

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

August 30, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30 p.m. on August 30, 2022 in the Morris Cohen conference room on the fourth floor of the Terminal Station at 200 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia. Those present were:

Chairman: Frank Tompkins

Vice Chair: Lynn Farmer

Members: Dave Dickey, Otis Redding, III, and Charles Murphy

Members Absent: Rachel Umana

Also in attendance was President/CEO Craig Ross, F. Bradford Wilson, Jr. attorney for the Authority, CFO Lee Brown, Jami Gaudet, Public Information Officer, and Brenda Banks, Executive Assistant. A proper Quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were Wade Marks, Jr., David Scott, Mike Greenwald, and Jasmin Watkins.

Chairman Tompkins called the meeting to order, greeted everyone, and a time of silent prayer and reflection was observed.

Chairman Tompkins then requested the Board review the proposed Agenda and asked if there were any additions to be made. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to approve the Agenda as presented and the motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

The Board members were then asked to review the Minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting by Chairman Tompkins and indicate any additions or corrections that were needed. A motion was made by Dave Dickey to approve the Minutes as presented. Lynn Farmer seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.

The next agenda item was that of Public Comments and requests to address the Board had been made by Wade Marks, Jr., and Jasmin Watkins. Mr. Marks informed the Board that he needs a knee replacement and has trouble managing the current ramps that are used, he recommends installing change machines on the buses, and providing paper towels and had soap in the rest rooms. Ms. Watkins explained that she understood the Houston Avenue, East Macon

and West Macon routes were going to be temporarily suspended and she voiced her objection to that action. The Chairman expressed that their views would be considered by the Board and management.

Ms. Slagle was then recognized for presentation of the Financial Report. She explained that the document provided to the Board for their review was a draft and that additional information is needed before it can be finalized. There is currently \$1,041,000.00 in cash as reflected on the Statement of Net Position which is basically the same as last year with the reduced debt balance being considered. Grant receivables total \$3,148,559.00. GDOT is running behind in processing requests. The Property and Equipment total includes the additional real estate purchase as well as the new buses resulting in total assets of \$19,641,397.00.

Accounts payable total \$1,496,121.00, which includes the purchasing of the two new buses. The line of credit is currently zero. The Net Pension liability number will be adjusted by the actuary. The total Net Position as of the end of the fiscal year is \$13,942,630.00.

Operating grants for June totaled \$541,089.00, which includes \$333,000.00 of local Bibb County funds. GDOT grants total \$40,208.00 for the month and this includes those amounts allocated for overtime pay and gas.

Terminal Station rental income totaled \$61,880.00 for June and a favorable variance of \$40,286.00 to budget YTD. The actual unfavorable variance without depreciation is approximately \$42,000.00 for the net position.

Operating revenues for passenger fares had an unfavorable variance to budget of \$188,494.00. Overtime salaries, gas and diesel fuel costs were the major overages that were unfavorable. Insurance premiums also exceeded budget, but the worker's compensation premium resulted in a favorable cost to budget of \$82,000.00. Capital improvement grants totaling \$1,431,000.00 were received during the month. YTD the change in net position shows a decrease of \$1,395,658.00 but after making adjustments for non-operating expenditures that total is reduced to a decrease of \$382,315.00. The unfavorable variance to budget totaled a negative \$330,511.00. Passenger fares for the fiscal year totaled \$321,506.00 compared to \$333,863.00 for the prior year.

Total revenue for Paratransit totaled \$1,173,581.00 for FY 2022 and expenses before depreciation totaled \$1,228,767.00. There was a negative change in net position of \$128,436.00. Ms. Slagle then shared that the auditor will arrive in October to perform the annual audit. A

motion was then made by Dave Dickey to accept the Financial Report as is. The motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

President Ross was then called on to present the July Operations Report. He began his report by stating most of the buses are new and operate six days a week, averaging 250 miles a day and 6,000.00 per month. Currently there are problems with the air conditioning on several of the buses and therefore the drivers on buses with limited or poor air conditioning are given a break and buses swapped during the workday. The Authority is having ongoing problems with the delays in delivery of parts that are needed to maintain the buses with several in the shop waiting on parts. The Fixed Route operated at 77%, Ontime performance for July while Paratransit was at 94%. Three new Paratransit buses have been ordered and they are scheduled to arrive in December. The ParaTransit ridership is increasing.

President Ross pointed out that the Human Resource report evidences five open worker's compensation cases and that overtime hours were excessive due to the shortage of employees. Three more drivers were recently hired, and a newly implemented hiring bonus is now in place. There have been 66 events scheduled for 2022 in Terminal Station and already 44 events for 2023. Grants are continuing to be processed from both Macon-Bibb County and GDOT. There were two preventable accidents during the month of July. A Safety Meeting was held this past Sunday and driver responsibility was emphasized. Ridership continues to increase and hopefully Mercer ridership can return to the high levels it once enjoyed. Mr. Murphy commented that Terminal Station will hopefully benefit from the recent purchase of Library Ballroom by First Presbyterian Church.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chairman then opened the floor for New Business and President Ross was recognized to present the following items:

1. Temporarily Suspend Block 2 Buses on Houston Ave, East Macon, and West Macon – President Ross shared that these routes are the least ridden routes during the day and hopefully this temporary suspension will only last 2-3 months as the Authority seeks to hire additional drivers. It has already been confirmed with GDOT that no hearing is required in order for the temporary suspension to occur. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to temporarily suspend Block 2 buses on Houston Ave, East Macon, and West Macon route due to driver shortage. The motion was approved following a second by Charles Murphy.

2. Discontinue Second Street Corridor Route – President Ross shared that this route was initiated at the request of former Macon Mayor Reichert. It currently averages 5 riders per day. It will be published in the paper for 30 days before being discontinued. Most areas will still be serviced by other routes. A hearing will not be required for this to occur unless a request is made. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to permanently discontinue the Second Street Corridor Route due to lack of ridership. The motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.
3. Employee Driving Policy – President Ross stated that management decided that the Authority needed to expand our Employee Driving Policy. All the changes were reviewed with the drivers this past Sunday in the employee meeting and explained that it increases the sanctions being imposed for violations by the drivers. Safety is the main focus. President Ross then explained a number of the amendments and additions to the Board including the sanctions, licensing requirements, and physical examinations. The vote on the policy will occur at the September meeting after the Board has had an opportunity to review all changes. The Chairman requested all future policy modifications be redlined and highlighted for ease of review.

OLD BUSINESS: The floor was opened for Old Business by the Chairman and President Ross was called upon to address the following items:

1. APTA TRANSform Conference in Seattle, WA on October 9-12, 2022. All Board members have been registered.

Chairman Tompkins then opened the floor for Board member comments. Mr. Dickey stated one of the Second Street buses does not have the warning sign for passengers to remain seated until the bus stopped. He recommended that it would be beneficial to have two of those signs on each bus. He then commented on the hazard that occurs when cars turn right in front of buses that are stopped in addition to our current driver shortage.

Mr. Murphy was next recognized and shared information about the obituary of Ella Mumphery and her friendship with his sister.

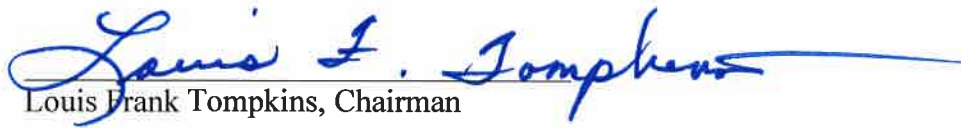
A motion to adjourn was then made by Lynn Farmer and approved following a second by Dave Dickey.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Brown, Secretary

Approved:



Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman