

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PLANNING & EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY
APRIL 12, 2018

The Board of Directors Planning & External Relations Committee met on April 12, 2018 at 10:31am in the Board Room on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

Board Members Present

Robert F. Dallas
William Floyd
Jerry Griffin, Chair
Freda B. Hardage
Russell McMurry, P.E.*
John Algernon (AI) Pond
Christopher S. Tomlinson*

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/ CEO Jeffery Parker; Deputy General Manager Robert A. Troup; C-Suite Team Members Chief Financial Officer Gordon L. Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer Richard A. Krisak, Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Goldie Taylor and Chief of Staff Rukiya S. Thomas; AGM's Elayne Berry, LaShanda Dawkins, Wanda Dunham, Angela Jackson (Acting), Torrey Kirby (Acting), Benjamin Limmer and David Springstead; Chief corporate Law Jonathan Hunt; Chief Information Officer Dean Mallis; Executive Director Shelton Goode; Senior Directors Rhonda Briggins, Donna DeJesus (Acting), Stephany Fisher (Acting), Amanda Rhein, Donald Williams, George Wright Jennifer Jinadu-Wright and Thomas Young (Acting); Directors Rhonda Allen and John Bayalis; Managers Davis Allen, John Cochran, Ivelisse Matos and Ryland McClendon; Executive Office Administration, Ashanti Booth, Kenya Hammond (Acting) and Tyrene Huff. Others in attendance Adrien Carter, Katherine Dirga, Amar Gannarapu, Abebe Girmay, Brian Hobbs, Courtne Middlebrooks, Debra Oliver, Ryan Sager, Robin Salter and Columbus Ussery.

Also in attendance Nicole Crawford of SEER/SRTA, Time Lowe, Keith Parker of CCAG, and Jade Rung of Figg Bridge Group.

* Christopher Tomlinson is Executive Director of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA); Russell R. McMurry, P.E. is GDOT Commissioner and are therefore non-voting members of the MARTA Board of Directors

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the March 8, 2018 Planning & External Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mrs. Hardage, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by a vote of 5 to 0 with 5 members present.

Individual Agenda

Briefing – 2018 Legislative Update

Mr. Bayalis presented an update on the 2018 Legislative.

Federal Update

- Omnibus spending package was signed by the President on March 23, 2018 for FY2018
- Modest increase in funding
- Emerged in bus facilities funding
- Awarded a \$3.6M grant for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion for diesel bus
- The Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program was appropriated \$2.645B from FY2017
- The TIGER program was funded \$1B more than FY2017
- MARTA will benefit especially from the increases in both State of Good Repair and Bus & Bus Facilities funding increases

State Update

HB 930

- HB 930 effectively created the Atlanta Transit Link known as “The ATL”.
- “The ATL” will manage planning, governance, and funding covering 13 metro counties
- The 13 counties will be divided into 10 districts and the 16 member ATL Board will be made up of one representative per district (10), 2 appointees from the Speaker of the House and the Lt. Governor (4), and an appointee from the Governor (1) (Chair) as well as the GDOT Commissioner (1) (ex-officio)
- The ATL will be “administratively attached” to GRTA

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What it means for MARTA

- MARTA remains completely intact and retains full autonomy over our governance and financial arrangements.
- MARTA retains full autonomy over pursuit of federal funding for any and all projects that appear in MARTA's engineering report through December 1, 2018
- The ATL will likely become the designated recipient for all federal formula funding
- MARTA received designated operator of all rail service throughout the 13 county area footprint

HB 329 - TAVT

- Formerly HB 327 – general changes to TAVT code
- Crossed from House to Senate with no impact to MARTA
- Amendment added in Senate Finance Committee removed \$30+ million from MARTA's annual, dedicated tax revenue
- HB 329 was used as a vehicle to advance a new version that replaced MARTA's designated recipient status

Mr. Dallas asked when will The ATL Board be appointed?

My Bayalis said the Board will be appointed by January 1, 2019.

Mr. Dallas said you mentioned The ATL may be "administratively attached" to GRTA. Does that mean The ATL will be an independent Agency?

Mr. Bayalis referred the question to Mr. Tomlinson.

Mr. Tomlinson said the ATL will be a separate entity for budgeting purposes.

Mr. Dallas asked are the federal funded projects defined by jurisdiction, by MARTA, or by both.

Mr. Bayalis replied MARTA's RTCAA from the engineering department will define the jurisdictions by December 1, 2018.

Mr. Floyd asked how are the districts determined between the 10 districts and 13 counties?

Mr. Bayalis said House Transportation Committee Chair, Kevin Tanner developed the counties based on an existing Transit Corridor in terms of population. Each district represents half a million people which flow along particular corridors.

Mr. Floyd stated that a particular county may not be a particular district.

Mr. Bayalis agreed, noting that DeKalb County is a great example.

Mr. Floyd asked how are District Appointee chosen?

Mr. Bayalis said the District Appointees are chosen through confluence of input from the Legislative Delegations, County Commissioners and the Mayors who touch the counties.

Mr. Floyd asked if the District Appointees are elected officials.

Mr. Bayalis said the individuals are not defined.

Mr. Tomlinson said a voted process is needed in order to select each District Appointee.

Mr. Floyd asked have the districts been established.

Ms. Briggins said the districts are established.

Mr. Bayalis said a map from the Legislative Update will be provided to view.

Mr. Floyd asked why was MARTA removed from the HB 329 TAVT Bill?

Ms. Briggins said MARTA monitored the HB 329 TAVT Bill for quite some time and will look into why MARTA was removed.

Mrs. Hardage asked would MARTOC stay in place?

Mr. Bayalis said MARTOC would stay in place as MARTA's oversight.

Mr. Griffin said your previous slide indicated that the governor's \$100 million reflects FY2018 budget. Will the \$100M be included in the FY2019 budget?

Mr. Bayalis said it would be included.

Briefing – Georgia 400 Transit Initiative Update

Mr. Williams presented an update on Georgia 400 Transit Initiative.

Georgia 400 Transit Initiative

The purpose of this briefing is to update the MARTA Board and staff on the progress of the Georgia 400 Transit Initiative and outline its current activities which includes:

- Environmental Review
- Coordination with the Fulton county Transit Master Plan
- Coordination with the GDOT Managed Lanes Program
- Next Steps

GA 400 Express Lanes

- Part of Major Mobility Investment (MMIP)
- High priority accelerated project
- Two (2) express lanes in each direction along GA 400 from I-285 to McGinnis Ferry Road
- One (1) express lane in each direction from McGinnis Ferry Road to McFarland Pkwy

GDOT Coordination

Goals

- Coordination on considering BRT station geometries in express lane design
- Identifying potential for shared infrastructure
- Efficient project delivery – potential reduction in total construction time and cost

Guidelines considered during workshop

- Avoid providing express lane direct access at major arterials
- Consider impacts on tolling operations
- Identify potential opportunities for integrating BRT project with express lanes direct access and merge ramps

BRT in Express Lane Opportunities

Potential Benefits of co-location

- Cost savings due to shared infrastructure
- Minimizing construction impacts on community
- Perception of coordinated multimodal transportation solution

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Next Steps

- Revisit Locally Preferred Alternative
- Finalize station locations
- Perform ridership and traffic modeling
- Advance revised environmental review document
 - Leverage existing DEID document
- Develop schedule of key milestones for GDOT coordination
- Finalize funding options and implementation strategy

Mr. Pond said MARTA has been working on the parking issues related to the North Springs Station. Can you provide an update on the options that were previously discussed?

Mr. Williams referred the question to Mr. Limmer.

Mr. Limmer said MARTA has been working with the City of Sandy Springs, surrounding stakeholders and the Perimeter area regarding the Park and Ride access at the Redline. An update will be provided at a later date.

Mrs. Rhein indicated that MARTA is actively seeking options to purchase or utilize AT&T's North Spring Station parking facility.

Mr. Dallas asked are the BRT stations in-line or adjacent to managed lanes?

Mr. Williams said MARTA is currently evaluating both in-line and adjacent to east or west of the corridor.

Mr. Dallas suggested in terms of access, in-line lanes may be more beneficial to pedestrians managed lanes. Additionally, Mr. Dallas referenced slide #7 and asked about providing express lane direct access at major arterials.

Mr. Williams said the local jurisdictions did not want MARTA to have direct access to congested roadways. MARTA wanted to be mindful of jurisdictions and traffic concerns.

Mr. Dallas suggested that MARTA consider long-term outcome versus short-term costs.

Mr. Williams said MARTA is concerned with access and ensuring individuals are utilizing the system.

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Mr. Griffin asked how many citizens are participating in MARTA's Public Meetings that address these recommendations?

Mr. Williams said in terms of Fulton County Master Plan, MARTA had a robust outcome.

Mrs. Hardage said that she attended Fulton County Meetings with Mr. Pond and the response was amazing.

Briefing – Quality Service Survey FY2018 Semi-Annual Update

Mrs. Salter presented the Quality of Service Survey FY2018 Semi-Annual Update.

The Quality of Service Survey (QOS) is a comprehensive survey that tracks customer satisfaction and perceptions of MARTA's performance throughout the year. The FY18 QOS semiannual briefing presents key findings from 2,959 surveys of passengers on the fixed bus and rail system from July 1, 2017 through December 20, 2017.

Quality of Service Survey (QOS)

- Initiated in 1995
- Intercept interviews on buses and rail platforms

Core Topics

- Customer satisfaction
- Performance scores
- Demographics and ridership behavior

First Half of FY18

- Conducted 2, 959 intercept interviews
- July 1, 2017 to December 20, 2017
- Margin of errors is +/-1.8%

Takeaways

- The percentage of satisfied or very satisfied patrons is 79%
- The highest performance scores for bus and rail are related to safety, maintenance, cleanliness, and communication.
- Off-peak service frequency scored low for bus and rail.

- Average scores for 23 out of 52 performance attributes changed during the first half of FY18:
 - 21 declined
 - 2 improved

Mr. Dallas commented that it's a great idea that MARTA participates in Ride-a-Long.

Mr. Floyd asked if MARTA conducted a survey for passengers who ride together frequently.

Mrs. Salter said MARTA launched Route Satisfaction Survey in January which MARTA ask passengers two general questions – How satisfied are you with your route and would you like to make any comments regarding your route?

Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Art in Transit Policy

Katherine Dirga presented a Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Art in Transit Policy.

The Art in Transit program addresses key organizational goals and objectives of the Authority, including improving the customer service experience across all modes of service. Additionally, the program will provide for the enhancement of MARTA's facilities and infrastructure and create a safer, more comfortable and attractive environment for customers and the general public.

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mr. Daniels, the resolution was approved by a vote of 5 to 0 with 7* members present.

Adjournment

The Planning & External Relations Committee adjourned at 11:33 p.m.