



## Minutes

### NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 22, 2010

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- 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 April 22, 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 1:37 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 March 25, 2010 Board of Directors meeting. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted. \*\* Note: When this vote was taken, Vice-Chair O'Connell was not present. He noted this one correction: the Madison Bus Link is not yet a fixed route, but may become one. This correction was properly presented and accepted.
- IV. **Public Comments:** Toni Hall addressed the board concerning passenger fares relative to the price of gas and also recommendations for change to the current bus schedules.
- V. **Transportation Committee Report:** Committee Chair O'Connell reported that there was a slight improvement in ridership numbers year to year. There was an increase in AccessRide passengers and there were no ADA denials. The goal for miles between road calls was not met but it was a great month for miles between preventable accident and also on time performance. Customer service experienced an increased number of calls on the first day of the Music City Circuit and an increased number of complaints about the modified route for previous riders of the 94 shuttle. However, there were very few complaints overall for the month. A position was created at Music City Central for trash removal on the buses. In the passenger survey there were a couple of requests for review of the placement of benches and shelters along the routes.
- VI. **Planning and Marketing Report:** Committee Member Thomas O'Connell reported that there were several positive trends in ridership and stated that we are now in accordance with the master plan goal for service level on the Gallatin express. The initial figures from the Music City Circuit look good as do figures from the new 100 Oaks route. The Bus Link service to the Madison area has performed so well that it is likely to become a fixed route with a possible relocation of bus link service elsewhere in the county. New shelters are also being installed on the bus rapid transit

route on the Gallatin corridor. Considerable progress has been made in all five priority areas for transit investment as presented in the strategic master plan priorities and projects. Patricia reviewed the comprehensive media role in the Music City Circuit which was a tremendous success and noted that the next round of maps will include its stop locations.

**VII. Finance Report:** Chair Marian Ott reported that so far we are pretty well on target with the reduction of the passenger revenue line. This was discussed and seems to track with the variance of school ticket purchases. Ms. Ott then presented the following for the Board's consideration:

**a. AccessRide Minivan Purchase (A-10-005):** This is a TDOT grant specific to this type of vehicle. There is an FTA grant that TDOT will match and that we have match money for that is already in our local capital program. Additionally, she noted that there is a required resolution attached to this item that is necessary to this particular grant process. Motion was made to approve that MTA accept the six (6) requested vehicles and provide the ten percent (10%) match requirement of \$21,900. The match dollars are available through local Metro grant funds awarded for FY 2010. Motion was made and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**VIII. Chair's Report:** Ms. Williams presented the following action item with comments to the Board. She stated that this was an opportunity for the Board to say 'job well done' to Paul Ballard and to show their trust in the work that he does and has done with a high standard of excellence. Chair Williams asked the Board's legal counsel, Margaret Behm, if she had had the opportunity to review this contract extension.

Ms. Behm reported that Mr. Ballard was two and one half years into his five year term and there is section of the contract that states that the agreement may be extended at any time during the term by mutual agreement of the transit system and Mr. Ballard's approval. She noted that nothing will be changed except for the extended term of the contract.

**a. Extension of CEO's Employment Contract (A-10-006):** The Chair requests the authorization from the Board to extend Mr. Ballard's contract for an additional two years so that the term is extended through December 31, 2014. Motion was made and the Board's vote of approval was unanimous.

**IX. Chief Executive Officer's Report:** Paul Ballard thanked the Board for their continuing confidence and support. He acknowledged the team efforts of the board, the secretary, the staff, and the mechanics and operators throughout. It is a really good team and he is honored to be a part of the team.

Mr. Ballard reported that the Music City Circuit is doing extremely well. After just three weeks of service, the Circuit is already at one thousand passengers a day. He acknowledged the good work done by Patricia with the media coverage for this event.

He further reported that the RTA ridership is increasing even faster than MTA ridership. Service into Williamson County, which has been operating four months, has been increasing monthly by 15-20% and the train continues to do well. Gallatin and West End and two or three others have been showing increases as well.

Work on the RTA budget continues and there are some challenges. RTA was able to get through this year by converting 10% of the total stimulus to operating and that took care of the train's needs. Negotiations have gone well with SunTrust Bank and a new line of credit. There are some operating holes in their budget for next year and they are working very closely with all the participatory governments. He remains optimistic that they will be successful in taking care of that.

The operating short fall in the RTA budget stems from the fact that there is no transportation bill from congress. If the bill had been passed in a timely fashion, the formula funds would be flowing and everything would be okay. The Music City Star (MCS) is in a unique situation where it became eligible for the formula funds the day the transportation bill expired. Each time a temporary authorization is passed, the MCS gets a certain percentage of last year's money. No matter what the percentage is, for the Music City Star that percentage is still zero. There is some hope that there may be a bill passed in this calendar year, so we are hopeful.

- X. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.