

## MINUTES

### WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

August 13, 2020

12:00 p.m.

#### **Board Members Present**

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

#### **Staff Members Present**

Jeffrey Parker  
Luz Borrero  
Collie Greenwood  
Kevin Hurley  
Melissa Mullinax  
Elizabeth O'Neill  
Franklin Rucker  
David Springstead  
Heather Alhadeff  
Gena Major  
Tyrene Huff  
Marie Peters

Also, in attendance: Robert Highsmith, Jonathan Ravenelle and Koko Lewis of Holland & Knight.

#### **Approval of July 9, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Durrett, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0 with 11\*\* members present.

#### **Chair's Report**

##### Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, August 27, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.

- Planning & Capital Program Committee
- Operations & Safety Committee (immediately following)
- Business Management Committee (immediately following)

Diversity Training, Friday, August 28, 2020, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

\* Board members Robert Ashe and W. Thomas Worthy joined the meeting after the vote for the approval of the minutes.

\*\* Russell McMurry is the Commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT); Christopher Tomlinson is the Executive Director of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and are, therefore, non-voting members of the MARTA Board of Directors.

Rider's Advisory Council - September 2, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

## **General Manager/CEO's Report**

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### Department of Safety and Quality Assurance obtainment of ISO 9001- 2015 Certification for its Quality Management System (QMS)

- Mr. Parker noted that MARTA received ISO certification for the Authority's Quality Management System (QMS). He acknowledged the team for their efforts and hard work.
- MARTA is the only transit system that holds three (3) ISO certifications.

### FTA Grants

- MARTA is the recipient of two FTA discretionary grants:
  - 13M to support procurement and construction of the Clayton County Maintenance Facility
  - 881K to support MARTA's Cyber Security Program

Sandy Springs and Clayton County received the Georgia Smart Communities Challenge award. Both initiatives will allow investments in pedestrian sidewalks, ramps and making the environment around our transit systems safer. MARTA is a partner on these projects.

Mr. Parker recognized MARTA Bus driver Natasha Taylor's participation in the Democratic National Convention.

### Mr. Cain Williamson of the Atlanta-Region Transit Link (ATL) gave a presentation on Scenarios for Eligible Projects

- Project eligibility requirements:
  - Included in the ATL adopted ARTP
  - Performed well in the performance framework
  - Must spend bond funds within five years
- Project Performance Framework consists of five specific areas to analyze projects:
  - Finding assumption
  - Regional significance
  - Four-quadrant analysis
  - Six governing principles alignment
  - Project readiness
- A list of recommended projects was highlighted. Four projects are identified as MARTA projects.
  - Track Renovation Phase IV
  - Station Rehabilitation
  - Capitol Ave/Summerhill BRT
  - Clayton County Transit Initiative BRT

- Proposal of three (3) bond scenarios development:
  - Scenario A – Projects based on geographic equity
  - Scenario B – Projects based higher impact/lower cost
  - Scenario C – Projects based on the state of good repair

Ms. Heather Alhadeff presented a briefing on the Summerhill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- Background of the BRT project from the initial stage to the current phase
  - A timeline of executed milestones from November 2016 to July 2020
- Area history showed BRT project reconnect neighborhoods
  - The BRT will reconnect Summerhill and Peoplestown back to the core of the city
- The BRT will impact growth & development by providing increased square footage near Five Points, Dome and Vine City Stations
- Station Areas in Peoplestown:
  - Southern terminus – Ridge Avenue
  - Haygood Ave – local stop
  - Ormond Street – Connection with other bus routes
- Station Areas in Summerhill
  - Georgia Ave – Stadium and commercial access
  - Fulton Street – New development access point
- Station Areas Downtown:
  - Georgia State – East/West rail connection
  - Capital – Local stop
  - Five Points – North/South Rail Connections
  - Ted Turner Drive
  - Mitchell Street at Forsyth Street
  - City Hall
  - Memorial Drive
- Project routes will connect Beltline to North/South and East/West rail line
- Upcoming milestones include:
  - A public meeting (August/September 2020)
  - Anticipated FTA Approval of Funds Obligation (October 2020)
  - MARTA to Procure Design Consultant (October 2020)
  - Construction begins (September 2022)
  - Summerhill BRT Opens to Public (2024)

Mr. Kevin Hurley, Interim CFO, presented a briefing on MARTA's Finance Plan

- Bond validation
  - Additional bond validation is required to incorporate into the City of Atlanta half-penny to the bondholder pledge
  - The addition of bond validation will improve MARTA's standing with credit rating agencies
  - This bond validation will support future MARTA City of Atlanta capital projects

- Potential bond refunding
  - MARTA staff continues to monitor existing debt portfolio for refunding bond prospects
  - Team working towards presenting pricing and execution at September 10 Board Meeting
- Capital program liquidity
  - As a result of the current health climate, MARTA is closely monitoring potential capital cash flow difficulties
  - COVID-19 and other crisis may negatively influence MARTA's capability to access capital markets

### **Other Matters**

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None

On a motion by Mr. Ashe, seconded by Mr. Worthy, the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13\*\* members present to go into Executive Session at 1:35 p.m. to discuss litigation matters.

On a motion by Mr. Durrett, seconded by Ms. Abdul-Salaam, the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13\*\* members present to adjourn the Executive Session at 2:17 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.