



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WORK SESSION

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

via WebEx

MEETING MINUTES

Board Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 12:00 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	Melissa Mullinax
Freda Hardage	Elizabeth O'Neill
Russell McMurry ¹	Larry Prescott
Al Pond	Raj Srinath
Rita Scott, Chair	
Reginald Snyder	
Christopher Tomlinson ¹	
W. Thomas Worthy ²	

Also, in attendance: MARTA Board General Counsel Justice Leah Ward Sears of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP; other MARTA staff members: Heather Alhadeff, Marsha Anderson Bomar, LaShanda Dawkins, Tyrene Huff, Michael Kreher, Patricia Lucek, Gena Major, Dean Mallis, Paula Nash, Santiago Osorio, Kirk Talbott, and George Wright.

Report from the Chair

Approval of the March 11, 2021 Work Session Meeting Minutes

Chair Scott called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion to approve was made by Board Member Freda Hardage and seconded by Board Member Rod Frierson. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 9 to 0 with 11 members present.^{1,2}

¹Russell McMurry is Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Christopher Tomlinson is Executive Director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). Per the MARTA Act, both are non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

²Board member W. Thomas Worthy joined the meeting after the vote to approve the minutes.

Report from the General Manager/CEO

2021 Legislative Session (See attached: “2021 Legislative Session): General Manager Jeffrey Parker provided an update on the recently concluded Georgia General Assembly session and legislation impacting MARTA, including:

- HB 511 – Georgia Transit Trust Fund
- Funding for Bankhead Station Expansion (\$6 million)

Bus Service Restoration Plan (See attached: “Bus Service – Full Route Restoration Communications Plan Update”): GM Parker updated the Board on the broad communications outreach effort to notify the public about the resumption of bus services on April 24. This included:

- Media engagement
- Transit advertising
- Printed collateral
- Digital & social media
- Print advertising
- Stakeholder notifications

Additionally, GM Parker clarified the following: Under regular circumstances, when MARTA makes service changes, a Title VI Service Equity Analysis is conducted and submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). However, the FTA did not require public transit agencies to conduct a Title IV analysis when making service changes due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19. In September 2020, MARTA did conduct a Title VI analysis on the Essential Bus Service Plan and found that there was no detrimental impact to service areas. If the service changes had been in effect for a year or more, MARTA would have submitted the Title VI analysis. But because the year threshold was not met, the analysis was not submitted to the FTA.

Budget FY22 Briefing Plan and Process (See attached: “Proposed FY2022 Operating Budget Highlights”): Chief Financial Officer Raj Srinath provided an update on the FY22 budget, including key assumptions used to build the budget and remaining milestone dates before final adoption. The budget will be presented to the public on May 10 and 11. The full Board will be asked to approve the budget on June 10.

Vice-Chair Roberta Abdul-Salaam asked when will MARTA’s jurisdictional partners review the proposed budget? Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax stated this will occur during the second quarter jurisdictional briefings that are scheduled for May – before the Board’s vote in June.

Board Member Al Pond asked for clarification regarding how the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding will be split? Chief Financial Officer Srinath explained that MARTA will receive \$284 million from the ARP, which can be used for qualifying

operational or capital expenditures. MARTA will utilize over 70 percent of the ARP funding for capital purposes and use the remaining for FY22 and FY23 operating budgets.

Board Member Christopher Tomlinson asked about the timing of the jurisdictional updates and public hearings. Chief of Staff Mullinax stated that one jurisdictional meeting will occur before the public hearings and the remaining jurisdictional briefings will occur after the public hearings but before the Board budget vote in June.

Board Member Tomlinson also asked how the federal rescue plan funding will be utilized. Per Chief Financial Officer Srinath:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
 - MARTA received \$288 million
 - Allocated the amount across FY20, FY21, and FY22
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)
 - MARTA received \$33.5 million
 - Applied the entire amount to the capital budget
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act
 - MARTA received \$284 million
 - Over 70 percent will go towards the capital budget
 - The remainder will be applied to portions of FY22 and FY23 budgets

Board Member William Floyd asked about the sales tax revenue forecast. Per Chief Financial Officer Srinath:

- In FY22
 - \$557.8 million collected
 - 3.2 percent increase over FY21
- In FY23
 - Expect \$601 million to be collected
 - 7.8 percent increase over FY22

Board Meetings Virtual to In-Person Transition (See attached: “Eventual Transition: Virtual to In-Person”): Chief of Staff Mullinax discussed what Board Members could expect when in-person meetings resume. As well, she explained that the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 98, which allows cities and authorities to declare their own state of emergency and therefore conduct virtual public meetings. At the time of the April 9 Board meeting, the Governor had not signed the bill into law.

Board room has been outfitted with anti-COVID-19 measures. As well, new audio-visual equipment has been installed in the Board room to allow for live streaming of meetings.

Board Member Floyd inquired as to the definition of a public meeting. Chief of Staff Mullinax stated that both the Open Meetings and MARTA Acts define this. She also stated that the ACCG has created a guide to the Open Meetings Act that will be distributed to Board members.

Chair Scott asked if the Governor has signed HB 112 regarding COVID-19 liability claims. Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill said she would check on the status of the bill.

Board Member Frierson asked about how the public would be accommodated once the Board room is at capacity. Chief of Staff Mullinax stated that there are locations in the Headquarters building where overflow can be accommodated. Also, there will be multiple ways the public will be able to submit their comments.

Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam asked if Board members will be provided hard copies of the FY22 budget prior to the Board briefing on May 5. Chief of Staff Mullinax responded affirmatively.

Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam also asked if all meetings – including Committee meetings – will be live-streamed. Chief of Staff Mullinax stated that they will be.

Chair Scott asked if seniors who are not computer savvy will have a way to submit public comment. Chief of Staff Mullinax stated that a phone number is already available for the public to leave a message with their comments. And staff will be on hand to assist those individuals using iPads to leave a comment when they attend a Board meeting in person.

Other Matters

None.

Adjournment

The Work Session adjourned at 12:51 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/ITJ5bpSmU1U>



2021 Legislative Session

April 8, 2021

2 Significant Wins

- \$6 Million for Bankhead Station Expansion
- HB 511 - Creation of the Georgia Transit Trust Fund

Following on the passage of Constitutional Amendment #1 by Georgia voters in November 2020, fees from the for-hire-ground transportation excise established by HB 105 late in the 2020 Session will be eligible to any transit agency in the state for transit capital projects, subject to appropriation by the Legislature.





Historic Day for Transit Funding in Georgia

MARTA (<https://saportareport.com/author/marta/>) • March 22, 2021 2:06 pm



(<https://saportakinsta.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Bus-near-capitol-scaled.jpg>)

HB 511 Creates State Funding Mechanism for Ongoing Investment in Capital Transit Projects



AJC

Atlanta. News. Now.

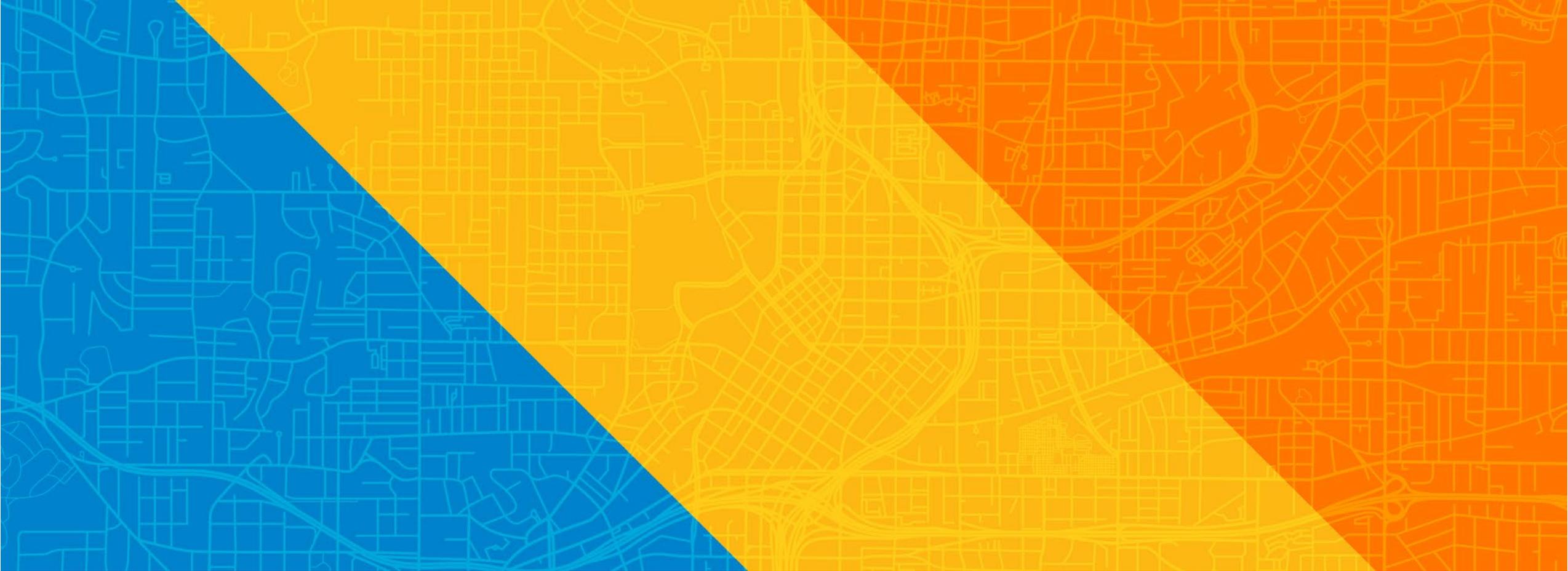
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Georgia budget includes \$6 million to rehab MARTA station

COMMUTING BLOG | April 1, 2021

By David Wickert, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Thank You



Bus Service – Full Route Restoration Communications Plan Update

April 8, 2021

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Overview

Media Engagement

April 2 Press Release

Transit Advertising

Digital Shelters
Bus Operator Announcements
Train and Station Announcements

Printed Collateral

Station A Frames
Ridestore Posters
Customer Flyers
Bus Schedules
Employee Facility Posters
Employee Running Board Flyers
Customer Service Call Tree Message

Digital & Social

itsmarta Feature Banner & Splash Page
MARTAnet
MyCommute Alerts
MARTA On The Go Alerts
Organic Social Media
Paid Digital
MARTA Heroes Video
Soofa Signs
OUTFRONT Live Digital Boards

Print Advertising

Local Newspaper Ads

Outreach

Elected Officials Outreach
Nextdoor and Stakeholder Notifications

Digital Billboards & Flyers



RIDER ALERT

EFFECTIVE SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

All MARTA bus routes will resume service



SAFETY REMAINS OUR TOP PRIORITY:

- Needlepoint bi-polar ionization to provide fresh air every 75-seconds
- Anti-microbial HVAC filters to remove microbes from the air
- Operator shields
- Free masks on board
- Full seated capacity, no standing room
- Extra buses for relief when buses are marked full
- Masks required by federal mandate



For information regarding the latest service updates, visit itsmarta.com or call MARTA's Customer Care Center at 404-848-5000. Be sure to follow @MARTAService for updates and download MARTA's On the Go app for real-time service alerts.

To request information in another language or in an accessible format call 404-848-4037/404-848-5665 - TTY.





ALERTA PARA PASAJEROS

A PARTIR DEL SÁBADO 24 DE ABRIL DE 2021

Todas las rutas de autobuses de MARTA reanudarán su servicio



LA SEGURIDAD SIGUE SIENDO NUESTRA PRINCIPAL PRIORIDAD:

- Ionización bipolar de punta de aguja para proporcionar aire fresco cada 75 segundos
- Filtros antimicrobiales para sistemas de climatización que eliminan los microbios del aire
- Escudo protector para el conductor
- Mascarillas gratuitas a bordo
- Capacidad hasta completar la totalidad de los asientos; sin espacio para viajar parado
- Autobuses adicionales de apoyo cuando los autobuses tengan la señalización de completos
- Uso de mascarilla requerido por orden federal



Para obtener más información sobre las últimas actualizaciones en el servicio, visite itsmarta.com o llame al Centro de Atención al Cliente de MARTA al 404-848-5000. Siga a MARTA en @MARTAService para obtener información actualizada, y descargue la aplicación móvil MARTA On the Go para recibir alertas en tiempo real sobre los servicios.

Para solicitar información en otro idioma o en un formato accesible, llame al 404-848-4037/404-848-5665 - TTY.





Thank You



PROPOSED FY2022 OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



Key Assumptions

Supports MARTA's Strategic Priorities

- Consistently provide excellence in customer service
- Deliver the capital program with speed and efficiency
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility
- Strengthen the MARTA brand

Utilized the March 1, 2021 Sales tax Forecast provided by GSU Economic Forecasting Center. FY22 fare revenues assumed to be \$60.3M (FY21 fare revenues forecasted to be \$44.1M)

Non-Represented employee wage increase of 3% on average assumed. Represented employee raise assumed consistent with the current contract

All CRRSAA Funding (\$33.5M) is applied to Capital Budget

American Rescue Plan funding split \$84M for the Operating Budget and \$200M for the Capital Budget

FY22 Operating Budget will be at or below FY21 Operating Budget

Key Milestones Remaining

Apr 23	FY22 Operating & Capital Budgets are finalized	GM/CEO
May 5	Board Briefing on Status of Operating & Capital Budgets	Special Board Meeting
May 10 - 11	<p>Public Hearings (Virtual): May 10 at 11:00am & May 11 at 6:30pm</p> <p>Operating Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of revenues and proposed expenses • Risks to Operating Budget <p>Capital Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets/investments by category & project type • Funding sources 	Public
May 27	Board Presentation of Resolution to adopt the Proposed FY22 Operating & Capital Budgets	BMC
Jun 10	Board Adoption of FY22 Operating & Capital Budgets	Board



Discussion



Eventual Transition: Virtual to In-Person

April 8, 2021

Current Governing Regulation

Governor Kemp's Public Health State of Emergency extended to April 30, 2021.

Allows MARTA Board meetings and public hearings to be held virtually.

MAY be extended beyond April 30.

If not extended, standard Open Meetings laws apply.



New Legislation – HB 98

21

HB 98/AP

House Bill 98 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Lumsden of the 12th, Blackmon of the 146th, Fleming of the 121st, Oliver of the 82nd, Williamson of the 115th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government,
2 so as to provide conditions for meetings and public hearings to be held by teleconference in
3 emergency conditions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended
8 by revising subsection (g) of Code Section 50-14-1, relating to meetings to be open to public,
9 limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and place, access to
10 minutes, and teleconference, as follows:

11 "(g)(1) As used in this paragraph, emergency conditions shall include declarations of
12 federal, state, or local states of emergency; provided, however, that no such declaration
13 shall be necessary for an agency as defined by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of
14 subsection (a) of this Code section to find that emergency conditions exist thereby
15 necessitating meeting by teleconference.

21

HB 98/AP

16 (2) Under circumstances necessitated by emergency conditions involving public safety
17 or the preservation of property or public services, agencies or committees thereof not
18 otherwise permitted by subsection (f) of this Code section to conduct meetings by
19 teleconference may meet by means of teleconference so long as the notice required by
20 this chapter is provided and means are afforded for the public to have simultaneous
21 access to the teleconference meeting. The participation by teleconference of members
22 of agencies or committees means full participation in the same manner as if such
23 members were physically present. In the event such teleconference meeting is a public
24 hearing, members of the public must be afforded the means to participate fully in the
25 same manner as if such members of the public were physically present.
26 (3) On any other occasion of the meeting of an agency or committee thereof, and so long
27 as a quorum is present in person, a member may participate by teleconference if
28 necessary due to reasons of health or absence from the jurisdiction so long as the other
29 requirements of this chapter are met. Absent emergency conditions or the written opinion
30 of a physician or other health professional that reasons of health prevent a member's
31 physical presence, no member shall participate by teleconference pursuant to this
32 subsection more than twice in one calendar year."

33 **SECTION 2.**

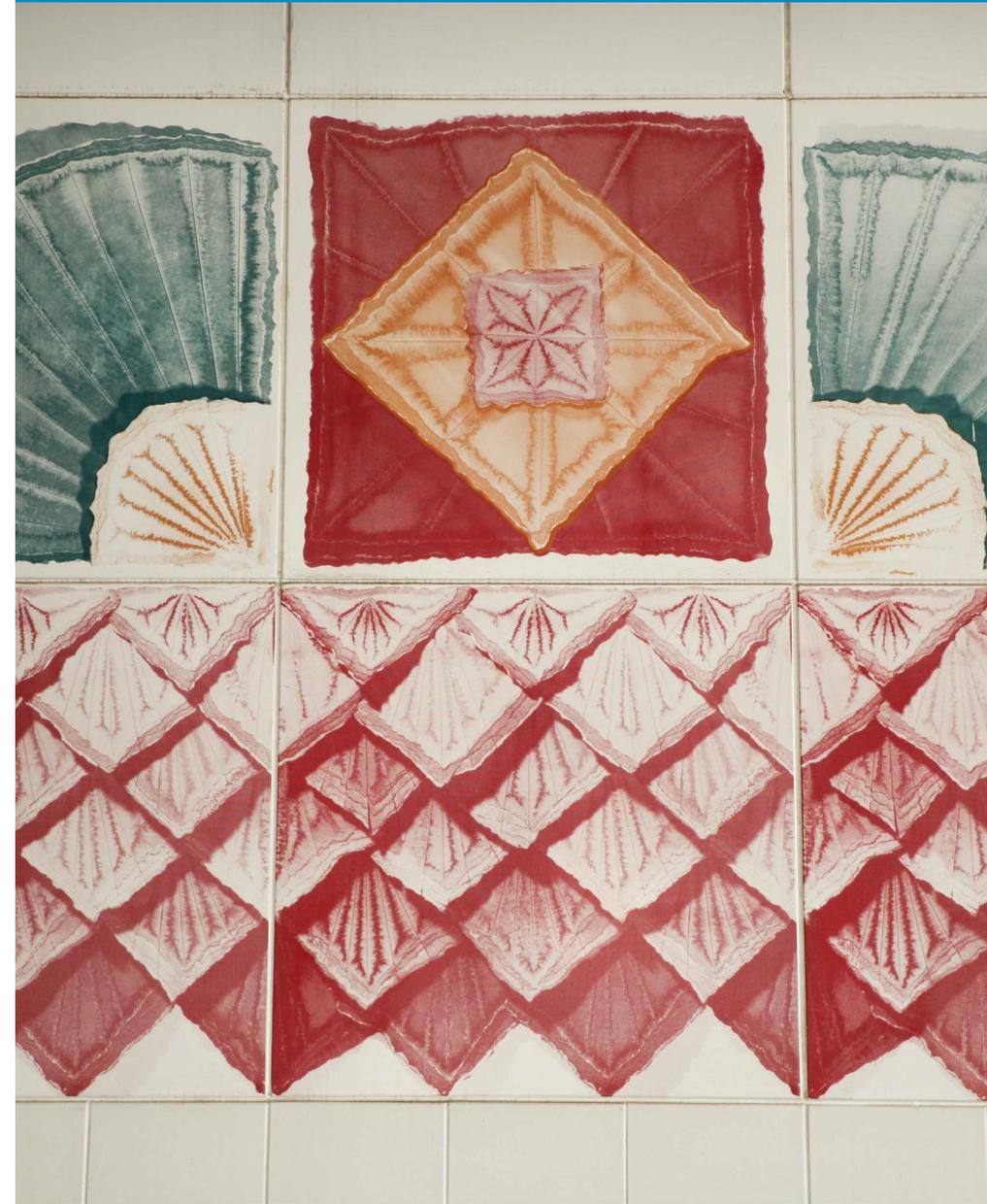
34 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
35 without such approval.

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

May Meetings

- May 5: Board Budget Briefing
- May 10 – 11: Budget Public Hearings
- May 13: Board Meeting
- May 27: Committee Meetings



Upgrades to Board Room

Safety

Acrylic partitions

New microphones

Microban mousepads

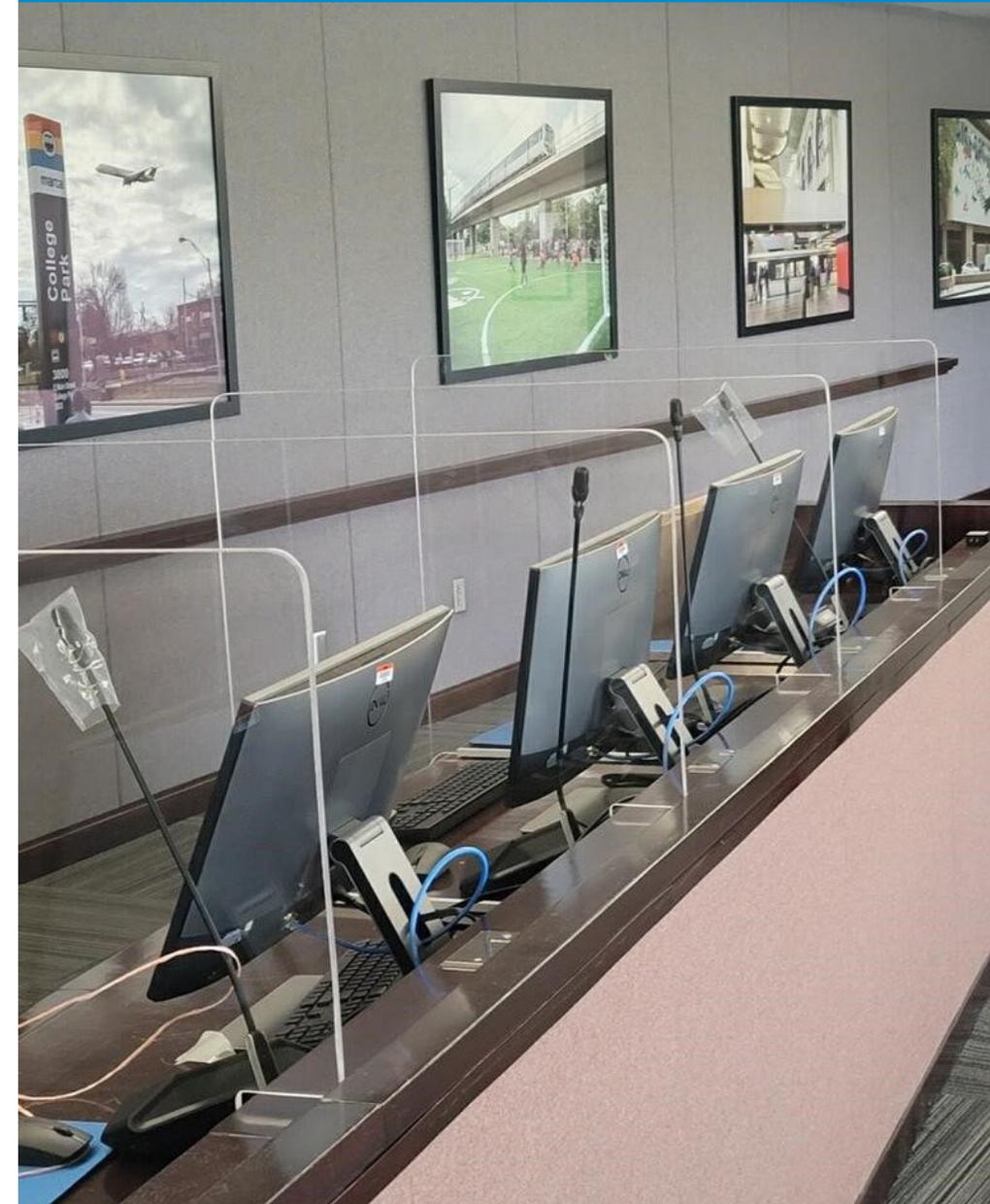
Anti-microbial coverings on all high touch areas – elevators, doors

Overall

New hardware and audio/visual equipment

New board voting software*

New cameras to allow live streaming of in-person meetings on YouTube





Thank You

