

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2007

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman David S. Wolff. Vice Chairman Gerald Smith, Board Secretary Jackie Freeman, and Board Members Burt Ballanfant, Carmen Orta, Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa and C. Jim Stewart, III were present and constituted a quorum. Board Member George DeMontrond, III arrived at 1:15 p.m. Board Member James W. E. Dixon, II was absent.

As the first item for business, Chairman Wolff called for approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 15, 2007. Board Member Stewart moved approval of the Minutes. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Sosa and all Board Members present voted to approve the Minutes. (Board Member DeMontrond was not present for the vote on this matter.)

MOTION NO. 2007 – 50

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

1. Mr. Gene Flores – requested more METROLift vans so that patrons are not late for scheduled medical appointments. Mr. Flores also reported an incident in which he experienced travel delays because the driver would not access the freeway.

2. Mr. Macario Garcia, Jr. – asked that the destination signs on the transit vehicles read “Merry Christmas” instead of the more secular “Happy Holidays” or “Seasons Greetings”.

Chairman Wolff explained that METRO serves persons of different faiths and, as a public entity, METRO should display signs that are inclusive.

3. Mr. John Nicks – agreed with Mr. Garcia, and added that he generally will not patronize businesses that display the more secular holiday greetings.

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4. Mr. Mark Smith – complained that if a bus is late, more time is needed for transfers without paying an additional fare. He asked that patrons be allowed up to four hours to make transfers with the Q Card.

(Board Member DeMontrond arrived during Mr. Smith's comments)

Chairman Wolff stated that METRO will monitor the transfers and take corrective action if necessary.

5. Mr. Bryan Klein – requested modification of certain bus routes and relocation of the existing bus stop at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Shepherd. He suggested that the route be re-configured along the east side of Shepherd so that it does not impact the residential side of the street. Mr. Klein stated that the bus patrons have littered the area.

President & Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Wilson responded that METRO has investigated his complaint and considered the impact of his suggested route adjustment. Although more people than bus riders frequent the locations near 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Shepherd, extra efforts will be made to clean and maintain the bus stops. Mr. Wilson explained that Mr. Klein's suggested route modifications would reduce service and access for bus patrons.

6. Mr. Clifton Casimire – complained of inconsiderate bus drivers.

7. Mr. Mark Hogue – suggested that the #53 bus route continue along Alabama, and that METRO split the West Oaks and Sharpstown route.

8. Ms. Ramona Jackson – a former bus operator, was released from employment following an injury which caused an extended absence for approximately one year. Ms. Jackson stated that she is ready to return to work, but has not been rehired.

Mr. Frank Wilson offered to meet with her for further discussion.

9. Mr. Brett Bland – suggested that public restrooms be placed at some of the transit facilities and light rail stations.

Mr. Wilson stated that he fully appreciated the convenience of accessible restroom facilities. However, the implementation of security measures, and the need to include a self-cleaning mechanism would substantially increase costs. METRO Police Chief, Thomas C. Lambert further explained that public restrooms are not recommended because of the potential use as a location for criminal activity against the transit system and against individual patrons.

10. Mr. Richard Freeman – reported an incident in which he stumbled when the light rail vehicle left the station. He also complained that he has not received the pension benefits to which he feels he is entitled, notwithstanding several attempts to seek relief through previous court action.

11. Mr. Paul Magaziner – opposes the construction of at-grade light rail, and accused METRO of underestimating the costs and exaggerating the benefits of light rail transit. He also accused METRO of failing to comply with the prior referendum.

Upon the conclusion of the public comments portion of the meeting, Chairman Wolff called upon Mr. Wilson for his Business Report. Mr. Wilson noted that reports had been presented to the Board summarizing the business plan and financials for the end of the calendar year. He announced the January start of the Q Card and the new fare structure. An education and advertising campaign will accompany the implementation of the new fare structure. Recent testing of the system has been very successful.

Board Member Carmen Orta expressed her support for the President & Chief Executive Officer's leadership and for Vice Chairman Smith's stewardship of the Board's Finance Committee.

As the next item for business, Chairman Wolff called for consideration of the Summary Agenda. Board Member DeMontrond moved approval of the Summary Agenda, containing Agenda Items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Stewart and all Board Members present voted their approval.

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

1. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver contracts with the firms of Arup, Inc., Bovay Engineers, Inc., Infrastructure Associates, and with PGAL for comprehensive architectural and engineering services. Each contract shall be for an amount not to exceed \$1 million.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 98

2. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver contracts with firms for transit, traffic management and intelligent transportation systems projects. The firms are Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc., Gunda Corporation, Inc., Klotz Associates, Inc., TEDSI Infrastructure Group, Inc., and Walter P. Moore & Associates. Each contract shall be for an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 99

3. Waiver of the cost limitation under METRO's Job Order Contract to accommodate installation of a cable support system for the METRORail traction power pull boxes, and authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to issue a work authorization in the not-to-exceed amount of \$812,163.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 100

4. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Neon Electric Corporation for fabrication and installation of signature bus shelters for an amount not to exceed \$3,273,563.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 101

5. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with Texas Video & Post for broadcast production services for an amount not to exceed \$450,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 102

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Vice Chairman Gerald Smith noted the State law requirement that political subdivisions, such as METRO, conduct annual reviews of its investment policies for adoption of strategies to protect public funds in the current financial environment. Vice Chairman Smith reported that the Finance Committee conducted a review, and moved adoption of the investment policy, as submitted to the Board Members, for fiscal year 2008. Board Member DeMontrond seconded Vice Chairman Smith's Motion, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 52  
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 103

Vice Chairman Smith then moved that \$14.1 Million in surplus funds from the fiscal year 2007 operating budget be transferred to the Union and Non-Union pension plans, and to other employee costs. The Motion was seconded by Board Secretary Freeman, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 53  
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 104

As the next item for business, Board Secretary Freeman moved that the President & Chief Executive Officer be authorized and directed to negotiate, execute and deliver appropriate documents for the sale of property to the University of Houston. Board Member Stewart seconded the Motion and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2007 – 54  
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 105

There being no other matters to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Paula J. Alexander  
Assistant Secretary

