

MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2018

A called meeting of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30 p.m. on April 24, 2018 in the Morris M. Cohen conference room on the fourth floor of the Terminal Station at 200 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia. Those present were:

Charles Howard, Vice-Chairman

Members: Frank Tompkins, Jami Gaudet and Dr. Tom Ellington

Members Absent: Violet Poe and Sheddric Clark

Also present were S. Craig Ross, President and CEO, Brenda Banks, Executive Assistant, and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., Counsel for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present. Also in attendance were Michael Greenwald, Carl Brown, David Scott and Tanya Carter.

Vice-Chairman Charles Howard called the meeting to order and a moment of silent prayer was observed. Mr. Howard then requested the Board members to review the Agenda. A motion was made by Dr. Ellington to approve the Agenda, with the motion being seconded by Mr. Tompkins and approved.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the Minutes for the March 27 Board meeting. The Minutes were approved following a motion by Mr. Tompkins and a second by Dr. Ellington.

The Vice-Chairman then called on Mr. Ross for the President and CEO report. He shared that a meeting was recently held at the Transit Authority with Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Julie Moore of Budget and Strategic Planning for Macon-Bibb County. He described it as a very productive meeting. Commissioner Watkins had a list of topics that he wished to discuss and once those were addressed, he indicated that he was not in favor of cutting the Authority's budget.

President Ross then shared that he was very upset with the County yesterday following his discovery that our request for the \$140,000.00 of SPLOST funds for the electric bus charging station was not on the agenda for today's Committee meeting. He emailed Commissioner Watkins, County Attorney Judd Drake, and Julie Moore inquiring why such had occurred. Following that contact, the request for funds was placed on the agenda for approval. It is

scheduled to be submitted to the full Commission on May 1, and then the budget will be finalized and submitted to the State for approval.

President Ross then informed the Board that the conference he attended with Michael Greenwald of Planning and Zoning in Idaho with the National Transit Institute was very beneficial. The information the two of them obtained will be very helpful in ensuring that the charging station project goes well.

The Vice-Chairman next opened the floor for Old Business. Mr. Tompkins was recognized and stated that he would like to inquire about the status of several items that were mentioned in the March 27 Minutes. The first item was the acknowledgment of the resignation of Steve Bass. Mr. Ross confirmed such occurred. Mr. Tompkins then inquired about the status of the grant for the 11 bus shelters. President Ross stated that a meeting was held on April 13 and that the Authority is number seven on the list of applicants. MTA should find out in the next few weeks as to whether the grant will be received. A lot of positive comments were made. President Ross added that MTA will also be seeking other grants.

Mr. Tompkins then requested the status of the bus order. President Ross stated there was some design change with the addition of new cameras. Hopefully, the Paratransit buses will arrive next week. We will order the two electric buses on the day we break ground. The new order of buses total eighteen, which comprises approximately one-half of our fleet.

In response to Mr. Tompkins' inquiry as to how the new North Macon route has worked out, President Ross stated that it has not yet been implemented. No advertising has yet occurred, and the change will require a meeting. He estimates it will be six to eight months before the route is operational. Dr. Ellington then noted that at our last meeting concerns were raised about individuals having to cross Riverside Drive from the Palm Motel.

Mr. Tompkins' next inquiries concerned the status of the Personnel Handbook and the Authority's website. President Ross stated that the handbook would be ready for approval in May. The website is being updated to allow comments, and Board Meeting Minutes will be included.

The final two inquiries by Mr. Tompkins were about the status of the roof repair and the computer system and hardware. President Ross informed the Board that the roof repair was scheduled to start this week, but had to be delayed due to the rain. A few matters will need to be finalized in the next thirty to sixty days before the computer system can be acquired. MTA will also need to sign the final contracts. Mr. Tompkins thanked Mr. Ross for the update to enable

him and the other Board members to be able to respond to any questions that may be presented to them.

The floor was then opened for New Business and President Ross was recognized to address those items on the agenda. He stated the first item was to obtain approval to participate in Bike Month in May. The Authority will partner with Bike Walk Macon and Bike Tech. The emphasis is in encouraging the first and last mile. Anyone who rides their bike will ride free for the entire month of May and thereby encourage further participation. Ms. Gaudet stated that she will handle the traditional media, and then inquired as to how many bikes a bus can handle. President Ross stated that each bus can handle at least three, with two on the front and possibly two on the back, if a wheelchair is not loaded. Bike racks are on each bus and MTA will have to inform the public that access for the bikers will be due in part to space availability. A motion was then made by Dr. Ellington to approve the Authority's participation in Bike Month. The motion was approved following a second by Mr. Tompkins.

President Ross next requested that the Board approve a motion to change the MTA Board meetings back to monthly meetings due to the number of projects currently in process. Dr. Ellington made the motion that the Authority begin meeting on a monthly basis beginning in May. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gaudet and approved. The next meeting will be the last Tuesday in May.

President Ross informed the Board that he would like to honor former Board member Ms. Nettie Thomas. Outside the front door of Terminal Station is a triangle planter. He is going to have Brenda Banks call Ms. Thomas and find out what her favorite flower is and would like to dedicate that area to her for her years of service and also have a plaque placed there for her. The proposal will be presented to the Board at its May meeting. Dr. Ellington suggested the possibility of asking Mayor Reichert for a proclamation. President Ross responded that he would like to be consistent, and not do so since we did not pursue one for Mr. Morris Cohen.

The Board was then informed by President Ross that he had been contacted by Greyhound requesting that we authorize their use of the Transfer Center. When the Authority first acquired Terminal Station, there was some talk of having them here. He advised them that the Authority has a tract of land up the street that is available, but Greyhound does not want to build a new facility. President Ross shared that he would not be in favor of Greyhound using the Transfer Center, and has told them that there is not enough room. Dr. Ellington noted that he could see a problem with delayed arrivals beyond 10:00 p.m. In response to Mr. Howard's

inquiry as to whether Greyhound has shown any interest in our other property, President Ross stated they have not, but they have a grant that is scheduled to expire in May. Also, there is no longer sufficient room in Terminal Station to expand with our current tenant base.


Mr. Tompkins added that he believes that multi-modal is a great idea, but he did not believe it was wise to do it based on our President's recommendation and current situation. He wanted to state on the record that we are in favor of multi-modal, but do not have the means or space to accommodate such a request. Dr. Ellington then added that he felt it was worth exploring and having a further discussion to see if there is an option that can work. President Ross stated that he told Greyhound that he would be happy for them to come down and look to see if there is an option available. President Ross shared that he will be contacting the Sheriff's office to see how many calls are received from their Spring Street location.

Vice-Chairman Howard stated he would still like for us to explore the possibility of TODs and look to the future with all the loft apartments that are being constructed around us. President Ross stated he would get more information for the Board to consider.

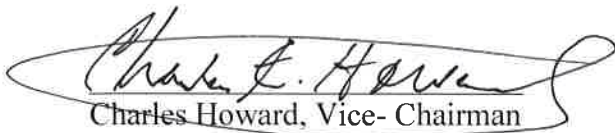
In the final item of New Business, President Ross stated that representatives of the Federal Transit Administration have scheduled an on-site visit on May 1 and MTA is ready for their arrival.

There being no further business or comments from the Board members, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., Acting Secretary

Approved:


Charles Howard, Vice- Chairman