charles Johnson. President Chief Executive Office of Williams Russell and Johnson (WR&J), Inc. Spoke on behalf of WR&J and Stanley Love Stanley. A joint venture pursuing the Station Rehabilitation Program. During the last Board meeting, on December 12, 2019, it was understood that was a fifteen-day following the Board meeting for the right to protest. I would like to get some clarity on that. There is a tremendous amount of program work to be done in the region. MARTA currently have two DBE firms as the prime with both firms having over eighty-four years of experience. We have been around; we know MARTA and we love MARTA. I would like to see MARTA have a preference or inclusion of local and community firms. There are other groups and organizations around this region who have figured out ways to do so. I would like to see a broader perspective with what is going to be happening in the region with MARTA in the forefront as previously before.

Mr. Nathaniel Clark. Managing Partner of Chasm Architecture. When I moved here in 2005, I had two employees, now I have twenty-three. Chasm Architecture serves as the architecture record for City of Atlanta projects. We are glad and enthused about current and future opportunities with MARTA. We are eager and ready to perform and deliver great work.

Mr. Duncan Sykes. A Georgia Tech graduate and President/CEO of Sykes Consulting. After graduating from Georgia Tech, I remained in the Atlanta area because of potential opportunities and pursuit of building business. Over the last nineteen years, Sykes Consulting have grown to be one of the largest minority-owned structure engineering firms in the county. I have personally worked on three retractable stadiums including: Mercedes Benz Stadium, The New World of Coca-Cola, The National Center for Civil Human Rights, K-12 Higher Education and several rehabilitation projects throughout the Atlanta Airport. As Mr. Clark indicated, our goal is to perform and deliver great work.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2019 Meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors**

On motion by Mr. Pond seconded by Ms. Abdul-Salaam, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13\* members present.

### **Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contracts for Architectural and Engineering Design Services for MARTA's Station Rehabilitation Program, AE 43955**

Mr. Rucker presented a resolution authorizing the General Manager/CEO or his delegate enter into contracts with six (6) Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Consultant firms: Arcadis U.S, Inc., Axis Infrastructure, LLC., Chasm Architectural, LLC., Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., Perkins and Will, Inc., and Pond & Company to provide Station Rehabilitation Services.

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These firms are authorized to complete work orders that will not exceed the amount of \$41,666,666.00.

Mr. Griffin moved approval.

Dr. Edmond offered a friendly whereby the resolution will include a provision that a Board subcommittee will identify an independent evaluator who legal staff will engage to perform an evaluation to identify any potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Griffin accepted the friendly amendment. Mr. Ashe seconded.

Ms. Scott commented that the Board have a moral obligation to ensure there is no sense of impropriety; especially when we look at what a name means to a legacy. The friendly amendment will ensure that this is carried out thoroughly and that we address our constituents and those that we serve in our perspective counties. It is very important having known what a name means, considering I retired from a company that was brought by the Bell Companies, but kept the AT&T name due to the legacy that it serves. I support this amendment as it gives up the opportunity to ensure there is no sense of impropriety.

Mr. Worthy said I would like to echo my agreement with Dr. Edmond and Ms. Scott. I also want the public to know that this is being done by an abundance of caution. There has been a ruling of opinion from MARTA's Board Counsel that there is no conflict of interest. I believe in that advice, but this is being done in an abundance of caution and as such, I support.

On motion by Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Ashe, the resolution was approved by a vote of 9 to 0 with 13\* members present.

Ms. Abdul-Salaam, Dr. Edmond and Mr. Pond abstained.

**Burton vs. MARTA**

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In the case of Burton vs. MARTA, Fulton Court Action 2019-CV-301127, Ms. O'Neill requested approval of a settlement in the amount of \$1.65M.

On motion by Mr. Frierson, seconded by Ms. Abdul-Salaam, the settlement was approved by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13\* members present.

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**Other Matters**

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Mr. Ashe addressed concern with honoring former MARTA Board member, Mrs. Juanita Jones Abernathy. He reminded the Board that he spoke about this at the December 12, 2019 Board Meeting. In Atlanta, we are justifiably good at recognizing the contributions made by the men of the Civil Rights Movement. We have not always done a great job of recognizing the women of the Civil Rights Movement. One of whom served on the MARTA Board with us. Doing nothing to honor Mrs. Abernathy is not acceptable.

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**Adjournment**

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The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:55 p.m.