MOTIONS - 2011 - 65 to 2011 - 72
RESOLUTIONS - 2011- 94 to 2011 - 105

Presiding - Vice-Chairman of the Board, Allen D. Watson

Board Members Present:  
Burt Ballanfant (Multi-Cities)  
Lisa Castañeda (Harris County)  
Honorable Dwight Jefferson  
(City of Houston)  
Christof Spieler (City of Houston)  
C. Jim Stewart, III (Multi-Cities)  
Gary Stobb (Harris County)

Board Members Absent:  
Gilbert A. Garcia (City of Houston)  
Carrin A. Patman (City of Houston)

The Regular Board Meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 9:13 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Allen D. Watson.

Vice-Chairman Watson called for a Motion for approval of the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of September 29, 2011. Board Member Stewart moved for the approval of the minutes. Board Member Ballanfant seconded the Motion. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION 2011-65

Vice-Chairman Watson presented an honorary resolution to resigning Board Member Trini Mendenhall Sosa in recognition of her service to METRO and her unwavering support of transit services for the METRO community.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-94: A resolution expressing METRO’s appreciation for the services of Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa; and making findings and provisions relative to the subject

OATH OF OFFICE TO LISA CASTAÑEDA

RECOGNITION OF CHUNG LU

Vice-Chairman Watson next called on the members of the public who had signed up in advance of the meeting to make their comments.
Public Speakers:

Dominic Mazoch - Mr. Mazock spoke about the need to increase advertising of METRO's services.

Coy Wyatt - Mr. Wyatt commented regarding METROlif service from the grocery store that he says is frequently late picking his group up from their trip.

Reverend Holmes - Rev. Holmes commended some METRO staff for their excellent customer service, but also complained generally about the service provided by some bus operators, METRO police and the cleanliness of bus shelters.

Mark Smith - Mr. Smith commented generally on the services METRO is providing including buses pulling out from transit stations and not waiting for customers.

Mark Hogue - Mr. Hogue commented on METRO's negotiations with the union, and does not like First Transit bus operators driving the routes that he uses.

Sochia Muschia - Ms. Muschia, whose family owns Cuz-N-Laws, commented on the state of METRORail Expansion and its affect on her business. She also requested assistance from METRO to reimburse her for business losses incurred as a result of the construction activities.

Gerardo Padilla - Mr. Padilla spoke regarding the affect of construction on his business on Fulton Street and requested that the compensation limit on METRO's Business Assistance Fund be increased.

Erbelinda Vargas - Ms. Vargas spoke regarding the affect of construction activities on her business and requested that the compensation limit on METRO's Business Assistance Fund be increased to account for the length of the construction project.

Minerva Hernandez - Ms. Hernandez thanked METRO for its help and support of the businesses along the construction route.

Imelda Farias - Ms. Farias spoke regarding the affect of construction on her business on Fulton Street and requested that the compensation limit on METRO’s Business Assistance Fund be increased.

Pedro of Pedro's Auto Shop - Mr. Pedro spoke regarding the affect of the construction on his tire shop and requested assistance in relocating his business.

Lorenzo P. Butler - Mr. Butler spoke regarding the new Chinese language television station that will be reporting on METRO matters.

Vice-Chairman Watson then called on George Greanias, President & CEO, for his report.

Mr. Greanias reported on the following matters:
Scorecards - Mr. Greanias reported that scorecards have been developed for METRO, for departments for individuals and for himself.

METRO has developed a sustainability plan which focuses on financial sustainability, workforce sustainability and environmental sustainability.

Budget - Mr. Greanias reported on workforce rightsizing which included a process of voluntary early retirement, voluntary layoffs, and job placement.

Trusted Community Partnering - Mr. Greanias commended John Sedlak on efforts to improve relationships in the community.

Alternative Service - Mr. Greanias reported that alternative service will be developed that focuses on the customer experience.

Great transit infrastructure - Mr. Greanias reported that University Line will be looked at, from financing, construction, schedule and strategy of building the line.

Construction activities - A time-lapse video was shown depicting construction activities at the intersection of Lockwood and Harrisburg on the East End Rail Line.

Vice-Chairman’s report - Vice-Chairman Watson reported on the following matters:

Safety - Vice-Chairman Watson reiterated to the public that METRO takes safety seriously and that METRO is very safe, both buses and rail, despite the recent reported accidents.

Downtown Circulator - The Vice-Chairman reported that the Downtown Management Group has received grant funding for a downtown circulator from Main Street to the eastside of Downtown.

Voting - The Vice-Chairman encouraged the public to use transit services to get to the polling places to vote.

Vice-Chairman Watson called on the Chairpersons of the METRO Board Committees to give their reports.

Board Member Ballanfant, Chair of the Capital Programs Committee, reported that his committee recommended the signing of the Full Funding Grant Agreements for both the North and Southeast METRORail Expansion projects.

Board Member Stewart, Chair of the Customer Service Committee, reported that the committee reviewed and recommended the Board pass the items from this committee on the consent agenda.

Board Member Jefferson, Chair of the Finance/Audit Committee, reported that the sales tax reported indicated a 21.1 percent increase in sales tax revenues over last year.

Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of the Consent Agenda Items. A Motion was made by Board Member Jefferson to remove Item Number 10 from the consent agenda. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Stewart. All
Board Members voted in favor of removing Item Number 10 from the consent agenda. Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of Consent Agenda Items Numbers 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. A Motion was made by Board Member Stewart to pass the consent agenda items and seconded by Board Member Jefferson. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011 - 66

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-95: Authorizing the President & CEO to execute contracts through cooperative purchasing agreements for the purchase of off-the-shelf hardware, software and technology services in an amount not to exceed $1,525,000

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-96: Approval for the President & CEO to authorize payments and execute contracts with multiple vendors for information technology hardware and software licenses, support and maintenance in an amount not to exceed $4,500,000

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-97: Authorization for the President & CEO to negotiate and execute a three (3) year contract with BJ’s Enterprises in a not-to-exceed amount of $665,912 for cleaning services for METRO bus stops and shelters

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-98: Authorization for the President & CEO to award a three (3) year service contract to Liquid Environmental Solutions of Texas, LLC, in an amount not-to-exceed $313,106

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-99: Authorization for the President & CEO to revise Resolution No. 2010-36 by replacing records management officer and designating a new records management officer

Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of the Agenda Item Number 10. The Motion was made by Board Member Stewart and seconded by Board Member Jefferson. Board Members Ballanfant, Castañeda, Jefferson, Spieler, Stewart and Stobb voted in favor. Vice-Chairman Watson voted against passage of Agenda Item 10. Agenda Item Number 10 passed.

MOTION NO. 2011-67

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-100: Authorization for the President & CEO to amend the interlocal purchasing agreement between METRO and the City of Houston to include the Houston Community College system (“HCC”) and any additional local governments and political subdivisions of the State of Texas as needed
Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of the Agenda Item Number 16. The Motion was made by Board Member Stewart and seconded by Board Member Jefferson. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-68

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-101: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute a contract to purchase Motorola VSM modems and antennas from Motorola Solutions via a Houston-Galveston Area Council’s (H-GAC) cooperative purchase agreement in an amount not to exceed $1,758,983 for the Safe Bus Project

Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of the Agenda Item Number 17. A Motion was made by Board Member Ballanfant to pass this agenda item. Board Member Spieler moved to amend the agenda item to allow tolls to be set by time period rather than dynamically set, to allow the President & CEO to set dynamic pricing toll rates or raise and lowering of tolls with the approval of the Board, and to require a 7 day public notice period if the toll is changed. The motion to amend the item was seconded by Board Member Ballanfant. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-69

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-102: Approving the tolling policy for the operation of METRO’s Hot Lanes Toll System

Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of the Agenda Item Number 18. A Motion was made by Board Member Castañeda to defer a vote on this Item. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Spieler. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-70

Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of Agenda Items Numbers 19 and 20. The Motion was made by Board Member Ballanfant and seconded by Board Member Stewart. All Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-71

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-103: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with the Federal Transit Administration and U. S. Department of Transportation for engineering and construction of the expansion of METRORail on the North (Red) Line

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-104: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with the Federal Transit Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation for engineering and construction of the expansion of METRORail on the Southeast (Purple) Line
At 11:35 a.m., Vice-Chairman Watson convened the meeting into EXECUTIVE SESSION, pursuant to the Texas Government Code §551.071, §551.072, §551.074, and §551.076 to consult with the Board’s attorneys regarding pending or potential litigation, legal matters in which the attorneys’ duties are governed by the State Bar of Texas Code of Conduct; deliberations pursuant to the Act, to deliberate the purchase, lease, exchange or value of real property; personnel matters, security matters and devices, and legal issues regarding contract negotiations that may result in potential litigation.

The regular Board meeting re-convened into public session at 12:49 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Watson then called for consideration of the Agenda Item Number 21. The Motion was made by Board Member Ballanfant and seconded by Board Member Stewart. Board Member Jefferson was not present for the vote. All other Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2011-72

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-105: Authorization for the President & CEO to negotiate, execute and deliver agreements for the acquisition of property and interest in property for transit purposes for State Highway 288/Brazoria County Park & Ride

There being no other matters to come before the Board, Board Member Stewart moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Stobb. All Board Members present voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

The date for the next Regular Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alva I. Treviño
General Counsel and Assistant Board Secretary