

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 29, 2007

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chairman David S. Wolff. Board Member Burt Ballanfant, George DeMontrond, III, Rafael Ortega and C. J. Stewart, III were present and constituted a quorum. Vice Chairman Gerald Smith, Board Secretary Jackie Freeman, and Board Members, James W. E. Dixon, II and Carmen Orta were absent.

As the first order of business, Chairman Wolff called for approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 31, 2007. Board Member DeMontrond moved approval of the Minutes. Board Member Stewart seconded the Motion and all Board Members present voted to approve the Minutes, as written.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 28

Chairman Wolff then called upon those members of the public who had requested to speak before the Board. The persons who spoke and the substance of their comments were as follows:

1. Ms. Rebecca Sbhatte – complained of inadequate assistance from the bus operators. She reported an occasion when the bus displayed the incorrect destination sign and she was forced to deboard at an inconvenient location. She asked that bus operators be able to provide more route and schedule information to the passengers.

David Feeley, Vice President of Operations explained that courtesy training is provided, and the vast majority of bus operators are respectful and helpful. Some destination signs have been changed so that they are easier to understand.

2. Mr. Joe Standefer – requested that the bus stop on his regular route be relocated to the North side of the I-10 freeway, near the Houston Community College campus, rather than the southside. Mr. Standefer explained how he must cross the freeway to reach the bus stop, and the ongoing construction adds approximately 20 minutes to his travel time.

Mr. Feeley offered to meet with Mr. Standefer after the Board meeting. Mr. Feeley stated that the general area suggested by Mr. Standefer is undergoing a great deal of reconstruction activity and would pose a significant departure from the regular bus route.

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3. Mark Hogue – suggested the expansion of rail transit to the surrounding counties, such as Brazoria, Chambers, Montgomery and Fort Bend. Each county's alignment could be represented by a different color. Mr. Hogue suggested more routes within the METRO boundaries, such as the area at Westheimer and State Highway 99. Mr. Hogue also presented a petition, on behalf of a Ms. Williams, seeking improvements to the 98 Briargate route.

Chairman Wolff stated that METRO is actually studying service to the Westheimer/Highway 99 area.

4. Mr. Dominic Mazoch – suggested that discounts be provided by retailers, theaters or other commercial venues to persons who use transit to reach their destination.

5. Mr. Mark Smith – complained that inconsistent or inaccurate information has been given regarding the "Q Card". He also complained that the bus service was not "customer friendly."

Chairman Wolff explained that METRO has added service on the routes that have shown increased demand. At the same time, METRO has discontinued routes where there was very low ridership.

6. Mr. Clifton Casimir – complained of bad drivers, and reported an incident in which the bus operator failed to stop at the curb and he boarded the bus in a traffic lane.

7. Mr. Jerry Asher – first complimented Board Member George DeMontrond for the quality of his business advertisements. Mr. Asher then complained that some bus operators have ignored inappropriate behavior by passengers he described as "evacuees from the Hurricane Katrina disaster."

8. Ms. Hilda Hyatt – complained of poor bus service and buses that did not arrive according to schedule.

Ms. Hyatt asked if the Board Members had received a 10% pay increase. Chairman Wolff answered that no Board Members have received pay increases. Ms. Hyatt voiced her opinion that certain employees in the Operations Department deserve salary increases.

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At the conclusion of the Public Comments portion of the meeting, Chairman Wolff called upon the President & Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Frank J. Wilson, for his Business Report. Mr. Wilson first explained how transit police officers have been deployed to various locations to better address METRO's interaction with its patrons, and how passenger and bus operator behavior impact service. Recent emphasis on fare enforcement showed that only one percent of METRORail passengers had failed to pay the proper fare before boarding. Enforcement of the traffic laws near the METRORail line has increased general safety. Efforts are also underway to prevent loitering on the transit system.

Chairman Wolff told of an acquaintance who had experienced an unpleasant incident while using METRORail. Apparently another passenger threw something at the acquaintance, and disembarked immediately thereafter. METRO police officers were called to investigate. The acquaintance had complimented the METRO police officers for their promptness, and their follow-up investigation. Chairman Wolff explained that METRO must continue to assure its passengers that the service provided is a safe and pleasant way to travel. He commended the police officers for their good work.

Board Member Ortega asked if the presence of uniformed officers is a more effective deterrent than the deployment of officers who are working "plainclothes."

METRO Police Chief Thomas C. Lambert stated that the Department is currently assessing the effectiveness of both uniformed and plainclothes officers.

Mr. Wilson then presented a video excerpt from a sermon given by Pastor Joel Osteen of Lakewood Church. Pastor Osteen told of a church member who, because of certain physical limitations, required bus service to attend the church. Sunday bus service was not provided on the route that he would take to the church's new location. The church member attended METRO board meetings, gathered signatures on petitions, and frequently reported on the need for additional bus service. Through his efforts, Sunday bus service was added to a route near the Lakewood Church. Mr. Wilson then introduced the church member, Mr. Mark Hogue. Mr. Wilson explained METRO's responsiveness to ridership needs, and how one person can make a difference.

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Chairman Wolff then called for consideration of the Summary Agenda, containing Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Board Member Ballanfant moved approval of the Summary Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Board Member DeMontrond and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 29

By way of Summary Agenda, the Board of Directors approved the following:

1. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to submit a grant application to receive \$1.8 million from the Federal Transit Administration for service expansions, "signature service" and new commuter service in the I-10 Katy Freeway and US 290 Corridors.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 50

2. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services for Broker of Record service for an amount not to exceed \$328,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 51

3. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Lexington Insurance Company for Project Professional Liability insurance for METRO Solutions. The premium for such insurance shall be an amount not to exceed \$5 million.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 52

4. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with LOPEZGARCIA GROUP for historic resources consulting services, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 53

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5. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with PBS & J for program control services, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 54

6. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with BSCI, Inc., Othon Consulting Engineers, Inc. and AIA Engineering, Ltd. for Construction Management Services. Each contract shall be for an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 55

7. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to proceed with negotiations for an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation and Harris County for future transit operations on I-10 West Katy Freeway.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 56

8. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute modifications to the contracts with Briggs Field Services and Contract Land Staff for staff support and consultant services for real estate transactions. The modifications shall increase the maximum authorized expenditures under the contracts by the not-to-exceed amount of \$4 million.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 57

9. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute a modification to the contract with AlliedBarton Security Services to extend the performance period and increase the maximum authorized expenditures under the contract by an amount not to exceed \$509,271.36.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 58

10. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with New Flyer Industries for purchase of body, structural and chassis parts for METRO's fleet of New Flyer buses for an amount not to exceed \$1,680,692.56.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 59

11. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with Neopart for purchase of body, structural and chassis parts for METRO's fleet of Neopart buses, for an amount not to exceed \$373,051.11.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 60

12. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with DaimlerChrysler for purchase of slack adjusters parts for METRO's fleet of buses in the amount not-to-exceed \$345,259.02.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 61

13. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Sunrise Deliver, Inc. for moving and reconfiguration services for an amount not to exceed \$112,455.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 62

14. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to purchase 100 transit vehicles for a total amount not to exceed \$63,996,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 63

15. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Digital Intelligence Systems Corporation for the purchase of network equipment for the Administration Office Building for an amount not to exceed \$537,760.30.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 64

16. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Hewlett Packard Company for a comprehensive data storage facility for an amount not to exceed \$1,188,993.91.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 65

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Board Member Ballanfant noted that many METRO employees worked long hours during Hurricanes Rita and Katrina but did not receive overtime pay because they occupied "exempt" positions under the criteria of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Provisions should be made to permit overtime compensation. Such action will also enable METRO to submit a claim to FEMA for reimbursement for the overtime payment costs. Board Member Ballanfant then moved that overtime compensation be paid to those exempt employees, as determined by the President & Chief Executive Officer, who are required to remain on duty past their normal work hours during times of disasters or emergencies. Board Member Ballanfant's Motion was seconded by Board Member Stewart. All Board Members present voted in favor.

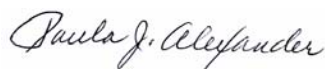
MOTION NO. 2007 – 30  
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 66

Board Member Ortega stated that METRO has been the designated recipient of Section 5307 federal grants for transit projects in the Houston urbanized area. Funds should be disbursed for the delivery of transit services by the most efficient and cost effective means. Board Member Ortega moved that METRO's discussions with other governmental entities for Section 5307 funds include such matters as avoiding duplication of transit services, that takes into account METRO's existing resources, and that considers whether METRO can present cost effective and efficient transit service options. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Ballanfant, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 31  
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 67

There being no further matters to come before the Board for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Paula J. Alexander  
Assistant Secretary

