



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022**

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

**Board Members Present:** Roberta Abdul-Salaam  
Stacy Blakley  
Jim Durrett  
William Floyd  
Roderick Frierson  
Freda Hardage  
Al Pond  
Kathryn Powers  
Rita Scott  
Reginald Snyder  
Thomas Worthy  
Rod Mullice

**Board Members Absent:** Robert Ashe III  
Russell McMurry  
Christopher Tomlinson

**Staff Members Present:** Jeffrey Parker  
Collie Greenwood  
Melissa Mullinax  
Ralph McKinney  
Raj Srinath  
Luz Borrero  
Rhonda Allen  
Manjeet Ranu  
Peter Andrews

**Also in Attendance:** Justice Leah Ward Sears, Kirk Talbott, George Wright, Jonathan Hunt  
Colleen Kiernan, Paula Nash, Keri Lee, Colleen Kiernan, Donna DeJesus

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS [submittals via telephone, U.S. mail and in person]**

Ed Williams [via email] **[Public Comments attached]**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Approval of the December 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Approval of the December 9, 2021 minutes. On a motion by Board Member Floyd, seconded by Board Member Hardage, the motion passed by a vote of 11 to 0, 1 abstention, with 12 members present.

**3. Other Matters**

**4. Comments from the Board**

**5. Adjournment**

Board meeting adjourned at 1:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Tyrene L. Huff  
Assistant Secretary to the Board

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/v7X0UTLNffY>

**January 13, 2022 Board Meeting Public Comments**  
**Received via (404) 848-6000, [marta.board@itsmarta.com](mailto:marta.board@itsmarta.com), [public@itsmarta.com](mailto:public@itsmarta.com)**

**Summary: 1 customer provided a public comment via email**  
**Sent to [marta.board@itsmarta.com](mailto:marta.board@itsmarta.com) and [public@itsmarta.com](mailto:public@itsmarta.com)**  
**0 – Voice Messages**

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Re: MARTA Denies Citizens the Right to Vote

12:37p.m.

From Dr. Ed Williams

Good Afternoon Directors:

I am chair of the group Concerned Citizens for Effective Government. I am a taxpayer and resident of DeKalb County. I am glad to see MARTA follow the law by having public hearings before it changes bus routes and services and fares.

I want to congratulate the Georgia Bull Dawgs on winning the National Collegiate football championship.

It took 41 years to win, but it shows that hard work and teamwork can achieve victory. Nothing worth fighting for is easy to achieve.

The right to vote is worth fighting for just like as a team.

Dr. King gave his life seeking equality and the right to vote.

The simple fact is that MARTA has violated our right to vote. You should challenge MARTA's unlawful actions. President Biden is seeking to pass a new voting rights Act, and yet right here in our own County, the citizens are being denied the right to vote on whether the MARTA service contract is extended.

The current MARTA contract entered into in 1971 was supposed to end on August 31, 2021, however, MARTA has illegally extended the contract to 2057. There should be another Referendum before the 2021 deadline. MARTA has wrongly used a court case that used revenue bonds to finance a public project. The court ruled that it could extend the project beyond fifty years if the parties agreed to renew the extension.

The MARTA contract has a local sales tax embedded in the contract to fund the rail and bus service. A local sales tax cannot be extended without a referendum of the voters in the local jurisdiction. There has not been a referendum since 1971.

To levy a sales tax in a local jurisdiction requires a referendum. The retail sales tax levy, like the LOST, and SPLOST has to be approved by a voter referendum and after their expiration have to a new referendum to extend or reimpose any obligations

Thank you.

Original email attached

P.O. Box 361626  
Decatur, Georgia 30036  
(678) 304-7736  
13 January 2022

MARTA Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority  
2424 Piedmont Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324  
(404) 848-5000  
[marta.board@itsmarta.com](mailto:marta.board@itsmarta.com)  
[public@itsmarta.com](mailto:public@itsmarta.com)

Re: MARTA Denies Citizens the Right to Vote

From Dr. Ed Williams

**Begin Comment**

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Thank You

End of Comment

Ed Williams. Ed.D. Chair

**[Concerned Citizens For Effective Government](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ccegov/)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ccegov/>

<http://ccegov.blogspot.com>

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Twitter: <http://Twitter.com/@truthcrushtee2>