

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

February 28, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30 p.m. on February 28, 2023 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, Charles Murphy, Rachel Umana and Deborah Garcia.

Members Absent: Otis Redding, III

Also in attendance was President/CEO Craig Ross, CFO Lee Brown, Andy Stroud, Sr. Vice President, Tony Woodard, Chief Operating Officer, June Slaughter, Paratransit Manager, DeEdgra Harden, Paratransit Dispatcher and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., attorney for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were David King, Mauldin & Jenkins, Commissioner Elaine Lucas, David Scott, Laura Corley, Jacqueline Glover, Wade Horton, Mike Greenwald and Gwendolyn Moss.

Chairman Tompkins called the meeting to order and informed those in attendance that based on their individual preference a time of silent prayer and reflection would now be observed.

Chairman Tompkins recognized President Ross for the introduction of new Board member Deborah Garcia. President Ross indicated he was pleased to introduce Ms. Garcia who was replacing Ella Mumphrey on the Board. He shared she was a lifelong resident of Bibb County, attended Mercer University and was a retired insurance executive. The Board is proud for her to join it as a rider and representative of Paratransit.

Chairman Tompkins then asked the Board members to review the proposed Agenda and determine if any modifications needed to be made. President Ross stated that the audit review would be presented by David King instead of David Irwin and that Ms. Slagle is ill and will not be attending today's meeting to present the Financial Report. A motion was made by Dave

Dickey to approve the amended Agenda. It was approved following a second by Charles Murphy.

The Board was then asked to review the Minutes for the November 28, 2022 and January 31, 2023 meetings. The Minutes were approved with no modifications following a motion by Dave Dickey and a second by Rachel Umana.

The Chairman then opened the floor for Public Comments and informed everyone that they were limited to a five-minute presentation. The Chairman recognized Elaine Lucas who stated that she was present to contest the proposed fare increase and request that the Board reconsider its decision. She outlined for the Board several reasons why she did not feel a fare increase should occur.

Jacqueline Glover was then recognized for her public comment. She explained she rides Paratransit and doesn't understand why she has to pay double the cost of the bus fare since senior citizens and the disabled that use it do not have another way to get around. She would like for Paratransit to be provided to its riders at no cost.

Wade Horton was then recognized. He stated that he rides Paratransit and feels more research should be done before rates are increased. He added this change would create a hardship for many of the Paratransit riders who are on Social Security.

Chairman Tompkins advised the attendees that the Board would take everything under consideration that was stated, and everyone is free to contact the President with any additional comments.

Mr. David King was next recognized for presentation of the FY 2022 Annual Audit Review. He stated that the Authority received another clean, unmodified audit and it contained a report on internal controls and compliance. There were no material deficiencies. The Net Position at year end was \$13,900,000.00. He expressed his appreciation to CFO Lee Brown and his team for all they do. President Ross added this was the fifth year in a row a clean, unmodified audit was received. A motion was then made to accept the Annual Audit Review of Mauldin & Jenkins for TY 2022. The motion was approved following a second by Dave Dickey.

President Ross then recognized for the January 2023 Operations Report. He shared that the average number of buses out of service were four and the average time loss, 1.75 hours, which was exceptional. Route Match software is still not working but the ontime performance for Paratransit was 99%. Three additional Paratransit buses have been ordered but the arrival date is unknown. There are seven open worker's compensation cases and there were five

resignations during the month, which were all new employees who did not want to start work at 5:00 a.m. Overtime is still very high due to driver shortage. The additional funds received from the American Rescue Plan were spent rapidly due to the increase in fuel costs. There was one preventable accident in January and a decrease of 1503 passengers on the Fixed Route. Paratransit trips previously averaged 160 per day but that has now increased to 180 to 190. Last Monday there were 211 Paratransit trips on one day. The Mercer University trips totaled 230.

Mr. Ross was asked to introduce the New Business items.

1. New Elevator Installation at Terminal Station – Both elevators are being replaced and will cost approximately \$400,000.00

2. Congressional Appropriations (Congressionally Directed Spending by Senator Jon Ossoff) – An application has been made for six to eight new electric buses.

3. Update on Proposed Bus Fare Increases – Studies have been conducted looking at different agencies throughout Georgia. There were 42 days of free rides last year. The Administrative staff has ridden all the buses and interviewed passengers and not a single person has objected to the fare increase. Many commented that they don't understand why it hasn't already happened. President Ross then reviewed the new pricing structure. The Authority's operating costs for the Fixed Route is approximately \$10.00 per person but increases to \$35.00 per trip for Paratransit. Unfortunately, due to the amount of volume our buses are wearing out and average 250 miles per day.

4. Brenda Banks, Jami Gaudet, and Mark Strozier Attending APTA Marketing & Communications Workshop in Las Vegas, NV on February 26-March 1, 2023 – Ms. Gaudet was on the program agenda this afternoon and did a great job. Approximately 350 people were in attendance.

5. Lee Brown, Craig Ross, and Mark Strozier attending the APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC on March 12-14, 2023.

The floor was then opened for OLD BUSINESS:

1. Parking Lot Update – Approximately one acre behind the offices on Broadway will be developed to equip and service the electric buses and charging station.
2. Wall Repair at Broadway- The cost to repair is estimated at \$117,000.00.

The Chairman then opened the floor for Board Member Comments. Mr. Murphy asked


based on our current ridership how much would revenues increase with the addition of the proposed fare increases. President Ross estimated it would be \$300,000.00 per year.

Chairman Tompkins indicated that there will be two additional hearings prior to the final vote on fare increases in June. The Board will take everything into account. This is a proposed rate increase; it is not final.

President Ross shared that the Administrative Staff is riding the buses until April and then a thirty-day notice will be published in the newspaper indicating where the meeting will be held. Notice will be widely published.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Dave Dickey which was approved following a second by Deborah Garcia.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Lee Brown, Secretary

Approved:

  
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Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman