



Minutes

NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 25, 2010

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was held in the MTA Board Room, 130 Nestor Street, on March 25, 2010. Present were: Gail Williams, Chair; Thomas F. O'Connell, Vice-Chair; Lewis Lavine, member; Marian Ott, member; Jeffrey Yarbrow, member; Secretary Margaret Behm and CEO Paul J. Ballard. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 1:35 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 January 28, 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:** Committee Chair O'Connell reported that there were eight snow days in February and ridership was down. There was a sharp drop (17%) in AccessRide overflow which resulted in a savings for the month. There were also no ADA denials. It was suggested that staff should look at the AccessRide goes of 1,000 per complaint and review that goal since the reports show MTA consistently above that goal. It was noted that these goals are reviewed annually in July and will be adjusted then. Lora Baulsir requested permission to move the Passengers Carried per Complaint report to her Quality Control report since the two are tied together. The committee concurred and this will begin in the April reports. Mr. O'Connell noted that the Passenger Survey was conducted with the Dickerson route which has the highest passenger per hour count. Concerning the consistent remarks regarding cleanliness on the Passenger Survey reports, trash bags have been installed on the buses to make them easy and accessible to passengers with hopes there will be some improvement in that area. There is a possibility that another custodial staff member could be assigned to MCC to step onto the buses there to lend some assistance during certain times of the day.
- VI. **Planning and Marketing Report:** Member Thomas O'Connell reported that the marketing department had done an excellent job with the Music City Circuit event and he felt it was a model for all services. He was pleased to see materials already in place in the interiors of the buses ready for the groundbreaking of Music City Circuit. In reference to planning, he noted that the four school snow days in February had had a significant impact on ridership. He also noted that the Madison Bus Link was doing so well it could become a fixed route.

VII. Finance Report: Chair Marian Ott reported that the snow days experienced in February had an impact on the February reforecast. In looking at the current year budget, which is experiencing Federal Funding delays, the possibility of temporarily borrowing from the funds that are now available from the sale of the Nance Landport, rather than to borrow from Metro with interest, was discussed. The Board members proposed checking with the auditors and with Margaret Behm (legal counsel to the Board) to see if this can be done. Since this action needs to take place before the next Board meeting, Ms. Behm recommended that the Board approve this action now subject to FTA and legal approval. Therefore, a formal recommendation was made and follows herewith.

a. Utilization of Cash Funds on Hand for Current Operational Budget (A-10-003): The Board presented a motion that the cash on hand from the sale of the Nance Landport be utilized on a temporary basis to meet MTA operational preventative maintenance expenses for the current year subject to legal, accounting and FTA compliance. The funds are needed temporarily due to Section 5307 formula capital funding for FY 2010 not yet being available from the FTA. The FTA and Board have approved the proceeds from the sale of the Nance Landport to be used on the Nestor Street rehab project. It is understood that upon receipt of the delayed federal funds that they will be applied to the Nestor Street project. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

b. Submission to Metro for FY 2011 Subsidy (A-10-004): Ms. Ott reported that Metro's recommended guidance for all departments and agencies is to only submit subsidy requests with a 7.5% reduction and MTA properly submitted its request within those guidelines which would represent a \$1.5 million reduction in subsidy. .

Following what has been done in past practices, MTA submitted several scenarios which are consistent with past year's recommendations. They are as follows:

Version 1: Subsidy request - \$23.0 million

This represents an increase in Metro's subsidy based upon a status quo service level maintaining the BRT and Circulator services initiated during FY 2010.

Version 2: Subsidy request - \$20.7 million

This represents a status quo Metro subsidy from FY 2010. This would require a combination of expense and service reductions of approximately \$2.3 million.

Version 3: Subsidy request - \$19.2 million

This represents 92.5% of last year's subsidy. This would require a combination of expense and service reductions of approximately \$3.9 million.

The Capital Budget request will be \$11.4 million. The focus of the request will be grant matching, bus and van replacement and office space and flow of work in the existing facilities. The recommended request consists of the following:

Grant Matches	\$ 1,550,000
Hybrid/diesel buses replacement	7,200,000
Paratransit Buses replacement	1,200,000
Building Improvements	<u>1,500,000</u>
TOTAL	\$11,450,000

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board adopt the submission strategy for operating and capital subsidies as presented here. Motion was made and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- c. **GFI Farebox Purchase (A-10-004)**: Ms. Ott reported that MTA revenue vehicles use the GFI revenue collection system and with the addition of hybrid vehicles, AccessRide vans, and training units an additional purchase of thirty-five fareboxes is necessary to fully equip the fleet. Following a cost price analysis, it was determined that MTA is able to exercise FTA approved procurement procedures and purchase fareboxes from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's contract with GFI for a cost savings of \$25,979.80 over the 2007 purchase price. Therefore, it is the committee's recommendation that the Board approve the purchase of thirty-five Odyssey fareboxes from the GFI Corporation at a price not to exceed \$401,020.20. Grant money is available to fully fund this procurement. Motion was made and the vote of approval was unanimous.

VIII. Easy Ride Program Update (I-10-001): Lora Baulsir gave a briefing on the MTA's EasyRide program. She reported that Program Manager Eric Beyer works with area employers in setting up programs to offer transit benefits to their employees while using the federal tax benefit of \$230 per month. She reports that we can attribute our increase in ridership in a large part to the steady growth in the EasyRide program since its inception in 2005. Staff is able to work with employers in designing a plan that will meet their budgetary needs and any technological restrictions they may have. Ms. Baulsir reviewed some of the participants and monthly ridership statistics and then asked for Board member input on organizations that may be interested in the program. A discussion followed with ideas for increasing involvement by area businesses.

IX. Chair's Report: Ms. Williams stated that she was pleased with the Music City Circuit event that introduced this concept to the city with Mayor Dean there and riding the first circuit. She believes this to be such an integral part of the city's growth.

X. Chief Executive Officer's Report: Paul Ballard thanked the Board for their participation in the Music City Circuit event. He noted that next Thursday, April 1, would be the day for MTA to come before the Mayor with their budget request for FY 2011.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.