

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

April 26, 2011

The Board of Directors Planning & Development Committee met on April 26, 2011 at 10:06 a.m. in the Board Room on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

Board Members Present

Harold Buckley, Sr.
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr., Chair
Jim Durrett
Barbara Babbit Kaufman
Adam Orkin

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/ CEO Beverly A. Scott; Deputy General Manager/COO Dwight A. Ferrell; Chief Business Support Services Theodore Basta Jr.; AGMs Davis Allen, Deborah Dawson, Wanda Dunham, Ben Graham, Mary Ann Jackson, Jonnie Keith, Cheryl King, Ryland McClendon and Elizabeth O'Neill; Sr. Directors Johnny Dunning, Jr. and Kevin Hurley; Directors Tara Balakrishnan, Rich Boullain (Acting), John Crocker, Lowell "Rip" Detamore, Reginald Diamond, Garry Free, Charlotte Harris, Lyle Harris and Donna Jennings; Managers Emmett Crockett, Cara Hodgson, Robert H. Thomas, Marvin Toliver, Denise Walker and Don Williams. Executive Manager to the Board Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Sr. Executive Administrator Tyra J. Wiltz; Finance Administrative Analyst Tracy Kincaid. Others in Attendance Arnold Campbell, Alphonse Eugene, Don Lawrence, Pat Minucci, Anthony Pines, Srinath Remala, Sherma Sobers and Beverly Williams.

Also in attendance Charles Pursley, Jr. of Pursley of Pursley, Lowery & Meeks; Jarod Stentiford of MATC; Jim Brown of URS Corp.

Approval of the March 28, 2011 Planning & Development Committee Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mrs. Kaufman, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 4 to 0, with 4 members present.

Request to Hold Public Hearings for Proposed Bus Service Modifications for the September 24, 2011 Mark-Up

Mr. Dunning presented this request for Board of Directors' approval to hold Public Hearings as required by the MARTA Act and consistent with MARTA Board Policy to be held May 16 and 17, 2011 for proposed changes to bus service on routes 3, 25, 50, 51, 99 and 181 that would be implemented with the September 24, 2011 Mark-Up.

These proposed bus service changes address unresolved issues and concerns received from the public as related to the September 25, 2010 reduction in service. The modifications respond to the most recent comments received during the March 2011 Public Hearings. The service changes categories are overcrowding relief, safety/operational capacity and on-time performance/running time adjustments.

Mr. Daniels commended staff for listening to and following up on the concerns and comments raised by the Senior community. MARTA is doing what it should be doing in providing access to those who depend on it.

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mrs. Kaufman the request was unanimously approved by a vote of 4 to 0, with 4 members present.

Briefing – I-20 East Corridor Project

Mr. Crocker briefed the Committee on the progress and coordination efforts on the I-20 East Corridor Project to improve transit services in the corridor.

Since the previous briefing on the I-20 East Corridor Project in August 2010, the MARTA team has been very active. Some of the major activities conducted were:

- 3 Public Meetings (October 2010)
- 2 Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings and a third and fourth meeting scheduled for May 2011
- 2 Technical Advisory Committee Meetings and a third meeting scheduled for May 2011
- Specific meetings with GDOT, FTA, ARC and DeKalb County
- Identified preliminary alignments
 - Connections into Central Atlanta

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- East Corridor Variations
- Continuing work of 2004/2006 to prepare project for entry into Federal New Starts Process
- Work will also support any decisions on the HB 277 Project List Selection Process and *Plan2040* Update
- Currently conducting assessment of alternatives
- HB 277 Project Forms
 - Phase A: Stonecrest Park & Ride
 - Phase B: Three more stations
 - Phase C: Exclusive guideway to Candler Road or HRT to Wesley Chapel (depends on LPA)

Upcoming Dates & Milestones

- May 3-5, 2011 – Public Meetings
- May 9 & May 12, 2011 – Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- May 11, 2011 – Technical Advisory Committee
- May 2011 – Draft of *Plan2040*
- May-July 2011 – Development of LPA
- August/September MARTA Board – Presentation of LPA for Approval
- Summer 2011 – Approval of *Plan2040* and development of TIA Project List

Dr. Scott asked Mr. Crocker to elaborate on stakeholders' participation with DeKalb County.

Mr. Crocker explained that the MARTA Team has a monthly coordination meeting with staff from the GDOT, City of Atlanta, ARC and DeKalb County – these meetings are designed to update and provide the most current information to these primary partners. Given the strong support of DeKalb County for this project, coordination has been ongoing. The MARTA Public Involvement Team has contacted the DeKalb elected officials regarding the dates and times of the Public Meetings in May. Additionally, once alternatives have been refined, the team intends to brief Commissioner Lee May regarding the alternatives to be moved forward for detailed screening in early June 2011 and will extend similar invitations to other members of the DeKalb Commission.

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Mr. Durrett said he would like to understand the philosophies behind placing a rail line in the middle of an interstate.

Mr. Crocker said that using freeway right-of-way reduces cost. This is one of the reasons MARTA is working so closely with GDOT. It will also be taken to the public for feedback.

Mr. Daniels said the cost of getting land for right-of-way usage can be costly. He asked if many people say for instance "Wesley Chapel", how will staff go about deciding where.

Mr. Crocker said that is where "the art of planning" comes in. Staff will take the information from the public and add on its expertise looking at which alternatives work best for use – ridership, right-of-way, etc.

Mr. Daniels asked Mr. Crocker to elaborate on a point raised by a GDOT Board Member regarding the use of concrete versus asphalt on I-20.

Mr. Crocker said concrete lasts longer than asphalt.

Mr. Daniels asked about the possibilities of going towards Turner Field.

Mr. Crocker said part of the due diligence challenge is getting past Grant Park.

Mr. Daniels asked what parameters have to be met to be considered for New Starts.

Mr. Crocker said the big one is operating funds. MARTA must show operations for 20 years of rail service. In the interim, bus transit facilities would work under our Locally Preferred Alternative.

Mr. Buckley asked for clarification on connectivity to Indian Creek Station.

Mr. Crocker said that it is an alternative.

Mr. Buckley said that would bypass Candler Road.

Mr. Crocker said that is the trade-off.

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Mr. Buckley said the important thing for DeKalb County is to create economic development along the I-20 corridor.

Mr. Crocker said BRT and LRT alternatives have to be included.

Mr. Buckley asked about the possibilities of light rail.

Mr. Crocker said the public has shown support for it.

Mr. Orkin asked if staff has been involved with Wesley Chapel LCI.

Mr. Crocker said MARTA staff attends their meetings and they are a part of the group of stakeholders.

Mr. Daniels asked Mr. Buckley to clarify his earlier point regarding economic development.

Mr. Buckley clarified that redevelopment down the corridor would garner public support – the public would most likely support rail that would stimulate economic development. Additionally, corporate America goes where there is rail.

Dr. Scott commented that MARTA's Planning group will organize a New Starts Workshop. The FTA will only put funds down where they see things already happening. A coordinated regional strategy is needed.

Mr. Buckley said that is also one objective of DeKalb County's Planning Department; they understand these principles, which is why they've changed land use.

Mr. Durrett said it is clear that staff is very aware of all the issues being raised; this is part of what the stakeholders process is all about.

Other Matters

Mr. Daniels referenced Tab 4 of the Committee Books – Planning & Development Committee Look-a-Head – asking that Board Members review these items.

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Ms. King informed the Committee that staff would provide updates on the Beltline Corridor Environmental Study, MARTA's Retail Concessions Program and Clifton Corridor Alternatives Analysis at next month's meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting of the Planning & Development Committee adjourned at 10:37 a.m.