



## Minutes

### NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 26, 2018

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board of Directors was held at the Lentz Public Health Center, Meeting Room A, 2900 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37209 on Thursday, July 26, 2018. Present were: Gail Carr Williams, Chair, Janet Miller, Vice Chair; Walter Searcy, Member; Secretary Candi Henry; and Chief Executive Officer Stephen G. Bland. A quorum was established, and Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proper motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 28, 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:

Steve Reiter, Nashville, TN:

- Mr. Reiter stated his concerns about the budget and the possible impacts cuts would have on service. He noted that looking forward Nashville MTA should prepare for future cutbacks.
- Mr. Reiter reported that there had been some major incidents around metro transit in the cities of Oakland, CA, Washington DC, and Atlanta, GA. He stated that it was important that the Nashville MTA communications' team be prepared for this type of incident when it happens again.
- He added it was important Nashville MTA reassure people Nashville has a strong transportation system and they are trying to make it better for everyone.

James Thomas, a frequent rider, Nashville, TN reported the following:

- A driver on one of his trips did not wear his seat belt.
- Another trip left late from downtown and the driver hit the brakes hard.
- A bus had the right of way to cross at 4<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, but another bus was had the intersection blocked.
- He doesn't think the plastic seats in the new buses are good for people's backs. Passengers will have to carry cushions to be comfortable.

Darius T. Knight, Madison, TN:

- Mr. Knight stated that a number of buses needed to be pulled from operation because of their age.
- Mr. Knight hoped the Board would take bus issue complaints seriously.
- He added that if funds were available, he hoped there would be a plan to purchase five new buses each year over a span of five years.

There were no other public comments at this time.

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

- a. CDM Smith Music City Central Task Order Amendment (A-18-020):** In March 2017, the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board awarded CDM Smith with an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract for program management services. Under this contract, CDM Smith has assisted Nashville MTA staff with the engineering oversight and review of facilities improvements approved in the 2018 Capital Budget. In August 2017, the Nashville MTA executed a task order in the amount of \$289,000 for program management services related to the Music City Central (MCC) rehabilitation project. These services included scope validation, design and constructability reviews, bid package reviews and bid assistance, construction administration assistance, and project closeout review. The initial task order estimated a 12-month project duration.

As design and construction activities advance on the MCC rehabilitation project, additional funding is needed for professional service. Additional support accounts for a higher level of effort for construction oversight and project coordination as displayed through the initial months of construction. The additional level of effort is necessitated by project complexities and includes construction management, oversight, and coordination along with Special Inspections required by the project specifications.

These needs are expected to require an additional \$130,000 for completion for a not-to-exceed task order value of \$419,000.

Funding Source: Funding for the additional program management services for the MCC rehabilitation project would primarily be from proceeds from the sale of the Clement Landport, supplemented with prior year Section 5307 funds.

The Committee recommends the Board provide the Chief Executive Officer the authority to increase the task order for the continued support of the MCC rehabilitation project to the not-to-exceed limit of \$419,000. Funds are available in the previously identified funding sources to cover the additional costs of this task order. There was no discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

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

- a. Advertising Policy (A-18-021):** Chair Miller noted that there were several discussions around philosophic direction of advertising on the buses and what they feel will be best for the brand and for the organization while balancing out

revenue considerations. The staff put together an updated policy for the board to adopt.

In the process, we have created a purpose statement for our advertising policy. The major difference was line item #4. The Metro Council had expressed a real interest in the authority being more user friendly for public service advertisement and for non-profits that have a real need in the community. We added a clause to make the authority more open and embracing to those opportunities. No one had any issues and we've been advised that this is in good legal order.

The Committee recommends the Board approve the use of this amended policy to check the assumptions built into revising the advertising policy and incorporating its intent into the pending contract renewal with our third party advertising sales agent. There was no discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- b. Intent with Respect to Secondary Downtown Transit Hub (A-18-022):** The nMotion Strategic Plan previously adopted by the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board memorialized the need for a secondary downtown transit hub in addition to Music City Central (MCC) as essential to Nashville MTA's future growth, with or without High Capacity Transit (HCT). This plan went as far as to give, as a conceptual idea, an approximate location of this second hub in the downtown 4th Avenue/Lafayette area. The need for a secondary hub to support the bus system is based on growing service and patronage to a point where the current MCC facility will be inadequately sized for either the volume of transit buses or transit customers using a downtown transit center; and growth in development in the Downtown core south of Broadway, making the location of the current center increasingly problematic to attract ridership due to a lack of proximity of service.

On July 12, 2018, the Convention Center Authority of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County (CCA) approved the acquisition of land located on 719 4th Avenue South.

When approving the purchase of 710 4th Avenue South, the CCA discussed its short-term needs for the property, but also noted that Nashville MTA had expressed interest in building a second transit hub in this location to complement MCC. In such time as funding allows, Nashville MTA would like to examine acquisition of the property from CCA, for such acquisition is consistent with discussions that have occurred among Nashville MTA, CCA, the Metropolitan Government and other partners. At this time, because there are no funds available for this purchase, Nashville MTA is not specifically committing any funds for the acquisition of this land.

Chair Miller noted that this appears to be a good time for this type of partnership because real estate is not getting any cheaper and this will ensure a long-term transit plan. CCA's attorneys and our attorneys have come together and looked at this. It has no budget implications on the Nashville MTA today.

The Committee recommended to the Board that Nashville MTA, in conjunction with its nMotion Strategic Plan, continue to review this area as a potential site for overall transit purposes, including a second transit hub, with no financial commitments at this time, and to publicly communicate to the CCA our continued interest in pursuing this project.

The CCA will take title of this property for their purposes, and then down the road, more discussions will take place and the Committee will come back to present this before the Board. There was no discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- VI. CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Williams expressed appreciation to the staff for the constant, continuous improvement in making WeGo Public Transit a great place. She further noted her appreciation for the information about the route changes, the advertising, the updated policy, the constant conversations about how they look to the future and how they continue to make WeGo better every day.

Continuing, Chair Williams noted that last month Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) President, Patrick Green discussed his concerns about operator assault to the board during the public comment period. Chief Executive Officer Steve Bland had asked the staff to assemble to address presented concerns. As a result, Mr. Bland has created and will share a summation in his report. The Board has requested that Mr. Bland continue to keep them apprised of issues and complaints that were being received so that they can make certain that safety was paramount to our drivers and passengers, and that they are steadfast in their approach to safety.

In closing, Chair Williams thanked the Lentz Center for the use of their space to host their board meetings.

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

- With respect to the Murfreesboro Road Project, the project is about one-third complete overall, and we were on schedule for completion in mid-2019 and tracking well for budget. Contractors are working on both pedestrian improvements and upgraded signal technology at this time. We are running into coordination issues with the Airport and Nashville Electric Service that we need to work through quickly to keep the project on schedule.
- We continue to slowly advance three specific neighborhood transit center projects. Work continues with the school district on the site at Hillsboro High School in Green Hills; we have reviewed site concepts with Tennessee State University for a location on their campus and are awaiting their feedback after they review with their student government and Board of Trustees; and we are also working to advance a site on Clarksville Pike. All three sites were identified in the nMotion Strategic service plan, and sit at the intersections of several major bus routes.
- He reminded the Board we are hosting the American Public Transportation Association Conference September 23-26 at the Omni Downtown. He will distribute a program agenda as soon as it is out, and the Board is welcome to attend sessions they find interesting.

- Work on the MCC renovations continue on schedule, with major work occurring on the Level 1 terminal and operations moved on street. Work on Level 1 will be complete before your next meeting, and we will transition to Level 2 the week after school starts.
- We have about 13 of our 31 new buses on the street now with the rest scheduled in service between now and the end of August. We will begin receiving 19 new AccessRide vans in the next month.
- Collective Bargaining negotiations between ATU Local 1235 and the Davidson Transit Organization have commenced.
- RTA Items:
  - Progress continues on construction of the Hamilton Springs Train Station. Soft opening is scheduled for August with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 6.
  - Work continues on the South Corridor Study, examining transit options in the Maury/Williamson/Davidson County corridor.
  - We continue to work with Mt. Juliet on a parking expansion project at Mt. Juliet Station.
  - The RTA received renewals of its CMAQ funding to allow continuation of most commuter bus services over the next three years.
  - MillerCoors elected not to renew its sponsorship of the Titans' Game-Day Express, so it is likely that this service will not be operated for the upcoming season.

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.