

MINUTES

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

DECEMBER 10, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Roberta Abdul-Salaam
Robert Ashe
Jim Durrett
Roderick Edmond
William Floyd
Roderick Frierson
Ryan Glover*
Jerry Griffin
Freda Hardage (**Chair**)
Alicia Ivey
Russell McMurry**
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
David Springstead
Michael Kreher
Jonathan Hunt
LaShanda Dawkins
Heather Alhadeff

Other staff members in attendance: Steven McClure, Jacqueline Holland, Paula Nash, Sean Thomas, Erica Pines, Jacob Vallo, Debbie Frank, Tyrene Huff, and Marie Peters.

Approval of November 12, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Durrett, seconded by Ms. Abdul-Salaam, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0 with 11 members present.

Chair's Report

Upcoming Meetings

- Chairwoman Hardage asked Board members to pencil into their calendars the 2021 Board and Standing Committee meetings upon the Board approval

* Board members Ryan Glover, Russell McMurry, Christopher Tomlinson and W. Thomas Worthy joined the meeting after the vote for the approval of the minutes.

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

General Manager/CEO's Report

Year End Review

Mr. Parker, General Manager/CEO, provided the Board with a recap of MARTA's 2020 achievements, employee promotions, project highlights, transit trends and some of the challenges the Authority faced in the wake of the pandemic.

- Achievements
 - The passage of the 15th Amendment it was unanimously approved by all jurisdiction and a significant effort from the Board, staff and other jurisdictional partners
 - The 15th Amendment helped to reset MARTA's relationship with the jurisdictions
 - As part of the 15th Amendment, the Authority made impactful commitments to make some improvements to the system
 - With the current health climate, MARTA continues to follow through on its commitment to improving the system
 - Building bus shelters
 - Implementing a comprehensive station rehabilitation program
 - Opening of the Inman park pedestrian bridge over this past summer
 - Continue to design the more MARTA program
 - Summerhill BRT
 - Continue to work with GDOT to develop bus and express lanes along GA400
 - To deliver transit center in DeKalb county by Stonecrest
 - Opened the first transit center in Clayton County
 - Deliver the Capital program with speed and efficiency
 - Strengthening the MARTA brand
 - Continue to demonstrate fiscal responsibility
- Employee Promotion
 - Establish the first customer experience officer Rhonda Allen to have a renewed relationship with our customer through the riders advisory Council
- Project Highlights
 - Continue to make the MARTA stations a community hub
 - Made major accomplishment throughout TOD
 - Commitment to supporting the development of affordable housing
 - Improving public outreach
 - Implemented Centralize Program Management Office
 - MARTA 2040 initiatives
 - GDOT approved MARTA's safety plan
 - Addressing systemic racism through open conversations

- Trends around transit agencies
 - Ridership – the Authority is approximately fifty-five percent of our riders pre-COVID
 - In comparison to the twenty (20) largest transit system in the United States (US), during the pandemic as impacted MARTA, the Authority
 - Several transit agencies are planning to cut services and layoff thousands of employees
 - APTA four (4) key priorities
 - Provide thirty-two billion dollars (\$32) of COVID relief to transit agencies to aid them to cope with the impact of the pandemic
 - Use the FTA emergency relief authority to help communities recover from the pandemic
 - Enact a long-term surface transportation Act that addresses three top priority
 - Revise some policies of the current Administration

Return to New Normal Plan

Mr. Greenwood provided the Board with an update on the various measures the Authority has implemented and continues to execute in anticipation of MARTA staff returning to the office.

- Current Conditions
 - COVID cases in the state of Georgia has not seen much improvement
 - One MARTA employee died from COVID
 - Bus ridership is down by fifty-nine percent (59%)
 - Rail ridership is down by sixty-seven percent (67%)
 - Ninety-nine percent (99%) of riders on bus wear a facial mask while ninety percent (90%) of riders on rail wear a facial mask
- Body of Works – scope of the report
 - Summarizes sixty-five things that MARTA is doing in anticipation for staff return
 - Four condition must be met before return to full occupancy to the office
 - Customers focus strategies
 - Disinfection high traffic areas and surfaces
 - Reopening transit restrooms (increase cleaning)
 - Face mask distribution
 - Employees focus strategies
 - Crisis response, stabilization, readiness and resilience
 - Handbook format
 - Central resource for Employees
 - Provide employees with information on:

- Return to work
- COVID testing locations
- Payroll
- What's Next
 - Audit-driven assurances
 - Fight COVID fatigue
 - Continuous improvement

Other Matters

On a motion by Mr. Durrett, seconded by Mr. Pond, the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 13 to 0 with 15** members present to go into Executive Session at 12:43 p.m. to discuss litigation.

Adjournment

The Work Session of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



Tyrene L. Huff
Assistant Secretary to the Board