

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

May 31, 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 May 31, 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, Ella Mumphery, Otis Redding, III, Charles Murphy and Rachel Umana

Members Absent: None.

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

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

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

In response to Chairman Tompkins request for the Board to review the proposed Agenda, President Ross indicated he needed to add the items of Teen Summer Bus Passes and the Zebulon Road Extension to New Business. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

Following the Chairman's request for the Board to review and approve the Minutes, said motion to approve the Minutes was made by Ella Mumphery. The motion was approved following a second by Charles Murphy.

No public comments were requested.

Chairman Tompkins then called on Ms. Georgia Slagle for presentation of the Financial Report. Ms. Slagle reviewed the Financial Reports for the month ending March 31, 2022 noting that the Authority was in a strong cash position at this time with working capital of approximately \$1,500,000.00 more than the previous year and no line of credit balance. Grant

Receivables represent four months' worth of outstanding payments from GDOT and a new contract for \$600,000.00 for Operating Expenses has been approved.

Accounts Payable include an expense of \$150,000.00 related to the repair to the elevator in Terminal Station. The line of credit balance last year at this time was \$1,216,000.00 but is currently zero.

Passenger fares for March totaled \$23,663.00 with year-to-date actuals totaling \$250,702.00. Said amounts match last year's total but results in an unfavorable balance of \$131,798.00 compared to budget. Terminal Station revenues show a favorable variance to budget for the year of \$59,886.00. As expected, Operating Expenses are in excess of budget based on salaries, gas and fuel. Overall, most of the \$2,493,000.00 excess over budget is due to depreciation. In reconciling the Net Position for March the negative variance is reduced to \$67,660.00. Year to date that total is reduced to a negative \$355,781.00.

As of March 31 revenues and expenses should be approximately 75% of the year to date budget. Year-to-date revenues are at 110% and year-to-date expenses before depreciation at 109%. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to approve the Financial Reports. Said motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

President was then recognized by Chairman Tompkins for presentation of the Operations Report. President Ross stated Tony Woodard and his staff are doing a great job in the Maintenance Department. All units recently passed inspection. The Fixed Route for April had OnTime performance of 84% and ParaTransit reported at 94%. There are numerous openings for Fixed Route drivers and only one opening for ParaTransit. ParaTransit overtime will come down with the additional hires that have been made.

There have already been 62 events scheduled for Terminal Station in 2022 and 27 for 2023. The Authority currently has an outstanding account receivable from GDOT of \$608,585.00. There was one preventable accident in April. Based on the current numbers the Authority's projected ridership should total \$500,000 by the end of June. Additional attention will be given to the Mercer Route and hopefully ridership will increase to its 2019 totals when students return in the fall.

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

1. Teen Summer Bus Pass: These passes will be offered again to students 13 to 18 years of age enrolled in a Bibb County School who ride the buses during the summer. The pass will cost \$25.00.
2. Zebulon Road Extension: The Authority has been asked to extend the Bellevue Route to the Rescue Mission where more than 100 residents reside who need transportation to their jobs. This will extend the current route approximately one-half mile and it will also provide service to additional apartments in the area and Lake Wildwood.

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

1. Board Retreat – The Board was asked for five priority suggestions of the 39 that were received. The one considered most important was increasing the number of shelters and/or replacing some currently in place. A new one on Vineville Avenue adjacent to the offices of Lars Anderson will replace two currently in use. It was then noted that a shelter on Forsyth Road was damaged last week when a car drove through it but did not damage the sides of the shelter. In response to Mr. Murphy's inquiry about the ownership of the shelters, the President stated they are privately owned, and rental income is received by the Authority but the owner is obligated to make all repairs.

In response to Mr. Redding's inquiry as to whether any studies or surveys had been done to determine the extent shelters were used, President Ross stated there were none but the shelter at Hollingsworth Road will not be replaced nor will several others. Many of the shelters have become homes for the homeless and none of the newer shelters have been vandalized.

The next most important suggestion was focusing on the mental health of the employees. There are 11 federal and state holidays during a year and President Ross indicated he would like to split the drivers into two teams on those holidays to run a holiday schedule. A detailed report will be provided in the future. Mr. Murphy added that he would like for the Authority to consider a cookout for the employees and their families in the near future.

2. Electric ParaTransit – The Authority has never heard back from The Bus Center as to the delivery date. Efforts are underway to now cancel the contract.
3. APTA Transit CEO’s Conference- It was successful, and ridership increased.
4. Cason Street- Bibb County has now indicated it is ready to convey a portion of Cason Street and the Steven Street 10-foot alley to the Authority.

The Chairman then called on the Board for Board Member Comments. President Ross reported that the County has just installed a kiosk outside of Terminal Station for informational purposes concerning the Authority. He encouraged all Board Members to check it out as they left the Board meeting.


A motion was then made by Lynn Farmer to enter into Executive Session to discuss the possible purchase of property. The motion was seconded by Dave Dickey at 6:23 p.m. and the motion approved.

A motion was made by Lynn Farmer at 6:41 p.m. to exit Executive Session and return to the regular Board meeting. The motion was approved following a second by Dave Dickey.

A motion was then made by Lynn Farmer to approve the purchase of the adjoining portion of Cason Street and the Stephen Street 10-foot alley from Macon-Bibb County for the sum of \$22,053.00 and the purchase of 2723 Cason Street for the sum of \$21,000.00. The motion was approved following a second by Otis Redding.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Dave Dickey, seconded by Otis Redding, and approved

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Brown, Secretary

Approved:



Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman