

# MINUTES

## WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

June 11, 2020

11:00 a.m.

#### Board Members Present

Roderick E. Edmond  
William "Bill" Floyd  
Roderick A. Frierson  
Jerry Griffin  
Freda B. Hardage  
Alicia M. Ivey  
Russell McMurry, P.E.\*  
John A. Pond  
Rita A. Scott

#### Staff Members Present

Jeffery A. Parker  
Luz Borrero  
Collie Greenwood  
Melissa Mullinax  
Elizabeth O'Neill  
Debbie Frank  
Kirk Talbott  
Jacob Vallo

Also in attendance Executive Director Paula Nash; Manager MARTA Board of Directors Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Also in attendance, Abebe Girmay, Courtne Middlebrooks and LaTonya Pope.

Others in attendance: Robert Highsmith of Holland & Knight.

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#### Approval of the Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Work Session of the MARTA Board of Directors

On motion by Mr. Pond seconded by Mr. Griffin, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 7 to 0, with 8\* members present.

#### Chair's Report

##### Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, June 25, 2020

- Planning & Capital Programs Committee – 9:30am
- Operations & Safety Committee – (immediately following)
- Business Management Committee (immediately following)

\* Russell R. McMurry, P.E. is Commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT and therefore, is non-voting members of the MARTA Board of Directors

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Thursday, July 9, 2020

- Work Session – 12noon
- Board – 1:30 p.m.

**General Manager/CEO Report**

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**Return to New Normal Task Force**

Mr. Parker provided an update on the next steps as MARTA employees return to work under new normal task force which will be focused on:

- Building Customer Confidence
- Rebuilding ridership
- Safely bringing employees back to the office during the face of a public health crisis

Mr. Parker noted that it is also important to recognize that the events of the last three weeks have caused the entire country to face another crisis. That crisis is systemic racism. He advised the Board that an email was sent last week Authority wide regarding intentions to launch a series of on-going facilitated conversations with MARTA employees and the public. He advised that employee feedback expressed appreciation for the message.

Mr. Parker then discussed the return to new normal components that deal with customer confidence, rebuilding ridership and establishing new work place normal and advised that the effort would be led by Mr. Greenwood and Mrs. Mullinax. Members from Operations, Facilities, Finance, Planning and Customer Experience Departments will assist with developing a clear process for successful return from telework.

Mr. Parker stated that he knows everyone is anxious to return to a new normal, but this could not happen until the Authority has adopted and embraced the usage of facial masks by MARTA patrons and possibly enforcing a requirement for patrons to wear facial masks.

Mr. Parker then discussed mask usage and advised that staff is now considering requiring facial masks for all riders and working on a focused effort around a public campaign to encourage wearing of facial masks.

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Based on analysis, approximately 35% of the Authority's patrons are wearing facial masks. Leadership is seeking to increase that percentage to approximately 80-90%.

He then discussed some measures that were being examined concerning masks such as vending machines to distribute masks, having courtesy masks on hand to provided to patrons, providing hand sanitizer at local MARTA stations and ensuring that there is hand sanitizer available.

Mr. Parker then talked of efforts for employees return such as re-organization of offices, conference room and break rooms to allow for social distancing. Unless the governor extends the Public Health Emergency, there are plans to telework until July 12, 2020. It is expected that it may be extended for employees who are able to be productive under teleworking conditions.

A comprehensive briefing would be provided during the July 9, 2020 Board meeting.

Mr. Frierson expressed appreciation for the Authority leading in a direction of encouraging patrons wearing masks and potentially creating an environment for patrons to purchase masks. This is a great way bring customers back on the MARTA system.

Mrs. Hardage said coming from a healthcare background, the usage of facial masks are encouraged at all times.

### Upcoming Events/Meetings of Significance

Mr. Parker provided an update on upcoming meetings and events.

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

- City of Atlanta Jurisdictional Briefing (Virtual) – 10:30am

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

- Rider's Advisory Council (Virtual) – 6:30pm

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

- MARTA Accessibility Committee (MAC) – 10:00am

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On motion by Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Frierson the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 8 to 0, with 9\* members present to go into Executive Session at 12:40 p.m. to discuss real estate matters.

On motion by Mr. Frierson seconded by Mr. Griffin, the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 8 to 0, with 9\* members present to adjourn the Executive Session at 1:57 p.m.

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**Adjournment**

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The Work Session of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:57 p.m.