



## Minutes

### NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 24, 2009

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- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was held in the MTA Board Room, 130 Nestor Street, on September 24, 2009. Present were: Gail Williams, Chair; Thomas F. O'Connell, Vice-Chair; Marian Ott, member; Jeffrey Yarbrow, member; Secretary Harlan Dodson and CEO Paul J. Ballard. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 1:39 p.m.
- II. The meeting was opened by Chair Gail Carr Williams.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009 Board of Directors meeting. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted.
- IV. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- V. **Transportation Committee Report:** Chair Thomas F. O'Connell reported that across the board there were declines in ridership in the year to year including a small drop in AccessRide ridership which he thought might actually indicate some stabilization in AccessRide ridership trends. There were five preventable accidents but no injuries and that is the only area that was below goal in terms of operations. Once again, there were no AccessRide denials this reporting period. The passenger survey on Route 15, Murfreesboro Road had a surprisingly low Hispanic ridership which might be attributable to the time of day that the survey was conducted and the direction of the route.
- VI. **Planning and Marketing Report:** Member Thomas F. O'Connell reported the following:
  - BRT first phase was expected to roll out on September 27<sup>th</sup> and the next phase with traffic signal extenders and etc. would be coming up in the spring; therefore, nothing ceremonial is being planned at this time for the BRT.
  - Additional BRT route information and signage marking the route has been put in place. All except for two of the buses on the BRT route are the new hybrid buses
  - RTA had a third anniversary customer appreciation celebration last week at Riverfront Station. Daily ridership has actually increased 36.5% since MTA took over management of that service in December of last year.

- The extension of the Charlotte Route which was done with the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds is actually increasing ridership Mr. O’Connell feels could be related to the extended accessibility to retail on that route.
- The Edmondson –Harding Place Connector as well as the Madison Bus Link service are doing quite well.
- Graphs presented showed the trends in ridership for BusLink and the numbers from August looked very favorable.

**VII. Finance Report:** Chair Marian Ott reported on the following item:

- a. **Hybrid Articulated Bus Purchase (A-09-020):** The recommendation from the committee is that the Board approve the purchase of eleven (11) 60 foot hybrid articulated buses under the NABI Corporation contract for \$892,983 per bus for a total cost of \$9.82 million. The funding will come from the grant dollars awarded through FY 2010 Metro Capital grant funding. These will supply the full fleet needed for the bus rapid transit (BRT) service on Gallatin road. Motion was made and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**VIII. Chair’s Report:** Chair Williams expressed her thanks for the invitation to attend the Family Fun Day and Roadeo. She attended the Downtown Partnership luncheon where MTA was presented an award for Music City Central. This concluded the report.

**IX. Chief Executive Officer’s Report:** Paul Ballard welcomed Heidi Weigel from Metro Finance. He reported that RTA ran the first Titans’ train this weekend and that it went well. Ridership was light with 138 tickets. It was noted that this was consistent with the game attendance which was off most likely due to the threatening weather that day.

Mr. Ballard also noted that they had gone through a selection process to select a service provider for the RTA for its service to the outlying counties. RTA is planning to establish service to Williamson County down to the Franklin area by the end of the year and then work on service after the first of the year to Robertson County.

Mr. Ballard closed with a few notes for calendar purposes: The MTA Board Retreat is next Wednesday at Scarritt-Bennett and Reverend Barnes’s rescheduled luncheon is on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. This Sunday the BRT begins operating on a schedule on Gallatin Road. This concluded the report.

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.