



## Minutes

### NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 27, 2017

---

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board of Directors was held in the Music City Central Meeting Room, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee on April 27, 2017. Present were: Gail Carr Williams, Chair; Lewis Lavine, Vice Chair; Hannah Paramore Breen, Member; Janet Miller, Member; Walter Searcy, Member; Secretary Margaret Behm; and CEO Stephen G. Bland. A quorum was established and Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proper motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2017 Board of Directors meeting. There were no additions or corrections, and the vote of approval was unanimous.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chair Williams opened the floor for public comments. The public was reminded that comments are limited to three minutes. The following members of the public had these comments:
- Kutonia Smith-Bond, Member Music City Riders United:
- She would like to have a date for when the kiosk will be installed at MCC.
- Angelique Johnson
- She would like to know why the Bordeaux bus is the most neglected.
  - She would like to know why the buses don't run on time.
- John Bull, Nashville frequent rider:
- He has contacted the senior senator's office on the Transportation Committee concerning the delays in the federal funding that creates our need for a revolving credit promissory note. He understands our need for the note and wishes that were not the case.
- James Thomas, Nashville frequent rider:
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, the bus that arrived at his stop was really, really late.
  - On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, the 3:00 p.m. bus that leaves from Downtown, as it swung down Harding Place to make a turn on Tampa Drive, it really didn't come to a stop, and almost hit a car.
  - On the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, every time the driver would brake or accelerate, it caused him to lunge backward or forward.
  - He asked if there was any way the bus stop that was moved back up on the hill from the corner of Harding and Tampa could be put back to where it had been and where there is a traffic light. He believes it would be safer for passengers.
  - The Walmart bus stop still has drunks that harass the riders.

There were no other public comments, and the time for public comments closed.

**IV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chair Searcy reported that the committee received the Debt Obligation Notification from Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant and staff, and it is now a matter of record. There was no other business of the committee to report at this time.

**V. CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Williams noted that everywhere she goes transit is the topic. She is excited at what they are going to do to help improve services for so many different people – our choice riders as well as our need riders. The comments made yesterday in the Mayor's State of Metro Address were excellent and were consistent with what the Nashville MTA Board and staff have discussed and consistent with the mission of Nashville MTA.

Chair Williams also noted her appreciation of the discussion on AccessRide and her appreciation for the staff that spends a lot of time making certain that everyone in Nashville has an opportunity to get to and from they want to be.

**VI. CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Bland reported the following:

- Budget Preparation – With the information on the Mayor's Proposed Budget allocations for MTA for FY2017, we are putting a lot more work into our budget preparations. At next month's New Incentives and Community Engagement (NICE) Committee meeting, we will be spending a considerable amount of time on both capital and operating conversation before final approval of the Board in June.
- Comprehensive Operations Analysis – Work is being conducted by Transportation Management and Design, Inc. They are currently collecting baseline data.
- Fare Collection System – The scope of work is being finalized and we will be meeting with the consultant in mid-May to review and work toward finalizing and scheduling.
- Staff Positions – We are currently interviewing candidates for three key staff positions. They are Director of Marketing, Community Outreach Coordinator, and the Director of Operations.
- Hamilton Springs Train Station – The groundbreaking for this Transit Oriented Development in Wilson County is May 10, and you are all invited. It has been a while coming, but we feel it will be very well worth the wait.
- The Improve Act – From a transit perspective, most important for the long-term growth of mass transit in the region is the enabling of local option initiatives in a variety of communities.

The Local Option applies to Tennessee's four largest cities (Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville); as well as counties over a population of 112,000 (Blount, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Montgomery, Rutherford, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson).

It indicates what sources of funding are allowed and caps what a referendum can do to raise those sources.

It talks about the process of a ballot initiative. It will have to be very specific, and will have to go through a very specific process to make its way to a ballot,

including having certified professional accountants (CPA's) review the financial feasibility of any plan that comes out. The State Comptroller's Office plays a role in approving that. Ultimately before it can appear on a ballot, the legislative body in any given jurisdiction, in our case the Metro Council, will have to approve of that.

It also clarifies that bond proceeds are for capital projects.

- Mayor's State of Metro Address & Budget Proposal – With respect to mass transit, the budget highlights include:
  - \$7M increase in the operating subsidy, the largest single-year increase ever, to fund:
    - Eliminating transfer fees to transit riders
    - AccessRide and mobility on demand pilots to include cross-town connections and after-hours service
    - Extension of the Music City Circuit to Tennessee State University along the Jefferson Street corridor
  - More than \$35M in capital funds to:
    - Purchase 31 new hybrid-electric buses to replace aging diesel fleet
    - Upgrading the fare collection system
    - Planning money to implement the *nMotion* strategic plan – including the light-rail vision that the Mayor laid out yesterday

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business to come before the Board.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.