

**MINUTES  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 19, 2009**

The regularly-scheduled monthly Board of Directors' ("Board") meeting convened and was called to order at 1:43 p.m. by Chairman of the Board David S. Wolff. Board Members present were George DeMontrond, III, Vice-Chairman of the Board; Mr. Gerald B. Smith, Vice-Chairman of the Board; and Board Members Mr. Burt Ballanfant, Mr. Terence Fontaine, Ms. Carmen Orta, and Mr. C. Jim Stewart, III. The Board Members present constituted a quorum.

MOTION NO. 2009-42

Board Chairman Wolff convened the meeting and called for a motion for approval of the minutes of the regularly-scheduled Board Meeting of October 15, 2009. Board Member Stewart moved for approval, and Board Member Orta seconded the motion. All Board Members present voted in favor and the motion to approve the October 15, 2009, minutes passed.

Chairman Wolff invited those members of the public who had requested to speak before the Board to make their individual presentations. The public speakers and their comments are summarized below:

1. **Ms. Mary Almendarez**: Ms. Almendarez introduced herself as a long-time bus passenger and stated that she would like to see the Clearwood/Edgebrook stop moved to the corner of the street. She also requested that a shelter be installed. Ms. Almendarez also requested that a bench be placed at the Bellfort/Broadway stop. She stated that there had formerly been a shelter at that location but that it had been removed. Mr. Wolff asked Senior Vice President of Operations, David Feeley, if METRO has a practice of removing shelters. Mr. Feeley stated that METRO did not have such a practice and that he would have his staff look into the matter.

Ms. Almendarez informed the Board that she would like to circulate a petition to encourage METRO to run Route 88 on Sundays. Ms. Almendarez continued by expressing her opinion to the Board that the two-hour transfer period for Q-cards is too short and that the current transfer period does not allow for various stops within a trip, as she would prefer.

2. **Mr. Griff Griffin**: Mr. Griffin began his presentation by thanking the Board for its hard work. He introduced himself as the president of Concerned Citizens of Houston. Mr. Griffin stated that he believes that soon there will be significant changes on the Board. Mr. Griffin then proposed that METRO consider opening all high-occupancy vehicle ("HOV") lanes on weekends. He suggested that this be done just for a short time as a "Christmas gift" to Houstonians. Mr. Griffin said he believed many people want to come to downtown Houston to take advantage

of free or inexpensive entertainment, such as that at Discovery Green. Mr. Griffin suggested that by opening the HOV lanes during the holidays, METRO would make it easier for these families to travel downtown. Mr. Griffin went on to say that instead of calling the lanes HOV lanes, they could be called "Holiday Lanes."

Chairman Wolff informed Mr. Griffin that the HOV lanes will soon be converted to HOT lanes and would, therefore, be capable of full-time operation. For now, however, METRO must consider the personnel costs of Mr. Griffin's proposal. Chairman Wolff provided some history of similar activities on the HOV lanes, informing Mr. Griffin that METRO has attempted to open the lanes in the past, but with little effect. The most successful example of weekend HOV Lane opening is the Katy Freeway, which is now a high-occupancy toll ("HOT") lane. Chairman Wolff stated that METRO staff would evaluate Mr. Griffin's proposal for feasibility.

3. **Ms. Shaka Nichols**: When called for her presentation, Ms. Nichols did not appear.
4. **Mark Hogue**: Mr. Hogue presented several route-specific suggestions to the Board. He requested that the hours for Route 46 be extended to accommodate single mothers who must work late at Memorial City Mall. Mr. Hogue said that because the 53 does not run late, the passengers riding at night are required to ride the 82 and walk from Westheimer to Briar Forest on Wilcrest for connections.

Mr. Hogue also stated that he was concerned about complaints made against a bus operator. Mr. Hogue stated the complaints were unwarranted, and that he, Mr. Hogue, had spoken with Senior Director of Transportation, Tangee Mobley, about the situation. Mr. Hogue said he wanted to ensure that the situation was handled fairly.

Mr. Hogue concluded his presentation by expressing his displeasure at seeing increasing numbers of First Transit operators on the routes. Chairman Wolff asked Mr. Hogue if it was his opinion that the First Transit operators were not as capable as METRO operators. Mr. Hogue stated that it was his experience that First Transit operators were more frequently rude, and were more likely to pass patrons up at stops.

5. **Reverend Holmes**: When called to make his presentation, Reverend Holmes did not appear.
6. **Mr. Joseph Charles**: Mr. Charles began his presentation by requesting that he be addressed as "President Charles" and that any future inclusion of his name on the Board Speaker's List reflect that title as well. Mr. Charles continued by stating that his personal property, namely his METROLift disability card, was stolen from him and should be returned. Mr. Charles also conveyed his belief that bus operators are trying to harm him.

Chairman Wolff called for the business report from President & CEO Frank J. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson presented the Business Report for Fiscal Year 2009. He reported that METRO received a record-high amount of \$523 Million from sales tax in Fiscal Year 2009. He reported that METRO's fare box revenues were up twenty-four percent (24%) from Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Wilson also reported that METRO received \$95 Million in grant funding. He stated that METRO's operating expenses for Fiscal Year 2009 were \$315 Million, which was five percent (5%) below budget. He pointed out that capital expenditures were below forecast amounts due to slow start-up of METRO Solutions construction but that spending should increase in Fiscal Year 2010. Mr. Wilson reported that METRO's debt service expenses were exactly on budget and that METRO's operating ratio was at twenty percent (20%), one percent (1%) higher than the target.

Mr. Wilson reported on the service performance. METRO met its goals with regard to total bus miles driven between mechanical failures. In addition, bus accidents were decreased by ten percent (10%) in comparison to Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Wilson stated that rail accidents were down by thirty-seven percent (37%) in comparison to last year, with credit largely due to Operations and METRO Police.

Mr. Wilson stated that security incidents had declined, with the incidents even lower than the goal, by approximately thirty-five percent (35%). Ridership decreased but at a lower rate than expected given the fare increase coupled with the national economic downturn.

Mr. Wilson discussed the capital investments made by METRO in Fiscal Year 2009. These investments included the purchase of hybrid buses, a significant upgrade to the bus radio system, signature bus service, and the new SAFEBUS technology. Finally, METRO entered into a \$1.46 Billion dollar contract for METRO Solutions and issued a \$46 Million notice-to-proceed to Parsons Construction.

Mr. Wilson discussed the impact of bus shelters with informational signs and how shelters can result in increased ridership. He reported that installation of additional bus shelters is planned for Fiscal Year 2010. Mr. Wilson also discussed the commencement of construction of the HOT lanes, which is expected for 2010.

Mr. Wilson concluded his presentation by introducing a "Happy Birthday, METRO" video celebrating METRO's thirty years of service.

MOTION NO. 2009-43

Chairman Wolff called for consideration of the Summary Agenda, which included Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Vice Chairman Smith moved for approval of the Summary Agenda. Board Member Orta seconded the Motion and all Board Members present voted in favor of the motion to approve the Summary Agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-93

Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver an inter-agency agreement with Harris County for the use of the Harris County Public Radio System.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-94

Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver a three-month modification to the contract with Suez Energy Resources for electricity services.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-95

Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver a modification to the contract with TJ&T Enterprises, Inc, and authorization to execute and deliver a contract with Proviti, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-96

Board delegation of Assistant Board Secretary designation to the position of Board Liaison Officer.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-97

Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver an agreement between METRO and the General Services Administration for security measures in conjunction with the METRO light rail lines to run adjacent to the Bob Casey United States Federal Courthouse.

There being no other matters to come before the Board for its consideration, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m. The next regularly-scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2009, at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Pauline E. Higgins  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas