



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021**

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**via WebEx**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Committee Chair Robert Ashe called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>Staff Members Present</b>
Roberta Abdul-Salaam	Jeffrey Parker
Robert Ashe III, <b>Chair</b>	Collie Greenwood
Stacy Blakley	Elizabeth O'Neill
Jim Durrett	Rhonda Allen
William Floyd	Luz Borrero
Roderick Frierson	Melissa Mullinax
Freda Hardage	Raj Srinath
Al Pond	Ralph McKinney
Kathryn Powers	
Rita Scott	

Also in attendance: Board General Counsel Justice Leah Ward Sears of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP and other staff members: Michael Kreher, LaShanda Dawkins, David Emory, Kevin Hurley, Larry Prescott, Patricia Lucek, Dean Mallis, Charles Middlebrooks, Paul Nash, Kirk Talbott, Emil Tzanov, Kenya Hammond and Tyrene Huff.

**Approval of the March 18, 2021 External Relations Committee Meeting Minutes**

Committee Chair Ashe called for a motion to approve the March 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Board Member Hardage made a motion to approve, Board Member Abdul-Salaam seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 10 to 0 with 10 members present.

**Briefing – MARTA Rail Car Preliminary Design Review (PDR): Public Engagement Strategy**

Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax presented an overview of MARTA's outreach strategy and public-facing elements of the new rail car redesign.

**Briefing – Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)**

Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Paula Nash, provided the committee with an overview of the Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) which are groups of employees who join together in the workplace based on shared characteristics or life experiences.

**Other Matters**

Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax notified the Committee of United States Secretary of Transportation Peter Buttigieg's system visit on Friday, May 21, 2021.

**Adjournment**

The Committee meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.