

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 26, 2008

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Chairman David S. Wolff. Vice Chairman Gerald Smith, Board Secretary Jackie Freeman, and Board Members Burt Ballanfant, Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa, and George DeMontrand, III were present when the meeting was called to order, and those present constituted a quorum. (Board Members Carmen Orta, James W. E. Dixon, II, and C. Jim Stewart, III arrived at 1:45 p.m.)

Chairman Wolff first called for approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 22, 2008. Board Member DeMontrand moved for approval of the Minutes. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Sosa and all Board Members present voted in favor. Board Members Orta, Dixon, and Stewart were not present for the vote on this matter.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 17

Chairman Wolff next 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. Robin Hodges- requested additional bus service for the Spring 204 Route. She stated that the buses were “crowded and standing room only” in the afternoon. She presented a signed petition with approximately 200 bus passenger signatures, requesting additional service.

Mr. Wolff asked Andy Skabowski, Senior Director of Bus Maintenance, if he could respond to Ms. Hodges’ complaint. Mr. Skabowski stated that the 204 Bus Route is under review. An additional bus was added the previous week to alleviate overcrowding. Mr. Wolff asked Mr. Wilson, METRO’s President & Chief Executive Officer, about the purchase of new Park & Ride buses. Mr. Wilson stated that buses will be delivered shortly. Mr. Skabowski added that the buses will be delivered between now and September, and 50 new buses are scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2009. Ms. Hodges also requested more parking spaces at the Park & Ride lots.

2. Ms. Gwendolyn Babineaux- Ms. Babineaux asked to speak to someone about information that she saw on the METRO website and about bus service to the FM1960 area. Mr. Wilson suggested that Ms. Babineaux speak with Director of Community Outreach, Karen Marshall.

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3. Mr. Toby Turner- Mr. Turner signed up to speak but did not appear.
4. Mr. Richard Freeman- Mr. Freeman signed up to speak but did not appear.
5. Mr. Robin Brien- Mr. Brien signed up to speak but did not appear.
6. Mr. Miguel Martinez- Mr. Martinez asked why METRO was using big buses Monday through Friday. He also stated that he has specific complaints about Route 56 Airline and 53 Briar Forest but feels that his issues have not been addressed. Mr. Martinez offered his services as a “mystery shopper” to report inappropriate conduct or activities on the buses.

Mr. Wilson stated that “mystery shoppers” have been used in the past and directed Mr. Martinez to speak to Mr. Skabowski to address his concerns.
7. Mr. Joseph Charles- requested the return of his ADA paratransit disability card and certain stolen property.
8. Ms. Bernadette Skinner- Ms. Skinner signed up to speak but did not appear.
9. Mr. Mark Smith- Mr. Smith stated that the two-hour transfer window provides insufficient time to complete a trip and buses are frequently late.
10. Mr. Lawrence Grant- Mr. Grant signed up to speak but did not appear.

At the conclusion of the Public Comments portion of the meeting, Chairman Wolff called upon Mr. Frank J. Wilson for his Business Report.

Board Member Dixon congratulated Mr. Wilson and the METRO staff for the tremendous success of the ground breaking ceremony for the East End Corridor.

Mr. Wilson placed before the Board a briefing report of the findings regarding the latest incident of a steam pipe break in the Medical Center. Mr. Wilson stated that testing concluded that there is no stray electrical current emanating from the rail line that affected this particular area. Mr. Wilson then presented recent media coverage of METRO’s service expansion. A video clip

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from television station Channel 13 was shown reporting that METRO is adding additional service to the Park & Ride from Spring to the Bay Area Boulevard due to rising demand. Mr. Wilson concluded by stating that in addition to adding bus service to Park & Ride lots and local routes, METRO was also facing the challenge of adding parking capacity to meet the service expansion needs.

Mr. Wolff noted that today was the ground breaking for the East End Corridor light rail project. FTA records of decision for the North and Southeast Corridors are expected in July. Mr. Wolff emphasized that along with light rail service, METRO is continuing to increase bus service, as well as adding signature bus service and direct service to and from the airport.

Chairman Wolff then called for consideration of the Summary Agenda containing Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14. Vice Chairman Smith moved for approval of the Summary Agenda. Board Member Orta seconded the Motion and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 18

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

1. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to purchase a Contractor's Pollution Liability Insurance and a Pollution Legal Liability Insurance for an amount not to exceed \$1,079,163.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 39

2. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to purchase Workers Compensation and General Liability Insurance for Owner Controlled Insurance Program, at costs consistent with budgetary allocations.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 40

3. Approval of METRO's continued participation in the newly structured Williams Capital Government Money Market Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 41

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4. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Atos Origin for upgrades to METRO's SEMA Voyager computer application system for an amount not to exceed \$1,378,500.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 42

5. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Cizer for the development of Microsoft based reporting solutions for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 43

6. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract for the construction of site improvements for Signature bus stops along the Quickline TMC/Palm Center route, for an amount not to exceed \$1,214,703.23.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 44

7. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute and deliver a contract with Allied Barton Security Services for unarmed security guard services, for an amount not to exceed \$1,883,331.84.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 45

8. Authorization for the President & Chief Executive Officer to execute a contract with Basile Baumann Prost Cole & Associates for a transit oriented development market study for a total amount not to exceed \$400,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 46

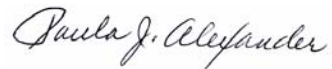
9. Authorization for the execution of the amended Consent Agreement with the City of Houston.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 47

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There being no other matters to come before the Board for consideration,
the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Paula J. Alexander
Assistant Secretary