



## Minutes

### NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 18, 2017

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- 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 May 18, 2017. Present were: Lewis Lavine, Vice Chair; Janet Miller, Member; Walter Searcy, Member; Secretary Margaret Behm; and CEO Stephen G. Bland. A quorum was established and Vice Chair Lavine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proper motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2017 Board of Directors meeting. There were no additions and one grammatical correction. With the correction, the vote of approval was unanimous.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Vice Chair Lavine 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:

Patrick Green, a Nashville-Davidson County resident and also a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local #1235 who represent the drivers and maintenance personnel of the Nashville MTA:

- Safety is something that ATU takes very seriously, and they know that the Nashville MTA does as well. With that in mind, and in light of the passage of House Bill 508, the ATU is concerned for the safety of their operators who drive on the streets in Nashville. They ask that the Board and the Mayor seriously think about safety shields for their operators.

John Bull, Nashville frequent rider:

- Applauds the skill level of the bus operators
- The budget process that has included extended hours and extended frequency is noted and appreciated

Ann Pope, AccessRide rider:

- Most all of the Nashville MTA AccessRide drivers are nice, but the AccessRide overflow drivers (cab) have horrible attitudes. She noted one specific incident in detail.
- Some drivers on the buses will not make passengers get up and give their seat to the elderly or disabled.

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

**IV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chair Searcy presented the following action items for the Board’s consideration:

- a. AccessRide No-Show Policy (A-17-007):** The current AccessRide No-Show Policy was adopted by the Nashville MTA Board in January 2011 and revised in January 2014.

FTA circular 4710.1 section 9.12.2 dated November 5, 2015 states penalties can be imposed for a “pattern or practice” of No-Shows, where “pattern or practice” means both substantial number and above average frequency. Upon review, the current AccessRide No-Show policy did not meet this criterion with regards to penalties. Specifically, the percentage of No-Shows in comparison to the total number of trips was not considered under the old policy. The new policy adds percentage thresholds so that customers who take multiple trips are permitted a proportionate number of No-Shows before being assessed a penalty.

The revised No-Show policy has been reviewed by the AccessRide Policy Advisory Committee (APAC), which recommended it be submitted to the full Nashville MTA board for adoption. Upon adoption, the revised policy will take effect July 1, 2017.

This policy was discussed in committee, and its approval is now recommended. The vote of approval was unanimous.

- b. AccessRide Secondary Mobility Device Policy (A-17-008):** This policy allows an individual who might otherwise not be completely mobile to have both assistance in a chair and additional mobility devices such as canes, crutches, walkers, etc. on a particular trip.

The committee recommends the adoption of this policy with one change. “Operators may assist...” shall read “Operators shall assist...” The vote of approval was unanimous.

**V. NEW INITIATIVES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** Chair Janet Miller presented the following action item for the Board’s consideration:

- a. Public Engagement for Proposed System & Fare Changes (A-17-009):** The proposed fare changes would essentially eliminate transfer fees and drop rider cost. We are required to go the public and get public input on that which we plan to do in June. At this time, staff recommends that we also put out the four major service changes that will go along in those discussions.

Nashville MTA staff plans to hold two public meetings in mid-June at Music City Central (MCC) prior to the June Board Meeting. Staff will present the proposed service and fare changes to the public at these meetings; answer questions, and receive comments for the record. The public will have further opportunity to comment on the proposed changes directly to the Board during the formal comment period of the June Board Meeting.

All meetings will be advertised in local newspapers and on the Nashville MTA website and Facebook page. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Nashville MTA and Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) websites. Nashville MTA staff will engage with riders at MCC and on affected

routes prior to the public meetings to provide notice of meetings and to receive comments in person. The public will also be encouraged to email, call, fax or mail their comments to the Nashville MTA.

The committee recommends to the Board the approval of the Public Engagement Plan about the proposed system and fare changes. There were no questions or comments and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- VI. VICE CHAIR'S COMMENT:** For more than a decade we have talked about having dedicated funding and have known that transit is not going to progress to the level that we want it to without that. Now, the Tennessee Legislature has passed a bill that gives us the ability to do that; and, we have a Mayor and her team who are prepared to go to the public next year with a referendum.

It will take a lot of work by this team here, both in terms of deciding what projects ought to be included and also determining what kind of revenue it will take to ask the voters to increase in order to make that happen. It is a once in a generation opportunity and it is a wonderful thing that we have to do. At the same time, we have to make sure that Nashville MTA operates to its highest level because that will make the difference in the referendum if people feel good about Nashville MTA and that they can implement what they promise.

- VII. CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Bland reported the following:

- Comprehensive Operational Analysis – Work has begun on the Comprehensive Operational Analysis that you awarded a couple months ago. The consultant is currently focused on getting baseline operating and financial data.
- Building our Team – We are currently interviewing candidates for Director of Marketing and Director of Operations positions.
- Guns Bill – Our current code of conduct prohibits firearms on Nashville MTA property and services. Recent legislation precludes local government entities from prohibiting firearms unless there is full metal detection and trained security personnel at every entrance to a facility, which is not practical for public transportation. We are currently working with Counsel to assess impacts so that we can maintain the safety and security of our passengers.
- Kiosk at MCC – The installation of a bill payment kiosk at MCC is in the hands of the vendor, as all necessary agreements and Nashville MTA prep are complete. We expect activation in June.
- Murfreesboro Road Project – The invitation for bids for construction of the Murfreesboro Road project have been let. We expect to award at the July Board meeting.
- nMotion Plan Implementation:
  - We are finalizing agreements with CDM Smith and HDR for overall program management.
  - The Mayor's Capital Budget included \$4 million toward the program management activities covered by these contracts.
  - We are working closely with the Mayor's Office, Public Works, and Metro Planning on implementation strategy. At this point, we envision a scenario where Public Works takes lead on corridor development activities (like light rail programming and downtown transit priority) and Nashville MTA

takes lead on programmatic activities like service development, support systems, and related improvements; all closely coordinated.

- We also expect MDHA (Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency) to be entering the process, as recent legislation passed by the State allow public housing authorities to acquire land in high capacity transit corridors and apply tax increment financing techniques to support funding of the transit improvements.
- Council Budget Hearing – We have our council budget hearing this afternoon at 5:15 p.m. Anyone who is interested and can attend is welcome.

- RTA Activities:

- Hamilton Springs – We held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Hamilton Springs Station in Lebanon on May 10. It was very well attended, and the station is officially under construction. We expect opening within one year.
- Northwest Corridor Study – We wrapped up the Northwest Corridor study and delivered a final report to the RTA Board. Commuter Rail is the preferred local option, but is a very long-term project. In the meantime, the Mayors are prioritizing corridor preservation, and we are examining the feasibility of a transfer of this right of way from CCRA (Cheatham County Rail Authority) to RTA.

This concluded his report and Mr. Bland asked the Board if they had any questions. Vice Chair Lavine asked if there was anything new on the downtown mobility study. Mr. Bland reported that the steering committee met again and is moving in a good direction. The direction from the Mayor is for us to focus on examining multiple alternatives so that we have a clear path to where we end up. A lot of what came out of this past meeting is setting specific evaluation criteria with which to evaluate the alternatives.

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.