

MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MAY 22, 2008

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

As the first matter for business, Vice Chairman Smith called for approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting for April 24, 2008. Board Member Orta moved approval of the Minutes. Board Member Dixon seconded the Motion, and all Board Members present voted to approve the Minutes.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 14

Vice Chairman Smith 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. Debbie Allen – President of the Pleasantville Strategic Planning and Revitalization Committee, complimented METRO'S "Adopt a Stop/Adopt a Shelter" Program and the responsiveness of METRO Police officers. The deployment of law enforcement personnel has reduced occurrences of criminal activity near the bus stops. The "Adopt a Stop/Adopt a Shelter" Program has galvanized the community to take an active role, in partnership with METRO, to clean and maintain the area surrounding the bus stops and shelters.

METRO Police Chief, Thomas C. Lambert, thanked Ms. Allen for her community leadership, and recognized Sergeant Leroy Davis and Public Safety Project Specialist Phyllis Estes for their work in addressing the community's needs.

Vice Chairman Smith and Board Member Ballanfant also thanked Ms. Allen and her organization for demonstrating how neighborhoods and public entities can work together to improve the lives of neighborhood residents. Board Member Dixon suggested that METRO make others aware of the work undertaken by METRO and the Pleasantville Strategic Planning and Revitalization Committee, and use it as a model for similar joint METRO/neighborhood efforts.

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2. Mr. Jim Schickschneit – complimented Chief Lambert for the thoroughness of METRO’s emergency evacuation plans. He suggested that buses be retro-fitted to accommodate senior citizens and geriatric patients, many of whom may be wheelchair bound or have special medical needs. He also recommended creation of a Helicopter Division to support safety and law enforcement activities.

Chief Lambert reported that staff has met with Mr. Schickschneit to discuss some of his ideas. The Transit Police Department is reviewing his idea for a “transit police watch program”. There are ongoing communications with local public officials to enhance our response to the emergency evacuation of persons with special needs.

3. Mr. Scott More – of the Coalition for the Homeless, thanked staff’s responsiveness to his concerns about the impact of METRO’s new fare structure on persons who rely on the services of his organization. The issuance of “METRO Money” with a \$1.00 value will address client needs.

4. Ms. Gwendolyn Babineaux – stated that she is still unclear about the boundaries of the METROLift service area, service times and her eligibility for METROLift services.

Mr. Art Jackson, METRO’s Director of Transportation Programs, explained that METROLift does not provide late night service to the area where Ms. Babineaux lives. Mr. Jackson stated that there are other available options to address her transportation needs, and invited Ms. Babineaux to meet with him for further discussion.

5. Mr. Mark Hogue – requested more service for Routes 53 and 82 to address overcrowding, and more weekend service.

6. Mr. Mark Smith – stated that the METRO Q Card does not provide sufficient time for transfers on a single fare.

7. Mr. Hartwell Remsburg – stated that bicycles should not be allowed on the light rail vehicles because they take space away from patrons and can pose a danger.

METRO's President & Chief Executive Officer, Frank J. Wilson, explained the need to find a balance between encouraging bike riders to use the transit system and ensuring that bike riders use transit sensibly. Currently, the most sensible use of the transit system is to accommodate bicycles during off-peak hours. However, some patrons believe that bicycles should be allowed on the light rail vehicles during all hours of service.

8. Mr. Rudy Sutherland – complained that METRO's Small Business Program is outdated and does little to support the entrepreneur. He called for adherence to an "Entrepreneurial Code of Ethics".

Vice Chairman Smith asked Mr. Sutherland for further clarification. Mr. Sutherland alleged certain policy discrepancies in the Program. He stated that some small businesses are unable to compete. Vice Chairman Smith explained how METRO is deeply committed to small business participation. METRO's Program compares favorably to programs administered by other public entities. However, METRO cannot guarantee business for every small firm that expresses an interest. Vice Chairman Smith reminded Mr. Sutherland that staff is fully aware of the importance of small business participation and has worked diligently to meet the Board's directives.

9. Mr. Clifton Casimir – complained of unsafe bus drivers. He stated and that he has witnessed patrons engaging in inappropriate activities on the buses.

10. Ms. Diane Lipton – President of the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce, expressed concerns that the proposed construction of a service and inspection facility on Harrisburg is inconsistent with the surrounding commercial and pedestrian environment. She is also concerned that the proposed facility will be constructed near schools and residences and will impede further neighborhood development. Ms. Lipton asked that METRO select another location for the facility, and that METRO permit more community input on its design and construction plans.

President & Chief Executive Officer, Frank J. Wilson, agreed that openness and transparency are important, but cautioned that public dialogue about property acquisitions can hamper negotiations. Mr. Wilson noted the industrial use of property surrounding the proposed facility. The service and inspection facility will bring employees who will patronize neighborhood businesses and will bring added security to the community. METRO is committed to development that will enhance the neighborhood aesthetics and

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quality of life. Mr. Wilson invited Ms. Lipton to work with METRO so that the community's concerns are heard.

Ms. Lipton responded that the community has been supportive of METRO, and METRO should continue to ensure that the community is informed. She also asked about the status of a proposed light rail station.

Mr. Wilson responded that a nearby grade separation will be constructed earlier due to input from the freight rail interests.

At the conclusion of the public speakers portion of the meeting, Vice Chairman Smith called upon Mr. Wilson for his monthly Business Report. Mr. Wilson began his report with a summary of a letter recently received from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The letter served to notify METRO that TxDOT's widening of the I-10 (Katy) freeway now requires that METRO vacate the HOV lane so that it can be merged with the new construction. Meetings between METRO, the Harris County Toll Road Authority and TxDOT are ongoing for options that would permit transit priority on a dedicated lane pending the completion of freeway construction and the operation of the new Katy toll road system. Mr. Wilson then presented METRO's new media advertisements featuring local celebrities promoting transit. He presented a video featuring George Foreman, a Spanish language video featuring Carlos Lee, and a video featuring Chloe Dao.

Mr. Wilson introduced John Haley for a presentation of transit service adjustments in response to increased service demands. METRO will make better use of available resources by matching ridership with excess capacity. METRO will also increase Park & Ride service on selected routes. Efforts are ongoing to accelerate the implementation of Signature Bus Service, introduce "point-to-point" service, and enhance the van pool program.

At the conclusion of the Monthly Business Report, Vice Chairman Smith called for consideration of the Summary Agenda, containing Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15. Board Member Dixon moved approval of the Summary Agenda. Board Member Dixon further requested that staff ensure that Mercer Human Resources Consulting continue its commitment to achieve a 25% small business goal, as provided in the initial contract. Board Member Mendenhall Sosa then seconded Board Member Dixon's Motion to approve the Summary Agenda. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2008-15

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

1. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute credit agreements and an updated offering memorandum in support of the Commercial Paper Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-28

2. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver grant agreements for Section 5316 Job Access/Reverse Commute projects.

RESOLUTION NO 2008-29

3. Approval of Brokers/Dealers authorized to conduct investment transactions with METRO.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-30

4. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to modify the contract with Mercer HR Consulting and increase the maximum authorized expenditures by an amount not to exceed \$456,600.00.

RESOLUTION NO 2008-31

5. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with Deloitte Consulting, LLP for a Comprehensive Compensation Study for an amount not to exceed \$183,375.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-32

6. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with HarCon Mechanical LLC, to provide inspections and repairs for HVAC equipment and boilers for an amount not to exceed \$277,467.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-33

7. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver contract modifications to increase the maximum expenditures under the contracts with Briggs Field Services and Contract Land Staff for a total amount not to exceed \$12 Million.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-34

8. Authorization for execution of a Consent Agreement with the City of Houston for the construction of transit facilities in furtherance of METRO Solutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-35

9. Ratification of actions taken by the President & Chief Executive Officer, including the termination of the Development Agreement with Washington Group Transit Management Company; the temporary assumption of contracts and the selection of Parsons Transportation Group to provide professional services in support of METRO Solutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-36

10. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and deliver an agreement for the lease of property at the southwest corner of Travis and Pierce necessary for transit services and transit development.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-37

Board Member DeMontrond stated that the Board previously authorized the acquisition of several properties and interests in properties for transit development in the North, Southeast, East End and Uptown travel corridors. A public hearing was held to receive comments on the proposed acquisitions. Board Member DeMontrond then moved that the Board declare the public necessity for the acquisition of the properties, and that the President & Chief Executive Officer, along with legal counsel, take such action as necessary to proceed with the acquisitions. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Orta, and all Board Members present voted in favor.

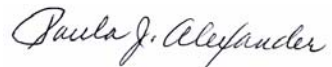
MOTION NO. 2008-16  
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-38

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Board Member Orta complimented staff for the recently held North Corridor public hearing.

There being no other matters to come before the Board for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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Paula J. Alexander  
Assistant Secretary