



Minutes

NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 23, 2018

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board of Directors was held at the Greater Nashville Regional Council Offices, MetroCenter, 220 Athens Way, Suite 200, Nashville, Tennessee 37228 on Thursday, August 23, 2018. Present were: Gail Carr Williams, Chair, Janet Miller, Vice Chair; Walter Searcy, Member; Hannah Paramore Breen, Member; Glen Farner, Member; Secretary Margaret Behm; and Chief Executive Officer Stephen G. Bland. A quorum was established, and Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 2:47 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proper motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. There were no additions or corrections, and the vote of approval was unanimous.
- 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:

James Brown, Nashville, TN:

- Mr. Brown introduced himself as the Access Policy Advisory Committee Chair (APAC) Chair. He also stated that he is employed by Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) as the Program Supervisor. He is new to the committee, and his role is to help advise the Nashville MTA Board in making transportation excellent for the elderly and disabled in Tennessee.

Jerome Bowen, Nashville, TN:

- Mr. Bowen was present to listen and learn of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) opportunities for his company.

Rhonda Clark, Nashville, TN

- Rhonda Clark stated that she has used some form of Nashville MTA AccessRide/paratransit in Nashville for 22-plus years. She currently uses both user and AccessRide because of the pilot hours (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.). She hopes that the hours for Access on Demand will be extended for everyone, so that if you want to use the Access on Demand service, regardless of which provider it is, that you can choose which service you want to use. She works from 12:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. (Monday-Friday). Due to her transportation issues,

she has received occurrence after occurrence for being late to work. She stated that she used to have to catch the AccessRide at 10:30 a.m. to arrive to work on time. She now catches the 12:15 p.m. AccessRide and arrives to work by 12:38 p.m. She asked the Board to please give Access riders a choice that they can use.

- CEO Bland stated that we currently were conducting a follow-up survey to see how the pilot was working. A full evaluation assessment will be completed sometime in November. By then, it would give us some direction on how to proceed.

Dan Dillan, Nashville, TN

- Mr. Dillan stated that he works on the AccessRide Policy and Advisory Committee, which helps to improve the paratransit services for Davidson County. He expressed his desire to work closer with the Nashville MTA Board Members.
- He only had one concern, which was a golfing event for the blind about a week ago. A pro-golfer was scheduled to give golfing instructions for the blind, but because of inefficient transportation service, he had to cancel that event. Mr. Dillan was unsure of the cab company that he used, but he thought that it was Taxi Taxi or Allied Cab Co.

Lori Mayberry, Nashville, TN:

- Ms. Mayberry just wanted to introduce herself to the Board and stated that she loves the On Demand program. She would like for us to keep the program.

Danny Mosley, Nashville, TN:

- Mr. Mosley stated that he is a new member to APAC, and he was present because he wanted to be a voice for people with complaints. He wanted to be able to offer some possible solutions back to the people.

Peter O'Connor, a frequent rider, Nashville, TN:

- Mr. O'Connor addressed the old change cards: One bus driver told him that we no longer accept these cards.
- Secondly, it seems to be a problem with some drivers not wearing seatbelts.
- Thirdly, there is hearsay that there are ex-Nashville MTA Drivers leaving Nashville MTA because they are losing their pensions. This could be a problem because a shortage of drivers, buses being late, etc.
- Is there a completion date for Music City Central (MCC) construction?
- Will we have extended bus hours?
- CEO Bland responded immediately to Mr. O'Connor's concerns by stating that the information he received about the change cards is misinformation; the cards are still valid. He also stated that there are no changes in the pensions. Lastly, all renovations at MCC will be complete by November 2018.

James Thomas, a frequent rider, Nashville, TN:

- Mr. Thomas cited a couple of instances with buses not stopping in proper locations, blocking pedestrian/crosswalk areas.
- Buses not arriving at the scheduled time.

- He noticed buses with headlights out, which may cause problems with the police.
- He also noticed on bus 1702 that a customer used a cup to urinate.
- He needed clarification if shopping carts are allowed on the buses.
- His friend was told by a Nashville MTA supervisor that she didn't want to see him downtown selling hotdogs again.

Darius T. Knight, Madison, TN:

- Mr. Knight stated that he was still seeing consistent maintenance issues that he's previously reported. He also noticed the following:
 - Paint jobs on the new purple buses aren't good, and they are giving off a burnt smell.
 - The display signs no longer work or have lines going through them.
- Mr. Knight has some concerns with drivers feeling like it's his job to fight their battles. He stated that if we have bus drivers that have concerns that we need to take the time to address them. He would like for us to make sure that all staff are aware of any and all route changes in 2019 so that correct information is relayed to riders. Additionally, he requested that everyone take time out to ride a bus within the next six months.

Mr. Bull, a frequent rider:

- The ADA and the Mobility on Demand are magnificent. He's glad that Uber and Lyft are not in the mix. He's glad to know that the electric buses are cheaper and 5-feet longer. He likes the new buses with the USB wireless charging stations are pretty cool.
- He likes the new LED lighting at MCC.
- He requested seating/benches outside the MCC Dunkin' Donuts lobby area.

There were no other public comments at this time.

IV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Searcy reported on the following:

a. Electric Buses & Related Sub-Equipment, Supply & Materials (A-18-023):

With the extension of the Music City Circuit to Tennessee State University last year, the fleet of fully electric buses necessary to operate this service (including spares) increased by two. Earlier this year, the Nashville MTA was successful in securing Federal discretionary funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Bus Discretionary Grant Program (Lo-No).

Under existing contracts, we have the ability to acquire these vehicles from Proterra – our current supplier. The only meaningful difference between the new vehicles and those currently in service is that the new buses will be 35 feet in length, in lieu of the 30-foot buses we currently own. Proterra no longer produces a 30-foot bus. If approved, these two electric buses will be added to the current fleet used to operate the existing Music City Circuit serving Downtown, the Gulch, and North Nashville.

Upon authorization, staff would proceed with an immediate bus order for an anticipated delivery in the first quarter of 2019.

The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board provide the Chief Executive Officer the authority to approve the purchase of two 35-foot Battery Electric buses from Proterra, Inc. The total sum of this purchase is \$1,851,624, including a contingency amount of \$36,306. The price includes ancillary equipment including digital signage, video surveillance, routers, radio communications and antennas, training, diagnostic tools, and spare parts.

Funding sources to support this purchase will be comprised of a Lo-No Emission Bus Discretionary Grant and FY2018 Metro Capital funds.

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

- b. Legal Services Contract (A-18-024):** The Nashville MTA Board of Directors through its Chief Executive Officer entered into a contract with Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella (Dodson Parker) for general counsel and Board secretary services on September 1, 2013. The contract with Dodson Parker expires on August 31, 2018. As a result, a Request for Proposals for legal counsel and Board secretary services was recently issued. The following firms submitted responsive proposals: Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP (Bradley), Dodson Parker, Klein Bussell PLLC, and Thompson Coburn LLP.

Following review, the evaluation team recommended awarding contracts to both Dodson Parker and Bradley for legal counsel services. The evaluation team further recommended awarding a contract to Dodson Parker Behm for Nashville MTA Board secretary services.

The Operations & Finance Committee recommended the Board award five-year contracts to both Dodson Parker and Bradley for legal counsel services. They further recommended the Board award a five-year contract to Dodson Parker for Nashville MTA Board secretary services.

Funding for these services will be incorporated into annual operating budgets and capital project budgets as required.

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

V. NEW INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Miller reported on the following:

- a. Nashville MTA FY2019 Capital Budget (A-18-025):** The Nashville MTA needs to develop an FY2019 Capital Budget and a Multi-Year Capital Plan in light of the Middle Tennessee connected 2014-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and the nMotion Transit Strategy. Nashville MTA also recognized that the agency has significant capital needs to ensure that the safety and compliance requirements are met, assets are managed in a State of Good Repair, and that meaningful customer service and amenity enhancements occur as possible.

Chief Development Officer Julie Timm presented a summary of projected capital funding sources and program needs for an in-depth discussion during the NICE committee meeting.

The recommended FY2019 Nashville MTA Capital Budget categorizes projects into seven key areas:

1. Safety/Regulatory Projects
2. Projects Committed from Previous Years
3. Transfers to Operations Budget for Preventive Maintenance
4. State of Good Repair
5. Business Improvements
6. Service Improvements consistent with nMotion Strategy
7. System Expansion consistent with nMotion Strategy

The New Initiatives and Community Engagement Committee recommended the Board adopt the policy-level FY2019 Capital Plan with direction to staff to develop a spend plan and funding strategy to implement the plan using available constrained funding sources.

Reverse commute projects would be transporting people from the Nashville area to Cool Spring areas.

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

b. Supplemental ADA Capacity & Access on Demand Services (A-18-026):

Director of Service Quality Dan Freudberg reported that the Nashville MTA provides paratransit services through WeGo Access (formerly AccessRide) using our own paratransit vans and operators as well as services provided by local third-party operators. The contract with our current service provider, Taxi USA, expires at the end of October 2018, with no optional extensions remaining to be executed.

In June 2018, the Nashville MTA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Supplemental ADA Capacity and Access on Demand Services. A total of six proposals were received from the following companies: American Music City Taxi, Blessed Assurance, Dependacare Transportation, Mobility Solutions (doing business as On Demand Mobility), Taxi USA of Tennessee, and UZURV.

An evaluation committee conducted a two-step evaluation process including in-person presentations and interviews with the top proposers. Following final evaluation, the committee recommended the following companies be awarded the contract for Supplemental ADA Capacity and Access on Demand: American Music City Taxi, Mobility Solutions (DBA On Demand Mobility), Taxi USA of Tennessee, and UZURV.

The New Initiatives and Community Engagement Committee recommended the Board award contracts to the following companies for the provision of WeGo Access and WeGo Access on Demand services for an initial three-year term not to

exceed \$20 million and two additional one-year options not to exceed \$7 million per year: American Music City Taxi, Mobility Solutions (DBA On Demand Mobility), Taxi USA of Tennessee, and UZURV.

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

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Williams expressed appreciation to Senior Executive Assistant and Board Liaison Kathy Owen. Ms. Williams presented her with a resolution and gift on behalf of the Board for her dedication and years of serving the Nashville MTA and the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA).

Ms. Owen thanked both past and present Board members. She stated that it had been her honor to serve as board liaison for both the Nashville MTA and RTA and as CEO Bland's assistant. She stated that she has the warmest and richest memories to carry with her.

VII. CEO'S REPORT: CEO Bland reported the following to the Board:

- With respect to the Murfreesboro Road Project, contractors continue to advance the project according to schedule. Our final property related issues have been worked out with the airport. The primary issue of concern we have is utility make ready work to assure that we can pull fiber optic cable beginning in September. Toward that end, we met with Metro Public Works and the Nashville Electric Service (NES) about a week ago to both communicate the work we needed NES to undertake and the consequences of this work falling behind schedule. At this point, we feel as though NES is prioritizing this project.
- This evening, Rita and I will be meeting with Councilman Ed Kindall and constituents of his district to discuss the potential transit center on Clarksville Pike. We are working with the property owner at 26th and Clarksville to advance this project as part of a broader vision for the neighborhood. In parallel, we are pursuing property valuation and design concepts.
- He reminded the Board that we are hosting the American Public Transportation Association Conference September 23 – 26 at the Omni Downtown. A week or so ago, he forwarded the conference program to them and asked if there were sessions they'd like to attend and he would make sure they received credentials.
- Work on the Central renovations continues on schedule. Two weeks ago, we opened Level 1 and transitioned to work on Level 2. This occurred just after school reopened for the year. He thanked our contractors, our project staff, Operations, Security, and Customer Care for making this project as smooth as possible for our customers.
- By now, you've likely seen the new WeGo buses in service. We have received all of our transit coaches and expect them all to be in service over the next month. Our van deliveries have just begun.
- He attended a kickoff meeting with the Convention and Visitors Corporation, a number of other Metro departments and the National Football League (NFL) to

begin discussion of preparations for next year's NFL Draft to be held in Nashville. The event will be held on Marathon Weekend at the foot of Lower Broadway in Riverfront Park. Suffice to say that, from a transit standpoint, it will be challenging. However, it's a challenge our Operations staff is used to.

- Director of Marketing Jason Minser, CFO Oliphant, and I met with our advertising sales vendor this month following the Board's adoption of a new advertising strategy and policy. Mr. Minser will continue to work with the vendor on our revised program goals, and we plan to update the Board on progress and targets, likely in October.
- This past month, we hosted the FTA Region 4 staff for our regular quarterly meeting. The meeting went smoothly and FTA staff was pleased with progress, in large part due to the continued diligence and excellent preparation of Capital Grants Administrator Billy Higgins.
- Our Fare Collection project team hosted a meeting with our fare collection system consultant and vendors with Franklin Transit and Murfreesboro Rover to discuss advancing the system toward being a true seamless regional system. There is great interest by both parties in doing so (as well as RTA), and we will also be approaching Clarksville Transit about their participation.
- RTA Items:
 - a. We have our temporary certificate of occupancy for the Hamilton Springs Station, and service will initiate there this coming Monday. We will have a formal ribbon cutting on September 6 with the Mayors of Wilson County and Lebanon. He invited the Board to attend if they could.
 - b. Work continues on the South Corridor Study, examining transit options in the Maury/Williamson/Davidson County corridor.
 - c. We continue to work with Mt. Juliet on a parking expansion project at Mt. Juliet Station and will be initiating design meetings next week.
 - d. We met with Dickson City and County to discuss approaches to continuation of that service in light of the expiration of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for that route next year.
 - e. He attended a joint meeting of Metro Council's Planning Committee and Affordable Housing Task Force, along with Metro Planning and the Metropolitan Development of Housing Agency (MDHA), to address questions concerning the proposed Transit-Oriented Development Zone in the Donelson neighborhood. Most of the questions were directed toward MDHA, housing affordability, and the City's general approach to Tax Increment Financing. Ultimately, this legislation did not pass Council. With respect to WeGo or direct transit service, there isn't really a direct impact, though it could have been a strong tool to have to advance joint development and transit center projects.
 - f. Public Meetings are scheduled in Donelson, Mt. Juliet, and Lebanon in late September and early October to discuss proposed changes to the schedule for the Music City Star, including elimination of the Friday night round-trip from Lebanon. This trip elimination is necessary in order to come into

compliance with the conditions of our Limited Service Exception that allows us to defer the installation of positive train control – a \$20-25 million system.

- Finally, although he had said it publicly about a dozen times over the past month and at her going away luncheon and party last week, he thanked and acknowledged the work of Kathy Owen as she wrapped up her MTA/WeGo career last week and headed off to the world of family and grandchildren in retirement. Her service to our organization was laudable, but personally he wasn't sure how he could have survived without her. She was truly organized, calm, and a reassuring presence around our building. She had the respect and admiration, not only of our staff, but of everyone she came into contact with. The only positive he could take out of this was the fact that, as he had just hit his four-year anniversary mark, she must have thought he been adequately trained.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.