



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

MARTA HEADQUARTERS

MEETING MINUTES

Board Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present
Roberta Abdul-Salaam	Jeffrey Parker
Stacy Blakley	Collie Greenwood
Jim Durrett	Rhonda Allen
William Floyd	Luz Borrero
Roderick Frierson	Ralph McKinney
Al Pond	Elizabeth O'Neill
Kathryn Powers ¹	Manjeet Ranu
Rita Scott, Chair	Raj Srinath

Also, in attendance: MARTA Board General Counsel Justice Leah Ward Sears of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP; other MARTA staff members: Tyrene Huff, Kevin Hurley, Michael Kreher and Kirk Talbott.

Public Comment [Attached]

Hector Huezo

1. Approval of June 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Rita Scott asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jim Durrett and seconded by Board Member Stacy Blakley. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 8 to 0 with 8 members present.

2. Planning & Capital Programs Committee Report

Committee Chair Al Pond reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 24, 2021 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Procurement of Technical Support Services for Automated Fare Collection (AFC) System 2.0, REI AE48067

- b. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Five Points Station Transformation, AE47796
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Boundary Line Agreement with Plowshares Inc. to clarify ownership of 1,860 square feet from 3326 E Ponce de Leon Avenue (Tax ID 18 009 10 002 & 18 009 10 001) and 926 square feet from 225 Laredo Drive (Tax ID 18 009 10 044), adjacent to the Laredo Garage - Parcel D1203, in the 18th District of Dekalb County, Georgia
- d. Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Service Modifications for August 14,2021

Committee Chair Pond requested approval of the resolutions, which was seconded by Board Member Durrett. The resolutions were approved unanimously by a vote of 8 to 0 with 8 members present.

Committee Chair Pond reported that the Committee received the following briefings:

- e. August 2021 Service Modifications
- f. August 2021 Service Modifications Public Hearings Results

3. Operations & Safety Committee Report

Committee Vice Chair Roberta Abdul-Salaam reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 24, 2021 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Wheel Truing Machines Maintenance and Repair Services
- b. Resolution Authorizing Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Ultra Low Sulphur Clear Diesel Fuel and Unleaded Gasoline with 10% Ethanol, IFB B47088

Committee Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam asked that resolution “b” be removed from the agenda and not considered for a vote due to the fact that the proposed awardee withdrew their bid on June 14, 2021.

Committee Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam requested approval of the resolution, which was seconded by Board Member Durrett. The resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 8 to 0 with 8 members present.

Committee Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam reported the Committee received the following briefing:

- c. Confined Space Program

4. Business Management Committee Report

Committee Chair Roderick Frierson reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 24, 2021 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Award of the Procurement of Leave Management Services, RFP P47301
- b. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Splunk Enterprise Security Subscription Maintenance Support, IFB B48255
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Award of the Procurement of Property and Casualty Insurance Brokerage Services, RFP 48464
- d. Resolution Authorizing a Three-Year Extension for the Airlink Mobility Manager Maintenance and Support, LOA L44248

Committee Chair Frierson requested approval of the resolutions, which was seconded by Board Member Durrett. The resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 8 to 0 with 8 members present.

Committee Chair Frierson reported that the Committee received the following briefings:

- e. Technology Updates
- f. Diversity and Inclusion

5. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals to Establish a Short-Term Borrowing Program to Facilitate Efficient Debt Management in Support of the Capital Improvement Program

Board Chair Scott read the resolution into the record. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Abdul-Salaam and seconded by Board Member Floyd. The resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 8 to 0 with 8 members present.

6. Other Matters

None

7. Comments from the Board

Chair Scott thanked GM Parker for issuing a public acknowledgement of the passing of former MARTA Board Member Clay Long. Chair Scott read the statement into the record:

"MARTA offers its condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of long-time Atlanta attorney and conservationist Clay Long. Mr. Long was an early supporter of public transportation and served as chair of the MARTA Board of Directors from 1982 to 1984, during a time of tremendous transit development in the City. He has said it was during his time on the board that he first began to connect city land use and the preservation of water and air quality. As a public agency that takes seriously its environmental impact on the Atlanta region, MARTA is indebted to Long for his work in this area and his lifelong dedication to conservation."

Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:15 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'.

Tyrene L. Huff
Assistant Secretary to the Board

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/ts-bLrwfVeQ>

July 15, 2021 Board Meeting Public Comments

Received via (404) 848-6000, marta.board@itsmarta.com, public@itsmarta.com

Summary: One customer provided a public comment(s)

1 – E-mail

0 – Voice Messages

1.) Message Date: July 14, 2021

12:49 p.m. (via MARTA.Board@itsmarta.com)

Mr. Hector Huezo

hhuezo@jobstomoveameerica.org

Dear MARTA Directors,

My name is Hector Huezo with Jobs To Move America. We are a national organization that works in coalition with labor, environmental, civil rights and community organizations to ensure that investments in building out our public transit systems result in high quality employment and training opportunities, especially for communities historically left out of the transit manufacturing sector.

I write to you today to raise concerns about New Flyer, one of your major suppliers of buses. Our research, discussions with current and former workers and a University of Alabama A&M report reveal serious concerns about:

- pay disparities between Black and white workers in New Flyer's Anniston, AL facility,
- workers reporting fear of retaliation for raising product safety concerns
- and reported examples of sexual harassment

Please see the attached factsheet and link to the report produced by the [University of Alabama A&M](#).

I would like to ask you to please ask New Flyer about these concerns and encourage them to work with our partners and us in Alabama on a community benefits agreement to address these issues together, and work to make New Flyer a better company.

Thank you,

-Hector Huezo

Mr. Hector Huezo's Attachment:



The Facts About New Flyer of America Inc., North America's Largest Bus Manufacturer

As stewards of public dollars, public officials play a critical role in ensuring that the money used to build our buses is also building communities with good jobs, wages and working conditions. When workers and community members raise concerns about the companies who receive our public dollars, we need transit agencies to encourage corporate accountability in response. For workers at New Flyer, these concerns have been mounting for years:

New Flyer Embroiled In Multiple Lawsuits

- Although New Flyer sued the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Agency (LA Metro) to hide information about how much they paid workers on a 2013 bus contract, JMA went to court and won for that information to be public.
- New Flyer now faces a False Claims Act lawsuit for misrepresenting wages and benefits that were actually paid to employees in 2013 contract.
- Documents show over half of New Flyer workers were hired at less than the \$18.35 per hour committed to in a 2013 contract.
- New Flyer also claimed to have paid most workers \$11.75 an hour in benefits, even to workers who had declined to receive them.

New Flyer & Alabama A&M University (A&M) Report

A [new report](#) was just released by Alabama A&M University about manufacturing in Alabama, which examines the working conditions at factories in the town of Anniston. It looked particularly at a factory owned by New Flyer.

Product Safety and Retaliation Issues

Among Anniston, AL workers surveyed by Alabama A&M

- 43% knew of workplace and product safety problems but feared retaliation, if reported¹
- 57% of Black workers feared blowing the whistle on corporate abuses at work.²
- 12% of workers surveyed reported being injured working at New Flyer, but Black workers surveyed reported being injured twice as much.³
- 52% of workers who filed complaints reported later experiencing retaliation.⁴ Additionally, at New Flyer's Shepherdsville, KY plant, a worker was fired after he complained about unsafe working conditions. The NLRB's General Counsel issued a complaint alleging that New Flyer retaliated against this worker for concerted activity. New Flyer later settled that complaint.⁵

Community and Workers Report Racial Inequity

Among Anniston, AL workers surveyed by Alabama A&M

- *White workers reported earning on average \$6,500 more annually than Black workers, though average wages for all workers is less than what is considered a living wage for the area.*⁶
- 67% of Black workers think racism is a problem at the plant.
- Workers referred to a "good old boy" system for who gets promoted.
- 8% of white workers, but 44% of Black workers surveyed reported that New Flyer changed their schedule weekly.⁷

¹Are Good Jobs Possible in the Deep South, E. Erickson, 2021

² ibid

³ ibid

⁴ ibid

⁵ The NLRB recognized the retaliation when they filed an Unfair Labor Practice complaint against New Flyer.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2021/03/16/louisville-area-manufacturer-faces-unfair-labor-pr.html>

⁶ Are Good Jobs Possible in the Deep South, E. Erickson, 2021

⁷ ibid



Community Led Solutions

We need accountability, transparency and protections to fix the problems at this and other companies. We have long been calling on New Flyer to sign a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with the workers and surrounding community members and organizations.

CBAs are binding commitments, crafted by community organizations, workers, workforce groups and residents to meet community's hiring and training needs.

- They outline how the parties will work towards creating training and apprenticeship programs for targeted populations;
- They level the playing field for workers & communities to be heard;
- They incorporate local expertise and worker wisdom in how hiring and training initiatives are designed.

About Jobs to Move America (JMA)

Jobs to Move America is a national strategic policy center that works to transform public spending and corporate behavior using a comprehensive approach that is rooted in racial and economic justice and community organizing. We seek to advance a fair and prosperous economy with good jobs and healthier communities for all.

About the Alabama Coalition for Community Benefits

The Alabama Coalition for Community Benefits is a coalition of labor, community, civil rights, faith, and environmental justice groups working to hold corporations that do business in the South accountable to workers and communities.

Role of Transit and Public Agencies

Public Agencies can help raise job standards and working conditions by using tools such as the U.S. Employment Plan, asking companies to disclose how they will recruit workers from disadvantaged backgrounds, and asking about investments in training programs or community partnerships.

When transit agencies incorporate job and training standards during procurement, it allows companies to put forth their best ideas for working with community, labor, environmental and workforce groups to maximize the benefits of the contract award.

Successful Community Benefits Agreements

BYD, Lancaster CA

- Resulted in the creation of the country's first Electric Bus Manufacturing Apprenticeship program in partnership with local community college.
- Over 80% of workers employed comprise priority populations outlined in the CBA.
- First apprenticeship class graduated in February 2021 and pre-apprenticeship program for new hires received \$1 million in workforce funding.

Proterra, City of Industry, CA

- Resulted in the creation of a company specific training program in partnership with local community college.
- Recognized by California Workforce Agency as a *High Road Training Partnership* and was awarded \$650 thousand to develop a workforce training program.

CRRC, Chicago, IL (railcars)

- Currently developing a workforce training program for new hires in partnership with Jobs to Move America, Chicago Federation of Labor, local community college and partners.
- Recognized by U.S. Department of Labor for workforce development funds to build out a training partnership.
- Anticipated hiring and training of more 100 workers over the next 12 months.