



## Minutes

### NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 24, 2016

---

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was held in the Music City Central Meeting Room, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN on March 24, 2016. Present were: Marian Ott, Chair; Gail Carr Williams, Member; Walter Searcy, Member; Secretary Margaret Behm, and CEO Stephen G. Bland. A quorum was established and Chair Ott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proper motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. There were no additions or corrections, and the vote of approval was unanimous.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chair Ott opened the floor for public comments. The public was reminded that comments are kept to three minutes.

James Thomas of Nashville noted on-time-performance issues he has had with some of the bus routes. He also complained about a person riding a skateboard near one of the elevators at Music City Central.

John Bull of Nashville had these comments:

- He was on the #7 Hillsboro bus last week and was glad to see the Mayor and a number of Board members riding that bus.
- Concerning the line of credit that is on today's agenda, he understands why it is necessary and wishes it was not, and wished the board the best in working with Davidson County to increase funding.

Peter O'Connor of Nashville had these comments:

- The stops that were eliminated on the new #52 Nolensville Pike BRT lite route are causing problems for some riders.
- Customer Service needs to be open from the time the first bus leaves MCC until the last bus completes its run at night.
- The schedule for the #18 Airport/Downtown Hotels bus is difficult to read from someone who is not from this area.

- The #18 Airport/Downtown Hotels bus does not run late enough at night to help those who come in on later flights; and, there is only one stop at the airport and that presents a little difficulty for some people.

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

- IV. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chair Ott reported, on behalf of the committee, that January was not our best month, but there were a lot of snow days that accounted for lower ridership than we anticipated. Overall, the year-to-date ridership, while off a few percent compared to the year before when we look at where we are in context to the industry, our ridership is good.
- V. **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Chair Ott reported, on behalf of the committee, that staff thinks we will come in this fiscal year within budget.

Chair Ott then presented the following action items:

- a. **FIFTH-THIRD REVOLVING LINE OF CREDIT (A-16-005):** Because of the lateness of the release of the federal transit funds, it is once again necessary to seek temporary operating fund assistance. We are not borrowing money. These are not discretionary monies, but are monies in a block grant that requires congressional action.

A Request for Bid (RFB) was issued and staff received only one response from Fifth Third Bank. Staff has done the due-diligence that is required when there is only one bidder to justify that this bid meets the qualifications for acceptance.

Because of the timing, Counsel Margaret Behm is still vetting through the details of the document. Therefore, the recommendation of the committee to the Board is that the Board approves this line of credit with Fifth Third subject to Counsel Margaret Behm's approval of the loan agreement. It is a one-year line of credit with the option of two one-year renewals that do not obligate us to the vendor. Motion was seconded.

Member Walter Searcy asked what is the non-use fee of 20 basis points in real dollars; and, he was told it is approximately a charge of \$2,200 if we did not use the money.

There were no other questions and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- b. **New Electric Charging Station Property Easement (A-16-006):** This is a 30-year easement with the state at no cost. This easement will allow Nashville MTA to build a second charging station for our electric buses. Additionally, Nashville MTA will build 30 parking spaces for use by the State. This is a critical link in the shuttle service because presently we have only one charging station at Riverfront Park and access to that station is compromised anytime there is a big

event in town. This is a committee recommendation and a motion that the Board approves this easement. Motion was seconded.

Member Gail Carr-Williams asked what would be the cost for building the parking spaces. Chair Ott responded that this has not yet been engineered, but the expectation is that the project will be worked within the \$900,000 that has been allocated for it. Once the construction plans and costs are finalized, an action item will be brought before the Board for consideration and approval.

Member Walter Searcy verified that the 30-year easement will contain the option of renewal by mutual agreement for one more term of 30 years. There was no further discussion and no objections. The motion passed.

- VI. PLANNING AND MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chair Ott reported, on behalf of the committee, that the committee received a report from nMotion. The touches under the engagement are on target, but more effort clearly needs to be made to engage more diverse communities.

The committee also had a good discussion about what should our marketing strategy be, and what should our goals be. The group did not reach any kind of conclusions, and what comes out of nMotion will have to be integrated into it.

- VII. CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Marian Ott presented her recommendations to reform the Board Committees, the Board materials and presentations, and the schedule of meetings. Beginning in April, the meetings of the Board will combine and meet on one day, usually the fourth Thursday of each month with some exceptions that will be noted. The committee meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. and the Board meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m.

In place of the current committees (Finance, Transportation, and Planning and Marketing) will be the following committees:

- a. ***Performance & Oversight*** – This committee will focus on how we are doing our business – the operational elements that we see on the dashboard and how we are doing this year versus the budget.
- b. ***Planning*** – This committee will be more future, or planning, focused. It is service planning, nMotion, and also budgeting for the future (capital).
- c. ***Stakeholder Relations*** – This committee is to make sure that we are more externally focused; that we are engaging appropriate members of the community and a diverse community to both inform how our current performance is doing and how it is impacting people; and, to engage community to know what the community wants and to align support for where we want to move forward.

Chair Ott asked Gail Carr Williams to chair the Performance and Oversight Committee and Walter Searcy to serve on the committee. Janet Miller will chair the Stakeholder Relations Committee, and she asked Walter Searcy if he would serve

with her on that committee. Lewis Lavine will chair the Planning Committee, and Janet Miller will serve on that committee. As Chair, Ms. Ott will sit on all of them.

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

- MTA's Budget hearing with the Mayor will be today at 2:30 p.m.
- Bus-on-Shoulder legislation passed the full Senate yesterday and is being scheduled in the house. It seems positive.
- The Public-Private Partnership bill continues to move along and has been amended to be specific to mass transit projects and does not include general road and bridge projects and transportation. It is still in committee and is working its way through both chambers.
- The RTA Sunset legislation was up this year and has passed the full senate and is waiting scheduling on the house calendar.
- The local option funding piece of legislation has been referred to summer study.
- In Washington, the new FAST Act – a long term federal transportation bill for five years does a number of good things, but the open question is how it will be funded.
- The formal launch of the Music City Transit Tracker happened last week with Mayor Barry's participation and the Mayor-on-Board bus ride event.
- Work with APAC through the AccessRide Improvement Program continues with Eric and India and her staff getting improvements made on a number of fronts.

**IX. Other Business:** There was no other business to come before the Board.

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.