

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman David S. Wolff at 1:20 p.m. Vice Chairman Gerald Smith, Board Secretary Jackie Freeman, and Board Members Burt Ballanfant, George DeMontrond III, and C. J. Stewart, III were present and constituted a quorum. Board Members James W. E. Dixon, II, Carmen Orta and Rafael Ortega were absent.

Chairman Wolff first called for approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 23, 2007. Board Member C. J. Stewart, III moved approval of the Minutes. Board Member Stewart's Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gerald Smith and all Board Members present voted approval.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 38

Chairman Wolff next called upon President & Chief Executive Officer, Frank J. Wilson for his Business Report. Mr. Wilson presented a report with a "category-by-category" analysis of ridership. Mr. Wilson announced a public ceremony to mark the start of service at the new Baytown Park & Ride lot. The event will take place on September 26, and Commissioner Garcia will be in attendance. He added that service at the new Cypress Park & Ride has already begun and is proving to be very successful. Facility construction is complete, and a ceremony will be scheduled to celebrate the start of service.

At the conclusion of the Business Report, Chairman Wolff called for consideration of the Summary Agenda, containing Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, and 9. Board Member Stewart moved approval of the Summary Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Board Member DeMontrond, and all Board Members present voted their approval.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 39

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

1. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with Thermo King of Houston, LP for Thermo King air conditioning parts for METRO's fleet of buses for an amount not to exceed \$1,653,059.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 80

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2. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with Petroleum Traders Corporation of Houston to supply and deliver unleaded gasoline for METRO's non-revenue vehicles, for an amount not to exceed \$812,975.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 81

3. Modification of the current vanpool program, and authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver lease agreements with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and with VPSI, Inc. for vans used in the vanpool program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 82

4. Approval of the Fourth Amendment to the Non-Union Pension Plan to freeze participation in the current defined benefit plan and implement a defined contribution Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 83

As the next item for business, Vice Chairman Gerald Smith noted that METRO's enabling legislation requires that the Board adopt an annual budget before the expenditure of funds in a fiscal year. METRO's fiscal year begins October 1, and budgets have been prepared for the 2008 fiscal year. The budgets have been reviewed and have been made available for public comment. Vice Chairman Smith then moved adoption of an operating budget of \$300,000,000; adoption of a capital budget of \$336,386,000; and, adoption of a general mobility budget of \$185,328,000. Board Secretary Freeman seconded the Motion, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 40

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 84

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Board Secretary Jackie Freeman stated that the existing Addicks and Kingsland Park & Ride facilities are near capacity and an additional facility is needed to address increased transit demands on the Katy Freeway corridor. He then moved that the President & Chief Executive Officer be authorized and directed to negotiate, execute and deliver appropriate documents with NewQuest Properties for a Park & Ride facility at the Katy Freeway and Grand Parkway. The Motion was seconded by Board Member DeMontrond. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 - 41
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 85

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. Mr. Mark Hogue – recommended a new route, to be called “Route 81”, to serve the Sharpstown area. Mr. Hogue suggested more evening service for Route 53.

2. Mr. David Thorne – offered the assistance of his organization, the “Urban Mass Transit Union”, for more funding for METRO. He presented a flyer in which he asserted that a special session of the Texas Legislature had resulted in a reduction of the one cent sales tax assessed within METRO’s boundaries.

Chairman Wolff questioned Mr. Thorne about the truthfulness of the statements in the flyer, and asked for corroborating information. METRO’s Director of Governmental Affairs advised that there was no special session of the Texas Legislature, and METRO’s sales tax has not been cut. Chairman Wolff then informed Mr. Thorne that his credibility is impaired by the publication of unsupported statements.

3. Mr. James Dabney – stated that he held elective office as a result of a vote by the employees, and offered assistance for continued METRO funding.

Chairman Wolff asked Mr. Dabney if he concurred with the statements in the flyer, as presented by Mr. Thorne. Mr. Dabney stated that he would conduct further research on the matter. Chairman Wolff agreed that further research would be appropriate.

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4. Mr. Joseph Charles – requested the return of a paratransit disability card and certain stolen property.

(Vice Chairman Smith left the meeting at 1:40 p.m.)

5. Mr. James Chastant – urged careful consideration by METRO officials before residents are displaced by construction of the University alignment. He suggested an alignment on Alabama Street instead of Wheeler. Mr. Chastant stated that a route along Alabama is less costly and will require fewer property acquisitions. He also stated that the census data used for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to account for recent population growth and increased property values.

6. Mr. Jacob Klementich – explained how he and his family have enjoyed the convenience of light rail transit in Atlanta, Chicago and Dallas, and encouraged others to be more supportive.

7. Ms. Lizette Cobb – prefers a routing along Alabama Street for the eastern portion of the University Line. Her home on Wheeler Street has belonged to her family for several generations and has significant sentimental value. Ms. Cobb stated that the Alabama option is less costly and would impact fewer families.

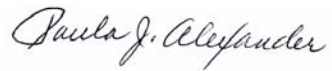
8. Ms. Carol Pouncy – stated that she is the fourth generation of her family to reside at her home on Wheeler Street. She urged consideration of the Alabama Street alignment and requested that her home not be disturbed by the University Line. She stated that the Wheeler Street alignment will destroy the community.

Chairman Wolff summarized the large number of meetings held in the community, and the conversations with public officials and private citizens regarding the alignment options. While some disagreement remains, METRO must eventually make a decision. Chairman Wolff stated that METRO is sensitive to her concerns but cautioned that no single route will be accepted by 100% of the community residents.

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At the conclusion of the Public Comment portion of the meeting, there was no further business to come before the Board for consideration. Therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula J. Alexander".

Paula J. Alexander
Assistant Secretary