

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 8, 2020

A meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors was called to order at 1:58 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020, WebEx, Atlanta, Georgia.

Board Members Present

Roberta Abdul-Salaam
Robert Ashe
Jim Durrett
Roderick Edmond
William Floyd
Roderick Frierson
Jerry Griffin
Freda Hardage **(Chair)**
Alicia Ivey
John Pond
Rita Scott
Christopher Tomlinson*
W. Thomas Worthy

Staff Members Present

Jeffrey Parker
Rhonda Allen
Luz Borrero
Collie Greenwood
Kevin Hurley
Melissa Mullinax
Elizabeth O'Neill
Franklin Rucker
Gena Major
Torrey Kirby
Katherine Dirga
Tyrene Huff
Marie Peters

Others in attendance: Robert Highsmith of Holland & Knight and Chris Pinckney of Townsend & Locket

Public Comment

Ms. O'Neill reported that six public comments had been received.
Comments were received from:

Mr. Antonio Harrison
Mr. Toney Taylor
Mr. Ed Williams
Mr. Ron Shakir
Mr. Adrian Coleman
Ms. Feysan Lodde

Ms. O'Neill advised that the text of these comments would be attached to the minutes (and they are attached to this Minutes).

*Christopher Tomlinson is the Executive Director of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and is therefore, a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors.

Approval of the September 10, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Pond, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13* members present.

External Relations Committee Report

Mr. Ashe reported the External Relations Committee met on September 17, 2020 and received the following briefings:

- a. Briefing – MARTA HOPE Homeless Outreach Pilot Project
- b. Briefing – MARTA Heroes Video

Planning & Capital Programs Committee Report

Dr. Edmond reported the Planning & Capital Programs Committee met on September 30, 2020, and approved the following resolutions:

- 3a. Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021, Bus, Rail and Mobility Service Standards
- 3b. Resolution Authorizing Advertising for Disposition of Property Rights in Parcel D3212; an Abandoned Rail Spur Located on the Northwest Side of New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, DeKalb County, Georgia
- 3c. Resolution Authorizing Execution of a License Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC for a Monopole Located at Arts Center Station P43333

On a motion by Dr. Edmond, seconded by Mr. Durrett, resolutions '3a, 3b and 3c' were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13* members present.

Operations and Safety Committee Report

Mr. Griffin reported the Operations and Safety Committee met on September 30, 2020, and approved the following resolutions:

- 4a. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Mobility Operations and Maintenance Services, RFP P42894
- 4b. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of Mobility Centralized Scheduling and Dispatching Services RFP P46865

- 4c. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Emergency On-Call Repairs and Maintenance Services for MARTA's Light Rail Overhead Contact System and Traction Power Substations, IFB B45064
- 4d. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of Deep Cleaning and Sanitizing Services for MARTA Facilities RFP P47530
- 4e. Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the MARTA Agency Safety Plan

On a motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Durrett, resolutions '4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e' were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13* members present.

The Committee received the following briefing:

- a) Briefing – Security of MARTA Frontline Employees

Business Management Committee Report

Mr. Frierson reported the Business Management Committee met on September 30, 2020, and approved the following resolutions:

- 5a. Resolution Authorizing the Modification in Contractual Authorization for the Professional Services and the Purchase of Software for the Implementation of Enterprise Performance Management Planning and Budgeting System for the Office of Management and Budget, RFP P39893
- 5b. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of Leave of Absence Administration Services, RFP P47301

On a motion by Mr. Frierson, seconded by Ms. Ivey, resolutions '5a and 5b' were unanimously approved by a vote of 12 to 0 with 13* members present.

The Committee received the following briefing:

- a) Briefing – Contracts, Procurement & Materials

Resolution Authorizing the Chair of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Board of Directors to Execute an Amendment to the General Manager/CEO Employment Agreement to Extend the Term of the Agreement and Effectuate Various Changes

Chariwoman Hardage read the resolution but no vote was taken.

Other Matters

None

Comments from the Board

None

Adjournment

The MARTA Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm.

October 8, 2020 Board Meeting Public Comments

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

**Summary: 4 voice messages
2 emails**

1.) Message date: October 7, 2020 04:02 p.m.
Antonio Harrison

Hi, my name is Antonio Harrison. I am an operator at MV for MARTA Mobility. I would like to speak with the Board members about this new change with a new contractor.

2.) Email Date: October 7, 2020 11:56 p.m.
Toney Taylor

My name is Toney Taylor, I ride the Marta train and buses regularly, but for the past four Months I have had to walk from Winters Park Drive and Winters Chapel Road to Buford Hwy to board the bus route #124 to go to work as well as grocery stores and doctor appointments. Many times I have to catch taxis due to the #104 bus service being suspended. My neighbors are doing the same thing due to the suspension of bus route #104. It would be very beneficial to myself, my neighbors and others who need to ride bus #104. I am a military veteran, 64 years old with two dependents.

3.) Message date: October 8, 2020 10:38 a.m.
Ed Williams

MARTA has failed to take people where they want to go in the **last 5 months** and it not doing it today. MARTA has failed in its purpose of providing an essential transportation service to its service areas. MARTA is part of the ATL LINK transit authority but its actions have broken the link regarding essential transit services. All the elected leaders and stakeholders should demand that MARTA comply with the MARTA Act and its contract obligations and hold public hearings and re-establish all the bus routes that were terminated.

The CEO Jeffrey Parker contract should not be extended and he should be relieved of his job for violating the law and failing to provide essential services to thousands of seniors and other riders who have no other way to go to the grocery store, go to the doctor, work, or get around in general.

Many riders need MARTA to get to their jobs to earn a living and are at risk of losing their jobs. Yet, the board is being asked to vote to extend the contract for the CEO of MARTA. The CEO should lose his job. Since most of the board members do not ride MARTA and it is the riders and the taxpayers who provide for MARTA existence and fund it. You should ask the riders what they think before you made a decision to extend the CEO's contract. There is a serious disconnect between governance and customer service. This model needs to change.

4.) Message date: October 8, 2020
Ron Shakir

11:25 a.m.

I'd like to understand Public Comment process please, if you can share that with me, and probably pick up where my concerns are. And that is that the public have a right to participate and have something to offer in this democracy, and it has shown itself to do pretty well, compared to other forms of government. But we can learn from all forms of government. My concern today is to MARTA open its routes and open its bathrooms. We don't need automated machines to do what's automatic, biological needs, and it's a health crisis of a pandemic that would make us realize this. It's not the coldness of the machines. The machine has its benefits, but now we need to maintain the fact that we need to use what we have invested in. We have invested in bathrooms. And I would like to ask the MARTA Board to look at where you have bathrooms at and, maybe, it was a mistake, but you can see, maybe, what people speak of systemic racism of where the bathrooms are opened, and where they are closed – the sensitivity. There's a lot of things to talk about. We can do that if we had an opportunity to open the door. Let's take that opportunity, let's engage better that we may not be making terrible, historical mistakes, again, over and over.

5.) Message date: October 8, 2020
Adrian Coleman

12:20 p.m.

To the MARTA Board of Directors, I'm calling today for a couple issues. First, I'm calling with concerns regarding the continued suspension of bus routes. Over 50% of the buses are not operational and that has tremendous impact on our communities, our ability to be able to go to work, it has disadvantages for seniors and for people with disabilities because we have to walk an extended distance to be able to get rides. It doesn't make sense that you've resumed full fare, when over 50% of the system isn't operational for bus services. If that's the case, then I think you should consider reducing the fare from full fare down to 50% or less when the system isn't at full capacity or at full operational bandwidth. My second concern is about restroom availability. To me, this is a public accommodations issue. The fact that at majority of train stations in the City of Atlanta, particularly on Atlanta's South, East, and West end rail lines that restrooms are closed, and we don't have access to that. To me, that's a public accommodations issue, it's about equal access. I think that for citizens, mothers with children, for people that have diabetes or hypertension, or on medication, it's just public dignity. It's about having some place to be able to access, and I think it's only fair, I mean, if you look at, which I did- I looked at the map of restroom availability and there's more of that restroom availability on the Northbound rail lines, which, that picture says a lot. So, I would like for you to focus on that. One last question, I called to MARTA to try to find out how to submit an Open Records Request. You couldn't find that information on the website and the Customer Service People could not answer my question. I hope that you will be more transparent on your website, to tell people how they can submit Open Records Request to NARTA. Again, thank you for taking my comments today.

6.) Message date: October 8, 2020

Call: 12:50 p.m.

Email: 12:40 p.m.

Feysan Lodde

Madam Board Chair and Board Members,

I am Feysan Lodde, founder and owner of MV Transportation. I am submitting this public comment in regards to the MARTA staff recommendation to award the Mobility paratransit contract to a different provider.

My operations team and I are very concerned about this proposed change for several reasons, the first being that our pricing is being misrepresented to this board and as a result, your staff is asserting that there is an \$11 million price difference between MV and First Transit. We would like an opportunity to fully explain to you our pricing and show you exactly why the \$11 million is inaccurate accounting by the MARTA staff.

I would also like to let the record reflect that when MV first took over this contract, Mobility's on-time performance was 70%. MV has successfully increased it to 95% on time and complaints have plummeted. Also, our DBE participation has exceeded the contracted requirement month to month for the past 2 years. We hope these successes, coupled with the misrepresentation of our pricing, would be taken into consideration before you award this contract to a different provider and ultimately throw the service back into disarray.

Thank you for your consideration and MV looks forward to continuing our successful partnership with MARTA.