

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**March 12, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority held a meeting on March 12, 2020 at 1:35 p.m. in the Board Room on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Board Members Present**

Roberta Abdul-Salaam  
Robert L. Ashe III  
Jim Durrett  
Roderick E. Edmond  
William "Bill" Floyd  
Roderick A. Frierson  
Freda B. Hardage  
Russell McMurry, P.E.\*  
John "Al" Pond  
Rita A. Scott  
W. Thomas Worthy

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/CEO Jeffrey A. Parker; C-Suite Team Members – Chief Customer Experience Officer Rhonda Allen, Chief Administrative Officer Luz Borrero, Chief System Safety, Security & Emergency Management/Police Wanda Dunham, Chief of Bus Operations Collie Greenwood, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hurley (Interim), Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax, Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill, Chief Capital Programs, Expansion and Innovation Franklin Rucker, Chief of Rail Operations David Springstead; AGMs Virgil Fludd and Gina Major; Executive Director Paula Nash; Manager Executive Office Administration Tyrene Huff; Sr. Executive Administrator Board of Directors Tonya Gantt; Sr. Executive Administrator Keri Lee. Others in attendance Ed Bishop, Adrian Carter, Abebe Girmay, Courtne Middlebrooks, James Moss, Terry Ponder and LaTonya Pope.

Also in attendance were Robert Highsmith of Holland & Knight; Alan Babilinski of NPU-T; Michael Brown of CIGNA; Amanda Chatman; Adam Halpin of Arcadis; Susan Johnson of T.Y. Lin; Safiya Khalid; B.J. Martin of Pond; Keith Parker of Clayton County Citizen Advisory Group; Jim Schmidt of HNTB; Reggie White of CIGNA.

\* Russell R. McMurry, P.E. is Commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and therefore, is a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors

### **Public Comment**

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Ms. Khalid stated she was at DeKalb County last night at a live training on the Coronavirus. She asked everyone to visit the website to learn more: [www.dekalbcountyga.gov](http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov). She further noted that she had not heard anything about training for paratransit at Brady. She asked that MARTA do more work with paratransit. We are the most vulnerable population. Ms. Khalid asked that someone speak to a MARTA paratransit driver regarding his retaliatory actions towards her.

### **Minutes of the February 13, 2020 Meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors**

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On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Dr. Edmond, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present.

### **External Relations Committee Report**

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Mr. Ashe reported the External Relations Committee met on February 20, 2020 and approved the following resolution

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Station Naming Policy

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Dr. Edmond, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present. A copy of the resolution, **AS APPROVED, IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

The Committee received the following briefing:

- a) 2020 Legislative Update

### **Planning & Capital Programs Committee Report**

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Dr. Edmond reported the Planning & Capital Programs Committee met on February 27, 2020 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Service Modifications for April 11, 2020 on Routes 8, 79, 82, 114, 124, 126, 192 and 295

- b. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Sale of 0 Oak Valley Road, Parcel D3050, a 2,830 sf Parcel at the NW Corner of Oak Valley & East Paces Ferry, District 17, Land Lot 9, Fulton County, Atlanta, Georgia
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of MARTA Parcel C5013A, a Permanent Utility Easement to the City of Atlanta for Installation and Maintenance of a Sewer Line Located South of Bankhead Station in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
- d. Resolution Authorizing the Commitment of Local Funding Related to Certain Atlanta Regional Commission TIP Project Grant Applications

On motion by Dr. Edmond seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present. A copy of the resolutions, **AS APPROVED, ARE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

The Committee received the following briefings:

- a) City of Atlanta Strategic Transportation Plan
- b) Results of Public Hearing on Service Modifications for April 2020
- c) Surveying Consulting Services

#### **Operations & Safety Committee Report**

Mr. Pond reported the Operations & Safety Committee met on February 27, 2020 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Authority-Wide Microsoft 365 (M365) E5 Licenses Utilizing the State of Georgia Contract, RFP P446117
- b. Resolution Authorizing Additional Funds for Mobility Operations and Maintenance Services, P34324

On motion by Mr. Pond seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present. A copy of the resolutions, **AS APPROVED, ARE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

The Committee received the following briefing:

- a) State Safety Oversight Program

**Business Management Committee Report**

Mr. Frierson reported that the Business Management Committee met on February 27, 2020 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing a Modification in Contractual Authorization for the Authority-Wide Wireless Communication Devices and Services, P43091
- b. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Bond Counsel Services, RFP P43586-A

On motion by Mr. Frierson seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolutions were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0 with 11\* members present. **A COPY OF THE RESOLUTIONS, AS APPROVED, ARE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD COPY OF THESE MINUTES.**

The Committee received the following briefings:

- a) Technology Updates
- b) Bond Series 2020A
- c) FY 20 December Financial Highlights and Financial Key Performance Indicators

**Resolution Authorizing Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Group Health, Wellness, Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Coverages Request for Proposals Number P43938**

Mr. Worthy expressed appreciation to Mr. Parker, Ms. Borrero and Mrs. Mullinax for their deep dive into this contract. He stated he had concerns about the ranking and that he would be a 'no' vote because he still does not know what the financial benefits are to the Authority. This may not be the time to make such a giant change. He further noted management did everything he asked to address his concerns, but this procurement is different than anything else as it addresses the safety, health and welfare of MARTA employees, which is one of the most important missions the Board have as fiduciaries. Changing payors without a substantial benefit to the Authority is troubling. He thanked staff for the work they did in bringing in a third party.

On motion by Mr. Floyd seconded by Mr. Durrett, the resolution failed by a vote of 7 to 2 with 11\* members present.

Mr. Ashe and Mr. Worthy voted no.  
Ms. Abdul-Salaam abstained.

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Ms. Abdul-Salaam related an incident where a young woman would have been taken into human trafficking were it not for the work of Mr. Greenwood, Chief Dunham, Sgt. Filbert, Sgt. Moore, Officer Little and Officer Kirby. The young woman is safely home because MARTA knew what to do. MARTA impacts real lives.

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### **Dupree vs. MARTA**

Ms. O'Neill requested approval of settlement in the case of Wendy Dupree vs. MARTA, Civil Action File #2019CB316369 in the amount of \$250K.

On motion by Dr. Edmond seconded by Ms. Abdul-Salaam, the settlement was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present.

### **Other Matters**

Mr. Parker called the Board's attention to several handouts:

- Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms' *One Atlanta Strategic Transportation Plan – a blueprint for a safer, more equitable and more sustainable transportation network*
- An AJC article: Coronavirus guide to public transit: Ride along with a microbiologist

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### **Adjournment**

The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:59 p.m.