

MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

July 9, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Staff Members Present

Jeffrey Parker
Rhonda Allen
Luz Borrero
Collie Greenwood
Kevin Hurley
Melissa Mullinax
Elizabeth O'Neill
Frank Rucker
David Springstead
Jacob Vallo
Debbie Frank
Jonathan Hunt
Tyrene Huff
Tonya Gantt

Approval of June 11, 2020, Work Session Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Durrett, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0 with 11* members present.

Chair's Report

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, July 17, 2020

- Audit Committee - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

- External Relations Committee

Thursday, July 30, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.

- Planning & Capital Program Committee

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

- Operations & Safety Committee (immediately following)
- Business Management Committee (immediately following)

General Manager/CEO's Report

COVID/Return to New Normal Update

Mr. Parker noted that MARTA assembled a task force in May, centered on building business continuity and operation readiness. They will concentrate on employees in response to COVID-19. His expectations from the task force are to develop sustainable recommendations to implement moving forward as MARTA works toward staff returning to the office.

Mr. Parker mentioned that the increase in COVID-19 cases in Georgia will have a direct impact on MARTA's capability to develop a clear path to return to normal.

Furthermore, he cited that in June, the number of MARTA employees with COVID-19 was comparatively low; however, there was an influx of cases in June. To identify early symptoms, MARTA relied on an intake supervisor form that employees completed and shared with his/her direct report.

Amid the current health climate, Mr. Parker noted that MARTA continues to exercise telework schedules, in addition to circulating situational updates with Board Members, staff and the public regularly.

To minimize the spread of COVID-19, Mr. Parker highlighted ways in which MARTA continues to follow guidelines from CDC by ensuring that frontline workers have wipes, face masks and hand sanitizers. In addition, guidelines include requesting staff, visitors and contractors to wear a mask while on MARTA's properties. Similarly, Mr. Parker mentioned that employees had been encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 by visiting testing locations.

The task force is not only constructing a report, but also pinpointing action items that MARTA will execute to facilitate staff return, for instance, air filtration system, office workstation reconfiguration and temperature checks.

MARTA has seen a decline in bus ridership, however, for specific routes there has been a 12 percent increase. To keep customers safe, Mr. Parker explained that MARTA adopted social distance initiatives, for instance, customers using rear door entrance only.

MARTA is taking new measures that includes working on re-opening restrooms, providing hand sanitizers at Breeze card kiosks in every rail station, vehicle HVAC filters, and distribution of masks.

Gwinnett County Update

Mr. Parker noted that after the failed 2019 referendum, Gwinnett Transit Commission Office conducted an assessment. The purpose of that assessment allowed Gwinnett to review their transit plan to consider alternative options.

Mr. Parker discussed the four options Gwinnett Transit Commission 2020 is considering. The options include:

1. MARTA with heavy rail
2. MARTA without heavy rail
3. HB930/ATL
4. HB930/ATL without heavy rail

Mr. Parker provided the approximate cost for the Gwinnett Transit Commission 2020 Transit plan. He noted that the capital cost is approximately \$4.20B, whereas operational cost is \$2.76B.

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On a motion by Ms. Ivey, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 10 to 0 with 11* members present to go into Executive Session at 1:04 p.m. to discuss real estate and litigation matters.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.