



NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY Board of Directors Meeting

January 24, 2019

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board of Directors was held at WeGo Central, located at 400 Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Nashville, TN 37219 on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Present: Gail Carr Williams, Chair; Janet Miller, Vice Chair; Walter Searcy, Member; Glenn Farnar, Member; Margaret Behm, Secretary; and Stephen G. Bland, Chief Executive Officer.

Absent: Hannah Paramore Breen, Member

A quorum was established, and Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The December 13, 2018 board meeting minutes were approved.

- III. **Public Comments:** Chair Williams opened the floor for public comments. The public was reminded that comments were limited to three minutes. The following members of the public addressed the Board with these comments:

Patrick Green

Mr. Green reported the following:

- He is impressed with how much joy we have when we're spending millions of dollars, and it's concerning because the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) with this transit system is at an impasse.
- He stated they understand we are in difficult financial times. But, when you offer a pay raise that doesn't cover the cost of the increase in insurance, then what you're giving is essentially taking money out of their pockets.
- He said when you move money around and spend millions of dollars on properties that somebody needs to take another look. It is highly inappropriate to ask the members that work for this system to take their first two checks in the new year to cover the cost of health insurance increase. This is no secret to the Board.
- He stated that he understood the limitations of the Board, but we had the CEO and several department heads present at the meeting. We are at an impasse and at limited points where we are talking. We will let the chips fall where they may.

Darius Knight

Mr. Knight reported the following:

- He has an issue with route 76 and getting home from these board meetings.
- He stated that we need to stop purchasing buses from Gillig, as there was an awkward sound coming from the back of the bus.
- He said bus 1809 display signs don't work.
- He has emailed Mr. Rick Dooley and Ms. Carolyn Riggs-Farr about maintenance issues and the buses are still not getting cleaned or fixed.
- He is against getting the new batteries for the 21 buses. These buses are going to be going out of service in a few years.
- He said batteries need to be replaced in the 2013 models.
- He provided a list of bus issues to the Board.

Ms. Hanson

Ms. Hanson reported the following:

- She asked if the noise that is coming from the fare box can be fixed
- She asked when the Ocala bus route was going to be made wheelchair accessible.
- She made MTA aware that she fell at WeGo Central due to the new floors at the bus terminals. She fell, and as a result, missed her bus.
- She has a blind cane and stated that bus drivers don't need to pass her by. She waited to catch bus 60, and they drove right past her because she was looking down.

Peter O'Connor

Mr. Peter O'Connor reported the following:

- He hoped that longer bus hours and customer service hours will be extended.
- He said drivers should lower the bus so that passengers can get step up on the first step.
- He stated drivers need to pay attention to passengers trying to get on the bus from across the street.
- He said they need stronger police presence, especially in the Nolensville Road area.

Mr. Graham

Mr. Graham reported the following:

- He liked the new color scheme.
- He is getting acclimated and likes the new WeGo Central improvements.
- He has an issue with two water fountains not working on the lower level.
- He heard from a bus driver that we are getting rid of the pocket bus schedules. (CEO Bland commented that the bus schedules are being updated, but not being eliminated.)
- He asked if we could stop purchasing buses with seats that are facing sideways; it's not cost effective.
- He said the bus audio recorded messages need to be updated.
- He stated the street displays need to be updated (#22 says Kings Lane but that bus doesn't go anywhere near Kings Lane).

Mr. Thomas

Mr. Thomas reported the following:

- He is still noticing drivers not wearing seatbelts.
- He stated that on 12/22 – Bus #857, the bus driver told him that he only paid for one seat, but he was taking up two seats.
- He reported that on 1/21 Bus on Route 52A was late.
- He said on 1/24 – Bus on route 52B, a passenger that was sitting sideways on the bus was blocking the aisle so much so that he had to pick his cart up over him to get by.

Cedric Dayton

Mr. Dayton reported the following:

- He has an issue with being stranded on the weekends due to the current 100 Oaks bus schedule.
- He has issues with the weekly schedule, too – sometimes the bus doesn't run for four hours.

Scott Schoenfeld

Mr. Scott Schoenfeld reported the following:

- He stated that he is originally from Salt Lake, Utah; a federal, right to work state.
- He passed around some of his art drawings of how he views the transit system and expressed that he wants to give back to Nashville MTA.
- He stated that we need more tax money to better the transit system for better bus service, better connectors, and better signs.
- He said we need to put our handicap passengers, the elderly, women, and children first.
- He stated the Nashville MTA needs to remove security guards and supervisors that don't know how to deal with the public.
- He said the maintenance workers need praise for the work that they do.
- He stated we need to come together and get Nashville MTA federal funds?
- He said we need to reinforce the rules the right way.

There were no other public comments at this time.

IV. Operations & Finance Committee Report: Chair Searcy reported the following:

- Nestor Facility Renovation Construction Contract Amendment (M-A-19-0-001):** The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board provide the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the authority to increase the construction contract with Batten and Shaw Construction by \$379,590 to a not-to-exceed project total of \$3,361,814

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- Construction Management Services Award to CDM Smith for Nestor Facility Renovations (M-A-19-002):** The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board provide the CEO the authority to increase the CDM Smith

Nestor Facility Task Order value by \$295,534 to a not-to-exceed project total of \$365,967.

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- c. **Central Signage & Wayfinding (M-A-19-003)**: The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board provide the CEO the authority to amend the Batten and Shaw Construction contract with additional services to provide and install the signage and wayfinding improvements for a base amount of \$741,784. The inclusion of these additional services will maintain the previously authorized project budget of \$6,269,000.

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- d. **Nolensville Design Task Order (M-A-19-004)**: The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board to authorize the CEO to increase the CDM Smith Nolensville Pike Stop Improvement Design Task Order value by \$168,300 to a not-to-exceed value project total of \$466,000.

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- e. **Contract with TDOT to Mitigate Costs Associated With Maintaining Service During I-440 Construction (M-A-19-005)**: The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board ratify the contract executed with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) through which TDOT would pay the Nashville MTA up to \$525,000 beginning February 11, 2019 and ending December 31, 2020 in order to mitigate impacts that the I-440 construction project will have on transit schedules. The duration of Construction project is estimated at 20 months.

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- f. **Award Purchase Contract for Battery & Hybrid Power Management System Repair (M-A-19-006)**: The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board to award a purchase contract to Clarke Power Systems in an amount not to exceed \$1,933,376 for the acquisition of parts and materials for the refreshing of 21 hybrid battery/power systems. This award should be contingent on approval of a related action amending the Capital Improvement Plan, identifying a source of funding for this project.

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

V. **New Initiatives and Community Engagement Committee Report:** Vice Chair Miller reported the following:

- a. **Amend Capital Improvement Plan to Fund Hybrid Battery Power System Project (M-A-19-007)**: The Nice Committee recommended an amendment to the current Capital Improvement Plan to modify funding sources for the Nolensville Shelter Project under “Neighborhood Stops and Centers” and reassign its current funding sources of a total of \$1.5 million to “Bus Overhaul Program,” and defer the

Paratransit Scheduling and Dispatching Software and Business Intelligence Software projects, reallocating their funding of \$550,000 to “Bus Overhaul Program.” This would provide a total of \$2.05 million for the project, composed of \$1.64 million in Federal Section 5307 Formula Funds; \$205,000 in TDOT Capital Matching funds and \$205,000 in Metro Capital Matching Funds.

There was no further discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- VI. CHAIR’S REPORT:** Chair Williams stated that she appreciated how the reports are coming in and the flow of the new reports. She appreciated the public comments from the community; it helps us to be better. She stated that she appreciated the positive feedback from the citizen’s report card that just came on. It is helpful to work so closely with our riders and be able to understand what their needs are upfront.

The referendum would not stop us. It just meant that we have to push forward and harder.

She thanked everyone for the work they do for WeGo Public Transit.

- VII. CEO’S REPORT:** CEO Bland reported the following to the Board:

1. We met with leadership of Vanderbilt University, Metro Planning, and Metro Public Works to discuss issues of mutual interest. A focus in the upcoming year will be designing appropriate transit waiting facilities in conjunction with planned university projects in the West End and 21st Avenue Corridors and redesigning Vanderbilt’s EasyRide program as our new fare collection technology comes online.
2. We continued advancing development of a North Nashville Neighborhood Transit Center, working on property appraisals and various other related real estate activities with the developer, and meeting with leadership of the McGruder Family Resource Center to engage them in our up front community engagement and design activities.
3. With respect to the fare collection system, all cash collection equipment has been installed and is operational. Smart card/mobile payment systems are in design and will be through the spring, with installation anticipated in late summer. Beta testing is expected in the fourth quarter of this year.
4. Walter Searcy and I met with the Chair of the Access Passenger Advisory Committee to advance improved mechanisms for communication between the committee and this Board.
5. I participated on a panel discussing Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and the potential role of Tax Increment Financing in TOD at Council’s Tax Increment Financing Study Group yesterday.
6. Finance Staff have begun contingency planning based on the potential for an extended Federal Government shutdown. During the shutdown, we are unable to access our FTA Grant Funding or apply for new grants.
7. Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Items:
 - a. We appeared before the Joint State House and Senate Committee on Government Operations to testify on follow-up activities relative to the

RTA's Sunset Audit, conducted in 2017. The Office of State Comptroller has started the process on a new Sunset Audit, with the RTA enabling legislation coming up in 2020.

- b. We continue to work with HDR Engineers on a technical and engineering study to develop a prioritized list of projects to advance both short and long-term improvements in the Music City Star.
- c. We met with representatives of the TDOT and State General Services to discuss the identification of park and ride sites. TDOT and General Services monitor and control most state owned property and have committed to help us with identifying potentially good park and ride locations.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.