

MINUTES

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

March 3, 2016

12:41 p.m.

Board Members Present

Robert L. Ashe III
Juanita Jones Abernathy
Robert F. Dallas
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr.
Jim Durrett
Roderick E. Edmond
Noni Ellison-Southall
Jerry Griffin
Freda B. Hardage
Russell McMurry*
Christopher Tomlinson

Staff Members Present

Rukiya Thomas (Acting)
Richard Krisak
Elizabeth O'Neill
Gordon Hutchinson
Edward Johnson
Wanda Dunham
Robin Henry
Ming Hsi
Benjamin Limmer
David Springstead (Acting)
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Erves
Amanda Rhein
Donald Williams
John Bayalis
Lyle Harris
Alisa Jackson
Davis Allen
Abebe Girmay

Also in attendance was Robert S. Highsmith, Jr., Holland & Knight LLP; Andria Simmons of *The AJC*.

Chairman's Report

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, March 31, 2016

- Operations & Safety Committee – 10:00 a.m.
- Business Management Committee (immediately following)

* Russell McMurry is Commissioner Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and is therefore a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors

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Thursday, April 7, 2016

- Planning & External Relations Committee – 10:30 a.m.
- Work Session – 12:00
- Board – 1:30 p.m.

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Approval of the February 4, 2016 Work Session Minutes

On motion by Mrs. Ellison-Southall seconded by Dr. Edmond, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11* members present.

General Manager/CEO Report

Legislative Update

Board members were briefed on Senate Bill 330. The bill passed successfully out of the Senate Transportation Committee, but then died in the Rules Committee. Board and staff members are working to determine if the bill can be broken into pieces (a sentiment held by several jurisdictions).

What is being explored is the possibility of authorizing a referendum in Clayton, Fulton, Atlanta, DeKalb – i.e., pass a bill in Atlanta that authorizes a referendum for Atlanta, pass a bill for DeKalb that would authorized a referendum for DeKalb, etc.; with basically the same conditions, restrictions and provisions that would have been in the big bill. If this is possible, it would provide that the money raised would be spent in the area in which it is raised. Additionally, jurisdictions would be able to partner with each other, if they agreed to.

This would not be an abandonment of the vision of the overall expansion, but rather, it would be a recognition that some parts of our region are more ready to expand than others. If the necessary parties 'greenlight' this proposal, it would go live next week.

Mr. Highsmith said for cities that have organized themselves, they can function to pass legislation. Once the bill has support of delegation, it goes on a Consent Agenda and everything is voted on at once.

Mr. Griffin asked if it is possible for municipalities to levy sales and use tax.

Mr. Highsmith said the general answer is no. The specific answer in terms of the MARTA Act is yes.

Mr. Durrett noted there are two delegations and each delegation needs to do it.

Mrs. Hardage asked if this ever happened before – where delegations just vote on something specific to their delegation.

Mr. Highsmith said this has happened many times.

Brookhaven Development Update

During 2015, the MARTA Board authorized staff to enter into negotiation with joint development partners Integral and Trans Western. Since that time, staff has been:

- Negotiating the terms of the term sheet; which will ultimately be brought back to the Board for approval. Upon approval, the term sheet will serve as the basis for the definitive agreement that all parties will execute
- On a parallel track, staff have been conducting community engagement in support of the project
 - Five public meetings to date – the first meeting was a city-wide forum held at Brookhaven City Hall. The remaining four meetings were workshops held in each of the city council districts hosted by that council member

The purpose of those meetings has been to introduce the vision of the site and a concept of TOD - to look at their input on the vision, specifically what they would like to see on the site as well as what specific concerns that they have about the area today. It was determined there is a lot of concern about traffic. This is an existing condition that residents deal with on a daily basis in the community. The perception is that the congestion is a result of new development that has occurred over the past several years, primarily apartment development. As a result, there are concerns with adding new apartment units at the TOD project, because the perception is that it will exacerbate the traffic situation. As a result, MARTA is conducting due diligence in the form of a traffic impact analysis in order to understand the impact on the community and to determine any mitigating measures we can identify to address the issue. MARTA is planning to

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meet with GDOT, ARC, DeKalb and City of Brookhaven to identify transportation and other infrastructure projects that could be fast-tracked or implemented to help to address those pre-existing issues. There will be another series of community meetings once the due diligence process is complete.

A project website was created and comprises: general information, milestones, frequently asked questions and community forum. Additionally, residents have left comments on the Brookhaven Post website.

Mr. Dallas asked whether it is possible to assess how many of the same people attend all the meetings.

Mrs. Rhein said there is a strong contingency that are regular attendees at the meeting (20%).

Chairman Ashe said with the understanding the zoning process still has to take place, at what point do we say let the community get through their process.

Mrs. Rhein said MARTA would like to include residential in this project. There will be a point if it is the consensus of the community, to reduce the density of the project, staff will have to come back to the Board.

Chairman Ashe asked if it was Inman that was taken off the table for a while.

Mrs. Rhein said Inman is a bit more complicated. The city is revisiting some aspects of the comprehensive plan to address these types of issues which will lead into their re-writing of the zoning code.

Mr. Durrett asked if the Community Forum is anonymous.

Mrs. Rhein said no. People have to give their real names.

Clayton County High Capacity Briefing

MARTA has an agreement with Clayton County to conduct a high capacity study to explore the feasibility of commuter rail or some other type of high capacity service within that corridor.

Currently, MARTA is working with Norfolk Southern in looking at the right-of-way along the Lovejoy line. Norfolk Southern is looking at the second track and future freight capacity along the corridor. To date, they are 50% complete with the preliminary analysis. Study is due for completion by summer 2016.

High Capacity Transit Initiative

- Study purpose
 - Evaluate project alternatives and complete necessary environmental documentation
- Deliverables
 - Purpose and need
 - Alternatives screening and analysis
 - Technical environmental studies
 - Environmental Impact Statement
 - Advisory Committee/public involvement

High Capacity Transit Initiative Overview

Project Administration	February 2016 – July 2017
Advisory Committee/Public Involvement	March 2016 – July 2017
Data Collection and Analysis	March 2016 – February 2017
Development of Project Purpose and Needs	April 2016 – September 2016
Alternatives Screening and Analysis	March 2016 – November 2016
Selection of Locally Preferred Alternative	November 2016 – February 2017
Technical Environmental Studies	March 2016 – April 2017
Complete Draft Environmental Impact Stmt	Summer 2017

High Capacity Transit Initiative Overview - Advisory Committee

- Clayton County Advisory Committee Role:
 - Provide input in reference to community transit needs
 - Function as a sounding board for the project team
 - Provide feedback on study direction and analysis
- Recommended Representation:
 - Elected Officials, Development Community, Neighborhood Groups, Academic Community and Business Community

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- Status:
 - Preliminary list of Committee members identified
 - Refining the list to ensure inclusiveness and diversity

Next Steps

- Initiate Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting
- Complete Project Management Plan
- Continue data collection and analysis
- Provide Board periodic status updates

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Adjournment

The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:16 p.m.