

MINUTES
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Chairman of the Board, David Wolff. Board Members present were Board Secretary, Jackie Freeman, Vice Chairman Gerald Smith; Board Members Burt Ballanfant; Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa; George DeMontrond, III; Carmen Orta; and C. Jim Stewart III. The members present constituted a quorum.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 27

Chairman of the Board Wolff convened the meeting and called for a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of August 23, 2008. Board Member DeMontrond moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Orta. All Board Members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Chairman of the Board Wolff then called for those members of the public who had requested to speak before the Board. The persons who spoke and the substance of the comments are as follows:

1. Gwendolyn Babineaux: Ms. Babineaux's comments were read by a member of the METRO staff. Ms. Babineaux stated that she had been denied her application for METROLift service despite having a doctor's report stating that she is legally blind and disabled. She stated that she had been told that her application was denied because she could use the regular route bus service, but she could appeal that decision. Ms. Babineaux was referred to a member of METRO's staff to discuss her application and transportation needs.
2. Lula Mae Rhodes: Ms. Rhodes signed up to make a public comment but did not appear.
3. Rudy Sutherland: Mr. Sutherland signed up to make a public comment but did not appear.
4. Mary Ainsworth: Ms. Ainsworth signed up to make a public comment but did not appear.
5. Joel Clary: Mr. Clary signed up to make a public comment but did not appear.

6. Tom Bazan: Mr. Bazan complained that he had been unable to obtain information under the Public Information Act. Mr. Bazan stated that he requested information on stray current, daily logs of routes the newer buses are assigned, daily boardings, fare revenue, ticket vending machines, METRO Q- Card, light rail accident data and the number of floors occupied by contractors.

Chairman Wolff pointed out that Mr. Bazan had submitted over 300 open records requests since January of 2008. Chairman Wolff stated that METRO's basic mission was to provide public transportation. He also stated that it seemed Mr. Bazan was asking for everything under the sun that could possibly occur to him from the moment he awoke to the time he went to bed at night. Mr. Wolff pointed out that these requests were taking up staff time and resources and suggested that if Mr. Bazan was truly interested in how public resources were spent, then perhaps he should select those items he was most concerned about. Mr. Wolff asked for Mr. Bazan's cooperation in narrowing the requests for information.

7. Mark Hogue: Mr. Hogue suggested that he could speak to Mr. Bazan about the buses assigned to the various routes, but Mr. Bazan had left the meeting. Mr. Hogue also suggested that METRO implement a Fountainview-Renwick Crosstown route.

Chairman Wolff stated that this crosstown route was being considered for the coming year. Mr. Wolff thanked Mr. Hogue for his suggestions.

8. Robert Leos: Mr. Leos signed up to make a public comment but did not appear.

At the conclusion of the public comment portion of the meeting, Chairman Wolff asked for the President and CEO's business report.

President and CEO, Frank J. Wilson distributed a pictorial book on the day-by-day description of METRO's efforts during Hurricane Ike. Prior to the landfall of the storm, METRO was used extensively to help people with special needs for transportation to evacuate. After the hurricane hit, METRO's efforts included staffing Tran Star to assure constant communication with the media, coordinating with FEMA for transportation to the Points of Distribution, and locating a Point of Distribution to assist METRO employees as well as the community at large. Mr. Wilson also related that the entire METRO organization responded to this emergency in a professional and logical manner. He commended METRO Chief of Police Thomas Lambert for his role as a point person. Mr. Wilson also commended various staff members and the various departments such as communications, information technology, operations and public safety for the outstanding efforts made during the crisis. Lastly, Mr. Wilson reported on the status of the High Occupancy Vehicle lanes and the efforts to restore power and operability.

Chairman of the Board David Wolff then called for a motion on item number five for consideration.

Vice Chairman Smith stated that METRO's enabling legislation required the Board to adopt an annual budget before the end of the fiscal year and that the budget including the business plan, fare policy and service plan had previously been made available for public review and comment. Due to the recent catastrophic event, Hurricane Ike, Vice Chairman Smith moved that the Board postpone the adoption of the fiscal year 2009 budget to give the Board and the public more time to comment. Vice Chairman Smith also moved that the Board authorize continued operations under the current budget for fiscal year 2008.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 28

The motion was seconded by Board Member DeMontrond. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 71: Adoption of a resolution to postpone the approval and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget and authorization to continue operations under the current budget of fiscal year 2008.

Chairman of the Board David Wolff then called for consideration of the Summary Agenda containing Agenda Items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Board Member Stewart moved for approval of the Summary Agenda. Board Member Freeman seconded the Motion and all Board Members present voted in favor.

MOTION NO. 2008 – 29

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

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 72: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver a contract for the purchase of 66 mobile electric column post lifts from Stertil-Koni.
3. RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 73: Authorization for the President & CEO to deliver a modification to the agreement with Harris County for service to the Baytown Park & Ride lot.
4. RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 74: Authorization for the President and CEO to reimburse AT&T and Center Point Electric for the relocation of utilities in support of Metro Solutions.
5. RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 75: Authorization for the President & CEO to deliver a modification to a contract with CH2M Hill, Inc. for estimating and support services in support of METRO Solutions.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 76: Authorization for the President & CEO to execute and deliver a modification to the contract with TCB for engineering services for the University Corridor.

There being no other matters to come before the Board for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Higgins", written in a cursive style.

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