

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

April 25, 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 April 25, 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: None.

Also in attendance was President/CEO Craig Ross, Brenda Banks - Executive Assistant, Jami Gaudet- Public Information Officer, Mark Strozier- Transit Planner, Tony Woodard – Chief Operations Officer, Georgia Slagle- CPA for the Authority and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr.- Attorney for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were Commissioner Elaine Lucas, Laura Corley, David Scott, Wade Horton, Mike Greenwald, and Jacqueline Glover.

Chairman Tompkins welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. He requested that everyone take some extra time during the period of silent prayer and reflection in remembrance of the Redding family.

Chairman Tompkins then took a moment of special privilege to share a tribute to Otis Redding, III and noted that he is still celebrated in his death by his friends, professional associates, and family. Social media validated he was a man for all seasons and an advocate for the less fortunate. His spirit will live on as his legacy for all of those lives he impacted.

Chairman Tompkins asked the Board members to review the proposed Agenda. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to approve the Agenda as stated. The motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

The Board was then asked to review and approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting. After a review, Deborah Garcia seconded the motion of Dave Dickey to approve the Minutes, the Board voted in favor of the motion.

President Ross was then recognized for his comments on the Authority's Annual Audit, FTA/GDOT Compliance Review and Fare Increases. President Ross shared that several false comments had been made recently concerning the Authority's possible misuse of funds. The Authority just received an Unmodified Audit Report, which is the best finding that can occur. The Authority also received Unmodified Audit Reports and Findings for each of the last five years. Last week three days were devoted to audit reviews with FTA and GDOT. The Authority received passing grades on its Compliance Report. He also noted that Chief Operations Officer, Tony Woodard was recognized and singled out by auditor Ray Boylston who received a written commendation stating "one of the best jobs I have seen in this area of compliance after completion of over 130 compliance reviews the past few years across the US."

The President and counsel met with Mayor Miller on March 8 to discuss the proposed fare increases and the possibility of obtaining approval for an additional \$375,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan funds. The proposal was submitted to GDOT for consideration and approval was obtained, Invoices are to be submitted to the County on a monthly basis based on ridership to access said funds beginning July 1, 2023.

President Ross then shared the acquisition history and transfer of Terminal Station to the Authority in 2014 from the City of Macon. Anything that was not ADA compliant existed when Terminal Station was acquired. The services of an architect with extensive ADA compliance experience has been contacted and we are awaiting his proposal. Once we receive his proposal, we will ask the Board for approval to engage his services at the May Board meeting.

Finally, the proposed allocation of \$375,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan to the Authority in lieu of a fare increase was submitted by Mayor Miller and several council members. It was unanimously approved at the last meeting of the Commissioners and we are awaiting receipt of the Ordinance.

The meeting was then opened for Public Comments and the Chairman recognized Commissioner Elaine Lucas. She stated she was thrilled at the progress that had been made to address the fare increases and publicly thanked Mayor Miller for all his efforts in accomplishing the result.

The Chairman then recognized Wade Horton who stated the community lost a legend in Otis Redding, III and encouraged the Board to approve the vote to rescind the possible fare increase. He also stated he did not think the elevators are ADA compliant and did not think some

of the buses were either. Chairman Tompkins stated that comments will be taken under advisement.

The Chairman then recognized Georgia Slagle for presentation of the Financial Report. Ms. Slagle stated that the current cash balance is approximately \$1,500,000.00 and Grants Receivables are \$1,969,468.00. That represents four months of uncollected grants. Assets currently total \$17,218,681.00 compared to \$17,821,861.00 last year. The line of credit stands at zero. Current liabilities total \$1,142,624.00. Terminal Station rental income totals \$79,405.00 for the month ending March 31 with YTD revenues totaling \$589,448.00, resulting in a favorable balance to budget of \$43,448.00. Expenses are in line with budget.

Operating revenues for March from the Fixed Route totaled \$119,445.00, increasing total revenues YTD to \$902,783.00 compared to budget of \$939,750.00. Operating grants show a favorable balance YTD of \$834,635.00. After reconciliation of Net Position to Operating Net Position there is a favorable variance of \$790,360.00. In March there was a Capital Grant expenditure of \$368,750.00 related to the software purchase and an expenditure of \$118,533.00 for the retaining wall, which would not be reimbursed.

Paratransit is on budget with its funding. The only budget expenses significantly over budget are those related to drivers' overtime. A final report will be issued after a conference with CFO Lee Brown. At the conclusion of Ms. Slagle's report, a motion was made by Rachel Umana to approve the Financial Report. The motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

President Ross was then recognized for presentation of the February and March 2023 Operations Report. President Ross stated only 1.75 hours were lost due to a bus being out of service during February and this highlights the exceptional work that Tony Woodard and his staff are doing. Normally, there are around 160 Paratransit trips per day, but that has increased to 180 to 200 per day recently. Ridership was off approximately 45% during Covid in 2020 but we were only down 4% in February for the Fixed Route, but Paratransit ridership increased by 839 trips resulting in YTD ridership increasing by 19.37%.

The March Operations Report indicated the buses were out of service for 2.3 hours and Paratransit had On Time performance of 98%. Overtime is still a significant issue. There were two terminations/resignations. These usually relate to new drivers who do not stay or are not performing. There have been 56 events scheduled for 2023 at Terminal Station with a projected income of \$172,995.00. Ridership for the Fixed Route increased by 561 passengers over March

2022 and indicates a YTD increase of 14.68% with increased ridership of 55,884. Paratransit ridership at the end of March had increased 18.19% YTD over the previous year. The Mercer Route also reflects an increase in passengers totaling 1,388 YTD.

Chairman Tompkins then recognized Tony Woodard and identified by name each of his staff members and publicly thanked them for their outstanding service.

Chairman Tompkins then opened the floor for New Business and recognized President Ross.

1. Code of Conduct of Guests- Decorum (vote) – President Ross read the proposed new Rules of Decorum and shared they are identical to those of Macon-Bibb County. A motion was then made by Dave Dickey to adopt and add the Rules of Decorum to our current By-Laws under the Meetings section. The motion was approved following a second by Lynn Farmer.

2. Fare Increase Discussion (vote) – President Ross noted that GDOT has now approved the proposed funding of the fare increase with funds from the American Rescue Plan. It will be voted on at next month's meeting following receipt of the County's Ordinance. A motion was then made by Lynn Farmer to rescind the proposed fare increase. The motion was approved following a second by Charles Murphy.

The Chairman then opened the floor for OLD BUSINESS:

1. Paratransit Electric Buses – President Ross reported that the Authority had just received three new electric Paratransit buses. They are waiting on the wraps to arrive.

Three more electric buses have been ordered but the arrival time is unknown.

Chairman Tompkins noted the River to Rail presentation has been rescheduled to May 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Wesleyan College. Ms. Gaudet has worked extremely hard on this and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Ms. Gaudet was recognized and stated a press conference will be held on May 5 in culmination of the Art Contest for bus shelters and hopes many will be able to attend.

The Chairman then opened the floor for Board Member Comments. Ms. Farmer was recognized and stated she wanted to compliment the staff for all their support in accommodating the Chamber of Commerce staff in its photographing of “Alfred” on the cover of the Chamber Directory.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Lynn Farmer and approved following a second by Rachel Umana.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Brown, Secretary

Approved:



Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman