

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 29, 2011

MOTIONS-2011-48 to 2011-51
RESOLUTIONS-2011- 71 to 2011-75

Presiding - Chairman of the Board, Gilbert A. Garcia, CFA

Board Members Present:

Allen D. Watson, Vice Chairman
(City of Houston)
Burt Ballanfant (Multi-Cities)
Honorable Dwight Jefferson
(City of Houston)
Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa (Harris County)
Carrin A. Patman (City of Houston)
Christof Spieler (City of Houston)

Board Members Absent:

C. Jim Stewart, III (Multi-Cities)
Gary Stobb (Harris County)

The Regular Board Meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Gilbert A. Garcia.

Chairman Gilbert A. Garcia called for a motion for approval of the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of July 28, 2011. Board Member Spieler moved for the approval of the minutes. Board Member Jefferson seconded the Motion. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-48

Chairman Garcia next called on the members of the public who had signed up in advance of the meeting to make their comments.

Public Speakers:

Paul Magaziner: Mr. Magaziner expressed his opinion that METRO was on shaky financial ground and should not move forward on the light rail expansion until the voters have spoken on the general mobility payments. He stated that he is opposed to the sale of bonds.

Karen Kristopher: Ms. Kristopher stated that she would like George Greanias to resign over his internet activities at work and was not satisfied with the disciplinary action he received.

Barry Klein: Mr. Klein stated he is opposed to the expansion of light rail and wants METRO to stop rail construction.

Reverend Holmes: Rev. Holmes commended METRO on its customer service, but also complained generally about rude bus operators, outdated information on bus shelters, on time performance, and the patrons not paying their fare on the train.

Hermann Williams: Mr. Williams distributed a 29 year old newspaper article and stated that Mr. Greanias needs to reintroduce himself to Houston to let people know who he is and what he has to offer.

At 9:39 a.m. Board Member Spieler stated that he has to leave the meeting at this time and will not be present for the vote on any of the agenda items. Before leaving, Board Member Spieler stated that the station naming process allowed the community to weigh in on the names for the stations. He stated that he felt that the most weight should be given to the people who live and work around the stations.

Jack Drake: Mr. Drake stated that METRO is on the right track with building a transportation system. Mr. Drake expressed his support for METRO, its team, and the Board in representing the diversity of the service areas.

Robert Muhammad: Mr. Muhammad expressed his support for METRO and George Greanias.

Reverend Bill Lawson: Rev. Lawson commended METRO for building a light rail line that has become the model of the nation and fully supports METRO. He also expressed his support of George Greanias and encourages METRO to move forward.

Laura Cano: Ms. Cano commended METRO on the services offered to her son who is autistic. Ms. Cano related the story of her son who has successfully navigated the bus system to get to and from classes at the Art Institute.

Brecklyn McGee Steptoe: Ms. McGee stated that she had been terminated from METRO in 2005 for misuse of computer equipment. Ms. McGee asked for reinstatement of her employment with METRO.

Percy Gonzalez: Mr. Gonzalez stated that the small businesses on Harrisburg are suffering because of the construction of the East End Rail Line.

Virginia Duke: Ms. Duke would like the opinion of the people who live in the neighborhoods where the rail stations are located to be given more weight in naming the stations. She stated that she supports the naming of the Graceland station to be changed to Lindale Station.

Gwen Guidy: Ms. Guidy stated that she supports the naming of the rail station on the North Line to be Lindale Park Station. She also expressed her appreciation for METRO's community meetings and the work that Mike Martinez has done in coordinating the meetings and answering questions.

Katy Wood: Ms. Wood stated that she supports the re-naming of the Melbourne Station to Melbourne/North Lindale to reflect the name of the neighborhood.

Tommy Garza: Mr. Garza introduced Ms. Minerva Hernandez. Ms. Garza stated her support for the METRO's light rail train expansion, but also expressed concerns regarding the losses her small business has sustained because of the construction. She also expressed her appreciation for the help offered by the business assistance program.

Daphne Scarborough: Ms. Scarborough requested maps and engineering drawings to show the property take lines on Richmond Avenue. Ms. Scarborough also expressed her concern about the trees that were planted on Harrisburg.

Lupe Garcia: Mr. Garcia expressed his support for METRO and its business assistance program.

Jessica Farrar: Ms. Farrar spoke regarding METRO's ongoing support for businesses in the North Side affected by the METRO Rail Expansion. Ms. Farrar expressed her appreciation for the business assistance program.

David Welch: Mr. Welch spoke regarding the recent disciplinary action taken by the Board against George Greanias and called for his removal as President of METRO.

Chairman Garcia then called on George Greanias, President & CEO, for his report.

Mr. Greanias reported on the following matters:

Missouri City Park & Ride - Mr. Greanias reported on the inauguration of the Missouri City Park & Ride in which various public officials attended at the temporary location of the Park & Ride.

METROLift Employees - Mr. Greanias reported that a group of METROLift and Customer Care Center employees had recently donated an air conditioning unit to one of METRO's elderly customers.

METRO Rail Expansion - Mr. Greanias reported on the recent concrete pour and installation of rail on the East End Corridor, the first METRO Rail track laid in ten years. He also reported on the recent construction of bridge supports on the North Line.

METRO Awards - Mr. Greanias reported on METRO's receipt of the Soaring Heights Award received from the Texas Enterprise Institute for work on behalf of small businesses.

David Sayers - Mr. Greanias reported on the recent tragic loss of METRO bus operator, David Sayers and the honoring of him at the recent safety award luncheon.

Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Lay-off Program - Mr. Greanias reported that METRO had around 70 employees who have signed up for the two

programs. Mr. Greanias also announced the retirement of METRO employees, Helen Cavazos, Paula Alexander, John Sedlak and Paul Como.

METRO Scorecard - Mr. Greanias highlighted the alternative service pilot, the cancellation of the Airport Direct service, the conversion of the HOV lanes to HOT lanes, and the moving of the METRO police department to the 1900 Main building. Mr. Greanias also reported that METRO has adopted the “lean” process to improve efficiency. He also reported that METRO is on target to reduce rail and bus accidents as part of the safety goals. Mr. Greanias also reported on cost control initiatives. He also reported that customer complaints were up, but that was in part due to the longer hours of service.

Chairman Garcia gave his report: Mr. Garcia stated that he appreciated persons coming to the board meeting to express their opinions and he very much appreciated the healthy dialogue.

Chairman Garcia called on the Chairs of the METRO Board Committees to give their reports.

Vice Chairman Watson - Mr. Watson stated he did not have a committee report.

Board Member Burt Ballanfant, Chair of the Capital Programs Committee, reported that most of the items brought to the committee would be discussed during the vote.

Board Member Patman, Chair of the Government and Public Affairs committee did not have a report.

Board Member Jefferson, Chair of the Finance/Audit Committee, reported that sales tax revenue was running about 7.5% ahead of last year. He also reported that METRO had moved forward with the bond issuance.

Chairman Garcia called for consideration of the Consent Agenda consisting of Items 6, 7, 8 and 9. A motion for approval of the consent agenda was made by Board Member Mendenhall Sosa. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Watson. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-49

By Motion, as reflected in these minutes, the Board approved the acceptance of the monthly committee reports including the financial and investment reports and passed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-71: Authorization for the President & CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Harris Miller Miller & Hanson, Inc. for noise and vibration analysis services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-72: Authorization for the President & CEO to approve an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston for connection to high water detection system at Holcombe underpass

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-73: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute a contract with Weiser Security Services, Inc. for unarmed security guard services for METRO facilities, not to exceed \$926,352 for one (1) year with the option to extend two (2) additional years

Chairman Garcia called for consideration of item number 10 of the agenda. A motion for approval of the item number 10 was made by Vice Chairman Watson. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jefferson. Board Members Patman and Ballanfant abstained from the vote. All other Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-50

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-74: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute a three (3) year contract with Motiva Enterprises, LLC for diesel fuel for a not-to-exceed amount of \$148,990,000

Chairman Garcia called for consideration of item number 11 of the agenda. A motion for approval of the item number 11 was made by Vice Chairman Watson. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jefferson. Board Member Patman abstained from the vote. All other Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-51

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-75: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute a three (3) year contract with Conoco Phillips Company for unleaded gasoline for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,420,500

Chairman Garcia announced that there would be no executive session convened at this board meeting.

There being no other matters to come before the Board, Board Member Mendenhall Sosa moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jefferson. All Board Members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The date for the next regular Board Meeting is Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alva I. Treviño
General Counsel and Assistant Board Secretary