

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

February 25, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30 p.m. on February 25, 2020 in the conference room on the third floor of the Terminal Station at 200 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia. Those present were:

Chairman: Frank Tompkins

Vice-Chairman: Charles Howard

Members: Dave Dickey, Lynn Farmer, Ella Mumphery, and Violet Poe

Members Absent: None

Also present were S. Craig Ross, President and CEO, Brenda Banks, Executive Assistant, Lee Brown, CFO, Darrell Lester, Safety and Training Manager, June Slaughter, Paratransit Manager, Andy Stroud, and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., Counsel for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were Carl Brown, Liz Fabian, Mike Greenwald, and David Scott.

The meeting was called to Order by Chairman Tompkins and he requested that everyone observe a moment of silent prayer or reflection.

The Board members were then asked to review the Agenda that had been presented to them. A motion was made by Mr. Dickey to approve the Agenda that was seconded by Ms. Poe and approved.

The Chairman then asked the Board to review the Minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting previously provided to them. The Minutes were approved following a motion by Mr. Dickey and a second by Ms. Mumphery.

In accordance with the Agenda the meeting was then opened for Public Comments and the Chairman recognized Carl Brown. Mr. Brown was present to state that bus number 7 is in need of some repair and maintenance due to water leaking into the bus when it rains. President Ross informed Mr. Brown that the bus would soon be replaced.

Chairman Tompkins informed the Board that Ms. Slagle was unable to attend the meeting this evening so there will be no Financial Report.

President Ross was then called on for presentation of the Operations Report. President Ross began by requesting that the Board members glance through the report and feel free to ask

any questions. He noted that the On Time performance for the Fixed Route was 77% during January which can be improved but we are still having some problems with Route Shout. The Paratransit On Time performance was at 89%, which is very good. During January two new fixed route drivers were hired along with two new Paratransit drivers. There were two terminations during the month. Mr. Stroud is doing a great job with Terminal Station, having booked 53 events already for 2020 and 7 events are booked for 2021. One minor accident occurred during the month which merely involved minor property damage. Ridership continues to increase on a monthly basis and the Mercer Route has already transported 12,301 passengers year to date and continues to increase.

Ms. Farmer inquired as to whether any interest had been expressed from Middle Georgia State to transport its students downtown. President Ross shared that a meeting has been scheduled with Dr. Melinda Moffitt for that purpose and hopefully a couple of buses can be placed on that route with later concluding times as well.

Chairman Tompkins then requested President Ross address the Discussion Items consisting of the following:

1. APTA marketing & Communications Workshop- Our staff will return tomorrow and have reported that they learned a great deal and it was a very beneficial seminar.
2. Website Launch- Ms. Gaudet has done a great job and states our website has now been completed.
3. Token Transit – It is now operational with additional usage each month.
4. Bellevue – This new route began on February 1 and extends out to the Kroger at Peake Road and Zebulon to provide access to the grocery store for our patrons.
5. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan – This is a new project that FTA has developed, and we are working on it now. A formal vote will occur at the June meeting. We do place emphasis on our security.
6. Fence at Terminal Station Has Been Completed – Mr. Stroud stated that there have not been any issues with the fence to date and has worked fine. The entry gates are not yet operational, but the exit gates are.
7. Letter from ARC- We received a very nice letter complementing Mr. Stroud on an event that was held in Terminal Station.

8. National “Get on Board” Public Transit Day Preparation – April 16, 2020 – A Health Fair will be held at Terminal Station on that date from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. that includes free hotdogs from NuWay.
9. State of the Community Luncheon Public Transit Promotion – The mayor gave his State of Community speech and was very complementary of Macon Transit Authority. Chairman Tompkins was able to attend the luncheon and shared that the mayor had outlined his vision on the future and how important public transit was for the long term. Our work is ongoing, and our long-term mission is to sustain those things that will help improve our community. Mayor Reichert stated that as the downtown model progresses expansion will extend to the county borders and he acknowledged the tremendous role that Mercer University had played in the process. Public officials were challenged to be committed to public transportation as the County moves forward since transit services are such a very important factor.

The floor was then opened for New Business. President Ross stated that late last year he asked the Board to consider a modification that a number of the transit authorities were implementing across the country which enabled children to ride free when accompanied by an adult. He stated that such a program was already being utilized in Athens and he recommended we do so here as well beginning with children up to 12 years of age. A motion was made by Mr. Dickey to allow children up to age 12 to ride free when accompanied by an adult. The motion was seconded by Ms. Farmer. During discussion, it was noted that the bus driver would determine the respective age of the child possibly referring to a student ID card. The accompanying adult will merely need to be 18 years of age. The question was called, and the motion was unanimously approved with the effective date being March 1, 2020.

Chairman Tompkins then opened the floor for Board Member comments and stated that he wanted to recognize and bring to the attention of the Board that Ms. Farmer was an award recipient and recently received the 2020 CWN Women of Achievement Award. He further added that it was most deserving and appreciated her community service.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Violet Poe

Violet Poe, Secretary

Approved:

Louis F. Tompkins

Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman