

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2008

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:23 p.m. by Chairman David S. Wolff. Vice Chairman Gerald Smith, Board Secretary Jackie Freeman, and Board Members Burt Ballanfant, George DeMontrond III, Carmen Orta, Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa and C. Jim Stewart, III were present and constituted a quorum. Board Member James W. E. Dixon, II was absent.

Chairman Wolff first called for approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 13, 2007. Board Member Carmen Orta moved approval of the Minutes. Board Member Sosa seconded the Motion, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 1

The next item for business was the election of officers. Board Member Burt Ballanfant moved the re-election of David S. Wolff as Chairman of the Board, Gerald Smith as Vice Chairman and Jackie Freeman as Board Secretary. The Motion was seconded by Board Member DeMontrond, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 2

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. Peter Wang – of Bike Houston and the Citizens Transportation Coalition, asked that bike racks be placed on the light rail vehicles. He also requested that METRO extend the hours during which bicycles are permitted on the light rail vehicles. Mr. Wang reported that several North American rail transit systems permit bicycles on board during the peak hours, with no overall loss of customer satisfaction. METRO's President & Chief Executive Officer, Frank J. Wilson, stated that METRO will undertake a full, in-depth evaluation to determine if bicycles can be accommodated in a manner that is safe and convenient. Board Member DeMontrond asked the status of the "Bikes on Buses" Program. David Feeley, METRO's Senior Vice President of Operations, reported that bike racks have been installed on all local buses. The "high model" suburban buses can also accommodate bicycles. The articulated buses are not equipped to accommodate bicycles.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Metropolitan Transit
Authority Board of Directors
January 17, 2008
Page Two

Board Member DeMontrond asked about patron usage of the bike racks. Mr. Wilson responded that usage has increased substantially as more buses are equipped with bike racks. Mr. Feeley stated that the light rail vehicles have reached maximum customer capacity during the peak hours. Thus, bicycles are not allowed on the light rail vehicles during peak hours so as to avoid depriving regular passengers of needed space during the busiest travel periods. Mr. Wilson stated that METRO will continue to study this issue.

2. Mr. Carlton Rouse – the owner of Tony’s Café on Griggs Road, asked how METRO will help the business owners that may be impacted by transit construction.

Mr. Wilson explained that different businesses have different levels of activity or operate so as to meet the special needs of their customers. Any plan to assist stakeholders must take those differences into consideration. Some businesses may need assistance with parking, with access or with signage. Mr. Wilson then introduced Ms. Kimberly Williams, METRO’s Associate Vice President Corporate Programs, who will be working with stakeholders to address some of their concerns during the construction phase.

3. Ms. Cynthia Brannon – Executive Director of Compass, a non-profit social service agency, distributes bus tokens to agency clients. She explained that bus tokens, rather than stored value cards, are more appropriate for the travel needs of agency clients.

Mr. Wilson noted METRO’s awareness of her concerns and those of similar agencies. For that reason, METRO is exploring issuance of a \$2.00 ticket which would cover production costs and still offer a small discount.

Mr. David Feeley provided additional information on the use of bike racks on METRO’s bus fleet. From April 2007 to the end of December 2007, the buses carried 2,292 bicycles. However, the racks were used 2,092 times during the first quarter of fiscal year 2008. Thus, as more bike racks have been installed on the buses, there has been a significant increase in utilization.

4. Ms. Aleithia Artemis – suggested that the Q Card benefit of five free rides for every 50 paid trips is not as attractive as the 30 day pass.

Mr. Wilson explained that the previous fare structure had not been changed in some 13 years and was no longer financially sound. The full impact of the previous discounts served to reduce the actual average fare to \$0.43. The base fare remains \$1.00 under the new fare structure. It is more equitable and provides an easier method of payment. Upon further questions from Ms. Artemis, Mr. Wilson explained how the Q Card can be used, refunds and transfers.

Board Member Burt Ballanfant noted that the offer of 5 free rides is available to all users of the system. Some previous discounts received through corporate sponsorships were not available to the average worker. Thus, the "loyalty" program is fairer than the previous fare structure. He added that the Q Card can be used for both bus and rail, thus enhancing accessibility to the entire transit system.

5. Mr. Jerry Williams – complained that he was injured while a passenger on the bus, but has not received any compensation for his injuries.

In response to questions from Chairman Wolff, Mr. Williams stated that he has previously filed injury claims against METRO. Mr. Frank Wilson added that he would review the matter further.

6. Mr. Clifton Casimire – complained that the door of the bus closed before he fully boarded.

7. Ms. Cherie Butler – complained that her former spouse, a METRO employee, has threatened her. She also alleged other acts of harassment.

METRO Police Chief Thomas C. Lambert offered to meet with Ms. Butler for further discussion of her complaint.

8. Mr. Mark Hogue – requested extended service for the No. 53 and the No. 82 bus routes.

9. Mr. Ralph Lowe – presented information on new technology for an "anti-friction" product.

At the conclusion of the public comment portion of the meeting, Chairman Wolff called upon Mr. Wilson for his monthly business report.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Metropolitan Transit
Authority Board of Directors
January 17, 2008
Page Four

Mr. Wilson reported on the Q Card roll-out and the informational material that has been distributed to the public. The transition to the Q Card will be phased in during the next 3 months. To date, the transition has proceeded smoothly, and system hardware and software is functioning as expected. Mr. Wilson then introduced Erik Oistad, METRO's Chief Information Officer for additional information on the transition to the Q Card.

Mr. Oistad gave a slide presentation showing the current distribution of Q Cards, system tests during the previous year and categories of users. Mr. Oistad reported that the roll-out has been successful since the program began. There has been close coordination with the Marketing and Communications Department so that patrons are fully aware of the Q Card's features.

Mr. Oistad also showed a short video clip from a local Channel 11 news program regarding the new Q Card.

Mr. Wilson concluded his business report with an announcement of the upcoming start of service at the new 222 Park & Ride facility, at the Grand Parkway and I-10 Freeway. He also reported on the success of the new Cypress Park & Ride service.

In response to a question from Board Member Burt Ballanfant, Mr. Wilson explained that users of the Cypress Park & Ride lot will pay a fee to park if they do not access the buses. If the users park and then ride the bus, the parking fee will be reimbursed through the Q Card. The 222 Park & Ride facility will operate similarly.

Ms. Artemis returned to the public speakers podium and complained that patrons seem to be unable to access the transit system unless they first obtain a Q Card.

Chairman Wolff then moved for approval of the Summary Agenda, containing, containing Agenda Items 6, 7 and 8. Board Member DeMontrond seconded the Motion, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 3

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

1. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Pfeiffer & Son, Ltd for the construction of site improvements for Signature Bus Service along Bellaire Boulevard, for an amount not to exceed \$1,677,162.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 1

2. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a Modification to the contract with TCB Transit, extending the period of performance and increasing the maximum authorized expenditures under the contract to \$35.5 million.

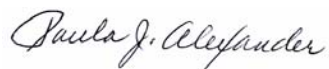
RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 2

3. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Konica – Minolta Business Solutions for the lease of copiers and reproduction machines, and the purchase of associated software, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,008,951.21.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 3

There being no other matters to come before the Board for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paula J. Alexander
Assistant Secretary