



Minutes

NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 22, 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 June 22, 2017. Present were: Gail Carr Williams, Chair; Janet Miller, Member; Hannah Paramore Breen, 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 2:49 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proper motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 18, 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:** 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:

John Bull, Nashville frequent rider:

- Believes the proposed fare changes are great!
- The innovations on Route 77, Thompson Lane Connector, address some issues quite forcefully and that last mile is spot-on.

James Thomas, Nashville rider:

- Noted some signage errors that need correcting
- Asked that the Tampa Drive bus stop that is on the hill be moved to Harding Place on the sidewalk; this would be a lot safer for the passengers and the driver.
- Suggested that the bus bench at Walmart be removed to resolve the issue of those who are loitering at the stop, not riding, and are harassing the ridership.

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. MTA/RTA Contract Renewal for Regional Transit Services (A-17-010):** The Committee recommend to the Board the renewal of Contract 1 for regional bus services and Contract 2 for connecting bus services supporting commuter rail. Both of these contracts are for a period of one year beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 for the following base amounts:

- Contract 1 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,571,116 for regional bus service; and
- Contract 2 for \$168,180 for connecting buses supporting commuter rail.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- b. **FY2018 State EasyRide Contract Renewal (A-17-011)**: The Committee recommend to the Board the approval for the Nashville MTA to enter into a contract with Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for the EasyRide program at \$2.50 per ride and \$3.40 for AccessRide with a contract amount of \$1.75 million and a contract term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- c. **MTA/RTA Contract Renewal for State EasyRide Services (A-17-012)**: The Committee recommend to the Board the approval for the Nashville MTA to enter into a contract with the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) that calls for the Nashville MTA to reimburse RTA for EasyRide trips provided to State employees participating in the EasyRide program at a rate of \$3.15 per ride for a period of one year, beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- d. **StrIDE Memorandum of Understanding Program Year 2017-2018 (A-17-013)**: The , Committee recommend to the Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Nashville MTA and the Metropolitan Board of Public Education for the purposes of transportation of services for registered Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) high school students in grades nine through 12, and MNPS middle school students in grades five through eight who qualify. Cost of StrIDE card cardstock will be covered by MNPS. The contract will remain in effect through June 30, 2018 at a reimbursement rate of 60 cents per trip to the Nashville MTA.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- e. **Liability Insurance Renewal (A-17-014)**: The Committee recommend the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with RLI Insurance for our liability coverage for the period effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 for \$3 million in coverage with a \$100,000 deductible for a premium of approximately \$702,798.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- f. **Nashville MTA/Metro Public Works Memorandum of Understanding (A-17-015)**: This item has been excised.

- g. **2017 Public Records Request Policy (A-17-016)**: The Committee, the Chief Administrative Officer, and MTA's legal counsel recommend that the Nashville MTA Board adopt the attached public records policy with the two type-o changes noted earlier by counsel in compliance with state law.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- h. Code of Conduct Amendment (A-17-017):** The Operations and Finance Committee recommend to the Board the Code of Conduct be amended to state:

Individuals may not possess any unauthorized weapon, flammable liquid, explosive material, or other dangerous substance on MTA Property.

Chair Williams added for the record that this action was generated as a result of legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

- V. NEW INITIATIVES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** Chair Miller presented the following action items for the Board's consideration:

- a. FY2018 Budget Adoption (A-17-018):** Metro Council is scheduled to adopt an FY2018 budget (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) next week which would include a \$49 million subsidy for the Nashville MTA. This represents an increase of \$7 million, or 16.7%, over last year's subsidy of \$42 million.

The Committee wants to recommend that the Board adopt the FY2018 original budget as presented to Metro Council, which was \$49 million. However, Metro Council did make one change which will result in a \$377,700 reduction. Since by statute we want to have the budget approved by the end of June, our recommendation is that we approve the original budget of \$49 million with the caveat that we will bring the amended budget with that \$377,700 change to next month's meeting.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

- b. Shared Mobility & Mobility on Demand Pilot (A-17-019):** This will be a new initiative of the Nashville MTA that addresses first mile and last mile issues. We think it will complement the AccessRide program which is where our demand is increasing and it is a great partnership with multiple agencies utilizing technology. There are two vendors that have been selected to provide technology platforms that will address different pieces of this. This will also include the taxi services and potentially Uber and Lyft.

The Committee recommends to the Board awarding to both DemandTrans and TransLoc for Shared Mobility and Mobility-on-Demand services, systems integration, and pilot implementation at a cost not to exceed \$575,000 for DemandTrans and \$200,000 for TransLoc. Capital funding is available through a combination of federal, state, and local sources.

There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

- c. DBE 2018-2020 Program Goals (A-17-020):** The Committee recommend to the Board approval of a minimum standard of 6% for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for 2018 through 2020; but, that we also come back at our next

Board meeting and take a look at what a more aspirational goal might be and what are the actions we might take to achieve that.

There was no further discussion, and the motion carried with member Searcy abstaining.

VI. MARGARET BEHM, MTA BOARD COUNSEL:

- a. **Extension of CEO's Employment Agreement (A-17-021):** Nashville MTA Board Counsel Margaret Behm reported that Chair Williams asked her to take a look at Mr. Bland's employment agreement. For the record, Mr. Bland's employment agreement began on August 25, 2014 as a five-year contract. The agreement may be extended at any time by mutual agreement between Mr. Bland and the Board.

The Chair is proposing to the Board that his agreement be extended, so that beginning July 1, 2017, the term of the agreement will be for five years, ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Bland is agreeable to this extension.

Mr. Bland has not received an increase in his compensation since his hire date. The Chair proposes that Mr. Bland receive a bonus in the amount of \$15,000.00 on July 1, 2017, which Mr. Bland, in his discretion, can apply towards his annual compensation in 2017 or deferred compensation. The Chair recommends that during the term of this agreement, Mr. Bland's base salary shall be increased two and one-half percent (2.5%) each year, beginning July 1, 2018, or in Mr. Bland's discretion, said increase can be taken as deferred compensation or a bonus, with no increase in his base salary.

Ms. Behm is requesting, on behalf of the Chair, the approval and authorization from the Board for Ms. Behm to draft an amendment to the agreement to extend Mr. Bland's agreement and provide for additional compensation as she mentioned.

Motion was made and seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Continuing, Ms. Behm conducted the annual ethics review with the Board and then held the annual election of officers. The Nashville MTA Board has three officers and Margaret Behm will continue to serve as Board Secretary. Ms. Behm called upon Walter Searcy for nominations. He nominated Gail Carr Williams to continue as Chair, Lewis Lavine to continue as Vice Chair, and Janet Miller to serve as Second Vice Chair. Mr. Searcy moved that the nominations cease. The motion was seconded and the officers were elected by acclamation.

- VII. CHAIR'S COMMENT:** Chair Williams reflected on the journey of the Nashville MTA over the last 15 years that has brought us to who we are today. She noted that the Nashville MTA has always had good transit that has mirrored our city, but more importantly, it has mirrored the good efforts of everyone that has come through the Nashville MTA. Never once has the Nashville MTA lost sight of the fact that it takes care, and it takes good care, and it takes safe care, of people here in Nashville. The Nashville MTA cares about the future of Nashville and it cares about everybody who gets on the bus. The journey to here has been pretty amazing and it is with great excitement that we look at the future of transit, full of promise, for this city and for this region.

VIII. CEO'S REPORT: CEO Bland reported the following:

- MTA Staff – Our new Director of Marketing, Jason Minser, is scheduled to start in mid-July. Jason comes to us from the transit agency in Washington, D.C. where he headed up much of their customer research effort. We have also extended an offer to a new Director of Operations; and, we welcome Miriam Leibowitz, our new Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist.
- Summer Interns - With the Mayor's emphasis on youth employment, we are pleased to be hosting four interns this summer – Timia Kennerly, Opal Trivedi, Angel Trivedi, and Keon Thompson. We are happy to have them with us.
- July Meeting –The Board will need to meet in July, as we would like to expedite approval of the Fare and Service Changes adopted this week in the Metro Council budget so we can implement these changes as quickly as possible.
- Murfreesboro Road Project – We recently opened bids for the Murfreesboro Road improvement project earlier this week. Staff is still reviewing for completeness and responsiveness, but the low bidder appears to be responsive, responsible and within budget; and, we anticipate a contract award recommendation at our board meeting next month.
- nMotion Plan implementation –
 - We have finalized 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, Metro Public Works, and Metro Planning on implementation strategy both long term moving nMotion forward and short term getting ready for the ballot initiative the Mayor would like to get underway for next year.
 - We have met with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) to narrow down the areas where they might consider pursuing Transit Development Zones. In this past legislative session, the legislature enabled the creation of Transit Development Zones to be administered by public housing authorities. MDHA is taking a leadership role in working with us to identify what may be some of the highest priority or potential development zones that they can advance in the next year.
- MNPS – We have met with MNPS to discuss renewal of the parking arrangement for their buses at Myatt Drive for the next school year. They were tremendously helpful to us during the 2010 flood in helping us to park our fleet. In returning that favor, they are parking about 100 buses at our Myatt location since the Fairgrounds is under redevelopment. We are working on another one year agreement and will look at the long term with them.
- RTA Activities:
 - Construction has begun on the Hamilton Springs Station on the Music City Star line in Lebanon.
 - We are working closely with the Cheatham County Rail Authority to preserve the Northwest Corridor right-of-way and to discuss the possible transfer of that asset to the RTA.
 - We are working with the City of Dickson on a new, permanent Park-&-Ride site there.

- We operated special trains for the Music City Star to serve the three home Stanley Cup Final games, carrying a total of 2,200 passengers.
- Human Resources Job Fair – On June 13, our HR staff conducted a job fair as another effort to recruit for our open positions. Thirty-six people attended. Twenty candidates are moving through the selection process for bus operators and general helpers.

This concluded his report.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.