



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

via WebEx

MEETING MINUTES

Board Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present
Rita Scott, Chair	Jeffrey Parker
Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Vice Chair	Collie Greenwood
Robert Ashe III	Rhonda Allen
Stacy Blakley	Luz Borrero
Jim Durrett	Kevin Hurley
William Floyd	Melissa Mullinax
Roderick Frierson	Elizabeth O’Neill
Freda Hardage	Franklin Rucker
Russell McMurry ¹	
John Pond	
Katherine Powers	
Reginald Snyder	
W. Thomas Worthy	

Also, in attendance: Board General Counsel Justice Leah Ward Sears of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP; other staff members: Tyrene Huff.

Public Comment (See attached: “2021-01-14 Public Comment”)

LaToya Johnson
Doraville Mayor Joseph Geierman
Dunwoody Mayor Lynn Deutsch
Doraville City Councilmember Andy Yeoman
Dunwoody Councilmember John Heneghan
Ed Williams

Approval of December 10, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Chair Scott called for a motion to approve the December 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Roberta Abdul-Salaam made a motion to amend the minutes to include the discussion

¹Russell McMurry is the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and is therefore a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors, per the MARTA Act.

regarding the process whereby officers are elected and the codification of said election process. Mr. Durrett seconded Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam's motion. Chair Scott asked for a vote. Mr. Ashe requested further clarification regarding the language that should be added to the minutes. Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam stated the discussion about the process to elect Board officers should be added to the record. Chief Counsel O'Neill stated a verbatim report is not normally included in the minutes and a reference to the discussion was included on page 4 of the December 10, 2020 minutes. Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam stated the outline and codification of the procedure for elections was discussed and needs to be included to avoid future confusion. Chair Scott then asked to amend the minutes. Mr. Ashe stated his recollection that at the December meeting, Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam raised a concern that neither the MARTA Act nor MARTA by-laws specify jurisdictional rotation of the Board Chair and that rather it is a practice, usually, but not always observed. Mr. Ashe further stated he did not recall a consensus had been reached by the Board on the process. Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam stated that not recording the discussion in the minutes perpetuates confusion about the election process. Chair Scott stated the minutes could be amended by reviewing the recording of the previous meeting and asked for a motion and second to that effect. Mr. Durrett recommended the minutes be approved as presented and the Board agree to formally discuss the matter of elections at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Frierson then asked the Board to approve the minutes and to schedule a meeting to clarify the election process and address Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam's concerns. Justice Leah Ward Sears suggested the December 10, 2020 minutes be approved as written and an agreement made and recorded in the minutes of the instant meeting that the Board will meet at a later date to discuss and come to an agreement about the election process. Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam withdrew her motion to amend. The Vice Chair went on to state the January 14, 2020 minutes should reflect the following: all Board members have agreed and committed to a conversation to clarify, codify, and modify, if necessary, the nominating, election, and rotation procedures by jurisdiction. Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Durrett. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13 members present¹.

Other Matters

Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill requested the Board's approval for two resolutions settling legal claims against MARTA.

1. Jonathan Delaney v MARTA (2019 cv330597) in the amount of \$260,000.00;
2. Cheyanne Lord v MARTA (2019 cv02352) in the amount of \$575,000.00.

Mr. Durrett made a motion to approve both resolutions, seconded by Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam. The resolutions were approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13 members present¹.

Comments from the Board

The Chair noted that Board committees did not meet in December, as such no committee reports were on the agenda.

Adjournment

The MARTA Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyrene L. Huff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Tyrene L. Huff
Assistant Secretary to the Board

January 14, 2021 Board Meeting Public Comments
Received via (404) 848-6000, marta.board@itsmarta.com, public@itsmarta.com

Summary: 0 voice messages
6 emails

1.) Message date: January 12, 2021 3:21 p.m.
Latoya Johnson l.johnson751@my.atlanta.aiuniv.edu

I have been unable to attend ground classes at my university, unable to travel to groceries stores and visit my doctor at DeKalb Medical on a regular basis after you guys removed route 123,I have also been out of work for 10 months. I was laid off and even when I was laid I have been unable to travel for a job.123 is the only route to pass me and take me to my destination, I cannot afford uber every time. Bad enough i have to use it when I need to shop and making \$221 a week will not pay my way to work and school using uber that is a costly transportation.123 passes a lot of essential businesses and medical centers. Why is it off the map? Bad enough route 8 and 75 is gone but I desperately need 123 back on route.

2.) Message date: January 12, 2021 5:09 p.m.
Mayor Joseph Geierman Joseph.Geierman@Doravillega.us

CEO Parker and Distinguished MARTA Board Members,

I'm writing ahead of your board meeting on Thursday to ask you to please restart service along the Peachtree Industrial corridor. In Doraville, the apartments on this corridor have traditionally been served by the 104-bus route. In Dunwoody, I believe these residents have been served by the 103 and 132 bus routes. Collectively, over 1500 riders per week have been impacted by these routes no longer running in the area.

Doraville passed a resolution this week – and I believe Dunwoody did the same – asking you to consider restoring service in the area. There are a number of people who live here who do not have access to cars, and who have had to endure significant financial and other burdens as a result. We believe that a consolidation of these routes might be a way to provide service to these residents in an economical way and strongly urge you to consider this.

I've attached copies of Doraville's resolution. I also make myself available to help in any way possible.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

3.) Message date: January 13, 2021
Mayor Lynn Deutsch

1:51 p.m.
Lynn.Deutsch@dunwoodyga.gov

CEO Parker and Distinguished MARTA Board Members,

I am reaching out to you in advance of the MARTA Board Meeting seeking a solution to the loss of bus service for Dunwoody and Doraville residents. I understand the limitations placed on MARTA by the pandemic. I am hoping that there may be room for a creative solution. Perhaps combing routes and limiting service hours may be a possibility. Many of the residents served by routes 103, 104, and 132 don't have access to a car and are not in walking distance of a MARTA station.

I've have attached a copy of a resolution that the Dunwoody City Council passed this week. Please let us know how we can provide any assistance to MARTA that you may need.

Thank you.

4.) Message date: January 13, 2021
Council Member John Heneghan

9:45 p.m.
john@jkeneghan.com

CEO Parker and Distinguished MARTA Board Members,

I would like to raise the fact that the South East Side of Dunwoody is where a majority of our lower income apartments are located, and it is these residents who are greatest harmed by the disruption in mass transit services. At the moment there is no bus service for these residents and if there was a new emergency bus route created specifically carved out to serve those in the greatest need and scored against your return to service criteria, I believe that it makes financial, economic and social sense to add such a route. I have taken the liberty of creating a quick map of a possible replacement temporary route that I believe would serve those in my community with the greatest need. Returning to normal operations may not be possible but if a trial emergency service bus route could be initiated as I propose, it would alleviate some of the hardships of these who really need your service.

My proposed route would start at the corner of Peeler & Winters Chapel near the Walmart Neighborhood Market where many in the area shop for food, head south on Winters Chapel passing 1,000's of apartment units, turning right on to the internal PIB access road passing other apartment complexes, at Tilly Mill there is a gas station there that welcomes day labors and there is a Home Depot a block away which may do the same. The route after Tilly Mill continues onto the Peachtree Industrial Ramp staying to the right and exiting at North Peachtree Road turning north on North Peachtree giving MARTA access to the huge Dunwoody Village Apartment Homes. The route could then turn left on to Peachford where it passes more apartments and a hospital, at Shallowford it could turn right for a few blocks then turning left onto Dunwoody Park passing more apartments, veer left onto Dunwoody Park South (passing Atlanta School of Massage) and turning right on to Cotillion passing another large apartment complex prior to going straight on the highway heading to the Dunwoody MARTA Station.

One slight suggestion to the route, on Wednesdays St. Malachi's Food Bank at St. Patrick's Church (located at North Peachtree & Barclay) operates therefore if on Wednesdays the north bound North Peachtree Road segment could continue to Barclay Road (the street before Brook Run Park) it could then turn left circling the middle school getting back on route.

Thank you for listening to my suggestion and I also look forward to watching the Jan 14th Board Meeting live on YouTube at 12 and 1:30.

Much appreciated.

5.) Message date: January 13, 2021
Council Member Any Yeoman

10:12 p.m.
Andy.Yeoman@Doravillega.us

MARTA Board Members

I am writing to express concern on how the suspended routes are currently prioritized and evaluated. In Doraville, one route goes on one side of Peachtree Industrial and another route goes along the other. Both of these routes are ranked toward the middle for restore, but I would submit to you that it would be rated close to the top if both sides of the Road were on the same route! Combining the routes that cover all of the Winters Chapel apartments in Doraville with all the Peachtree Industrial Apartments in Dunwoody would easily be one of the largest routes that could be restored.

I think it's time for the leadership to realize that it will take a long time to get back to normal, and it's time to re-evaluate the current routes to see what they will look like post-COVID.

I urge you to start this process without delay. Thank you for your time.

6.) Message date: January 14, 2021
Ed Williams

10:41 a.m.
truthcrushtheearth@gmail.com

Good Afternoon Board:

I am the chair of the Concerned Citizens for Effective Government and a resident of the DeKalb County for over twenty years. The MARTA board has remained silent and has not done the right thing as a result,

It is amazing that MARTA eliminated half of its bus routes without a single public comment session or hearing, nor a single MARTA board vote on April 20, 2020.

The board was designed to represent the people in the various jurisdictions in regards to the service being provided by MARTA.

Most of the board members probably do not even ride the MARTA buses or trains. The board seems to lack a real understanding of what it means to rely on MARTA as an essential service to go to work, grocery store or hospital.

MARTA ridership is majority African American, and MARTA has disproportionately impacted African Americans and other minority communities. The transit authority MARTA discriminated against minority and poor residents of DeKalb, Fulton, Clayton and City of Atlanta when it eliminated the 70 bus routes. MARTA actions disproportionately impacted African American communities and their ability to earn a living and pay their mortgages and rent. Many of MARTA riders are minorities and are usually essential workers who cannot work from home, as such, in order for businesses to re-open and to start up the riders need to be able to get to work. It is encumbered on MARTA to re-establish all of the 70 bus routes it had eliminated.

It has been more than 9 months since MARTA eliminated and reduced transit service throughout the Atlanta Metropolitan area, including Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, and the City of Atlanta.

MARTA was awarded 300 million for transit relief. It does not make sense for MARTA to receive federal dollars and still eliminate the bus services for which it sought funding.

Residents should not be denied services because MARTA had no plan or cannot properly manage its operations.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DORAVILLE GEORGIA
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND ENTREAT THE
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO PROMPTLY
RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO THE CITY**

WHEREAS, the mayor and city council ("Council") of Doraville, Georgia ("City") desires to enhance community quality-of-life, improve air quality, improve business, industrial and commercial growth opportunities, support economic development revitalization and renewal, provide convenient access to jobs, schools and colleges, housing and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority ("MARTA") desires to advocate and provide safe, multimodal transit services that advance prosperity, connectivity, and equity for a more livable region; and

WHEREAS, Winter Chapel Road has the highest population density in the City; and

WHEREAS, the MARTA 104 bus service provides essential transportation service to 653 residents weekly on Winters Chapel Rd; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents and property and business owners of the City;

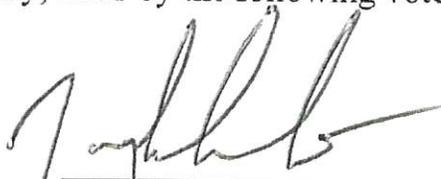
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL THAT:

1. Requests that MARTA promptly considers all means necessary to restore the 104 service to the City.
2. Evaluates possible ways to consolidate portions of 103 and 104 on the Peachtree Industrial Corridor, if necessary, for a more expeditious restoral of essential service.

So Resolved and Effective this 11th day of January, 2021 by the following vote:

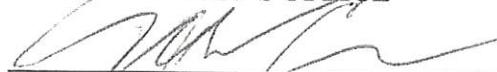
CITY OF DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

By:

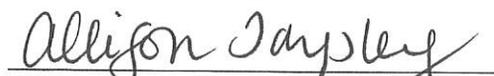


Joseph Geierman, Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**


City Attorney's Office

**ATTEST:
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**


Allison Tarpley, City Clerk

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DUNWOODY,
GEORGIA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION AND ENTREAT THE METROPOLITAN
ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO PROMPTLY RESTORE
ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO THE CITY**

WHEREAS, the mayor and city council ("Council") of Dunwoody, Georgia ("City") desires to enhance community quality-of-life, improve air quality, improve business, industrial and commercial growth opportunities, support economic development revitalization and renewal, provide convenient access to jobs, schools and colleges, housing and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority ("MARTA") desires to advocate and provide safe, multimodal transit services that advance prosperity, connectivity, and equity for a more livable region; and

WHEREAS, Winters Chapel Road, the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard access road, and the North Peachtree-Peachford-Shallowford area has some of the highest population density in the City; and

WHEREAS, the MARTA 103 and 132 bus service provides essential transportation service to many residents daily in those areas; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents and property and business owners of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL THAT:

1. We request that MARTA promptly consider all means necessary to restore the 103 and 132 service to the City.
2. We request MARTA evaluate possible ways to consolidate portions of 103, 104 and 132, if necessary, for a more expeditious restoral of essential service.

So Resolved and Effective this 11th day of January, 2021.

CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA

By:

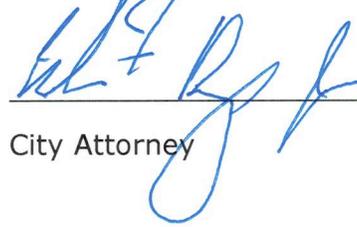


Lynn P, Deutsch, Mayor

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY**

RESOLUTION 2021-01-05

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

(SEAL)