

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

May 30, 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 May 30, 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, Lee Brown-CFO, Jami Gaudet- Public Information Officer, Mark Strozier- Transit Planner, Tony Woodard – Chief Operations Officer, June Slaughter – Paratransit Manager, Andy Stroud - Sr. Vice President, Darrell Lester-Safety & Training Manager, and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr.- attorney for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were Laura Corley, David Scott, Wade Horton, Mike Greenwald, Jacqueline Glover, Lucinda Wright, Aubrey Gaudet, Janice Ross, Margaret Peth, and Gloria Ruth Finney.

Chairman Tompkins opened the meeting and expressed his appreciation to all veterans and their families in recognition of Memorial Day prior to the moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Chairman Tompkins then welcomed Aubrey Gaudet, who is currently interning with the Authority, and also Gloria Finney with Channel 24.

Chairman Tompkins then asked the Board to review the Agenda and inquired as to any modifications. President Ross indicated that Ms. Slagle will not be present to present a Financial Report. The motion was then made by Dave Dickey to approve the Agenda as amended and such occurred following a second by Lynn Farmer.

Chairman Tompkins requested that the Board review and approve the Minutes of the April 25 meeting. Dave Dickey then made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Charles Murphy and approved.

Chairman Tompkins welcomed the citizens who were present at the meeting and opened the floor for Public Comments. Ms. Jackie Glover was recognized who stated her desire to comment on accessibility. She opined that the elevator was not ADA compliant for individuals who are blind and would like a voice added to the elevator. She also stated she did not believe the elevator to access the Conference Room is ADA compliant or are the stairs.

The Chairman next recognized Wade Horton who stated he wanted the elevator to be ADA accessible and that the older buses have air conditioning problems which he wants to be addressed. He then requested different signage on the Paratransit buses to distinguish them from the Fixed Route buses.

Ms. Lucinda Wright was next recognized, and she stated she wanted to talk about what a wonderful job Paratransit has done for her since 1982. They have taught her how to get back and forth from college and jobs while confined to a wheelchair. Paratransit gave her the opportunity to be in the community and the Paratransit staff goes beyond the call of duty and perform like healthcare assistants.

President Ross was then recognized for presentation of the Operations Report. The average time lost during April was two hours with three buses out of service. On Time performance will be determined once Route Shout is implemented. Paratransit is currently running at 98%. Three drivers have been hired since April and there have been zero customer complaints.

There have already been 60 events scheduled for 2023 at Terminal Station and 10 in 2024. Three new Paratransit buses have been delivered and we are waiting on the wraps. There are also three Paratransit buses being assembled at the factory and should arrive in August. Currently there are twelve Paratransit buses in use which will increase to eighteen by calendar year end. Ridership was down in April and is year to date, but Paratransit is running greater than 200 routes per day compared to 160 last year. Conversations are being held with Wesleyan about the possibility of initiating a possible route from the college.

Chairman Tompkins then opened the floor for New Business and recognized President Ross who stated that last week there was a news report on Channel 24 that the administration was not afforded an opportunity to comment on that aired on Wednesday May 27. The news report replayed the comments of Wade Horton at the at the Macon-Bibb County Commissioner's meeting in which he stated the buses were not ADA compliant. President Ross responded by stating every bus and every Paratransit bus that is purchased must be ADA compliant and each

one has a manufacturer's ADA certification. False comments will not be tolerated. If there is a bus that is no longer ADA compliant, it immediately comes off the road.

Mr. Horton has also stated that seat belts were hanging out onto the floor and there were inadequate handrails. Each seat belt is retractable, and none are hanging out. Handrails are on each bus.

Mr. Horton stated the Terminal Station was non-ADA compliant. President Ross shared that Mayor Miller responded to other comments by Horton and informed him that the City of Macon owned the building prior to its transfer to the Authority and did most of the remodeling. Since Terminal Station is a historic building, it will not have to comply with a number of ADA requirements since it is 107 years old. President Ross added that he has located an expert named Bill Hecker to perform the examination and audit of the building for a cost of up to \$6,200.00. Chairman Tompkins then asked if any of the Board Members had any questions about the original report and response of President Ross. Ms. Farmer stated she was fully supportive of President Ross' comments and the importance of setting the record straight. President Ross added that the Authority's website contains an ADA Complaint Form. Once a complaint is filed, it is investigated by the Commission but as of this date, not a single complaint has been filed.

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

1. Approve Hecker Design LLC to Conduct an ADA Audit of Terminal Station for a cost of \$4,970.00 with a cap of \$6,020 (vote) - A motion was made by Ms. Farmer to engage the services of Hecker Design to conduct an ADA review and audit of Terminal Station at a cost not to exceed \$6200.00. The motion was approved following a second by Dave Dickey.

2. GDOT/FTA Compliance Review- President Ross indicated the Authority had never had a negative review and called on CFO Lee Brown for his comments. Mr. Brown stated the review provided five observations and four recommendations consisting of the following:

- (1). Suggested more research for cost estimates, but this was resolved prior to the review;
- (2). Revise our Facility Maintenance Plan at Terminal Station and the Transfer Station. It recommends that the Transfer Station be incorporated into Terminal Station;
- (3). Incidental Use Agreement – The form has been completed and is submitted;
- (4). Differentiate between the regular elements of our EEO Plan; and
- (5). Revise the No-Show Policy to have a maximum of thirty-day restriction from riding the bus for violations.

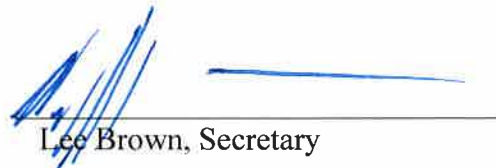
3. May 23<sup>rd</sup> Kickoff for TripSpark- This program has been purchased and it will take the Authority to a new level.

The Chairman then opened the floor for OLD BUSINESS:

1. Transporting Art: Enhancing MTA's Bus Shelters Press Conference on May 5– Jami Gaudet and Erin Hawkins have worked very hard on this project. Ms. Gaudet shared that a contest was held, and artists were asked to create a design for review and 8 of 10 were selected for the artwork. The Authority partnered with the community and is very proud of the end result.
2. Friday, May 26 is Ride Free Day to Celebrate “Macon Car Free Day” in Partnership with Bike Walk Macon.
3. Charging Stations for New Paratransit Electric Vehicles Have Been Installed at the Parking Lot on Fifth Street. Waiting for Vehicles to be Wrapped- It will be completed tomorrow.
4. Restoration of “Colored Waiting Room”- Additional conversations have been held with Jay Scott of GreenRock Partners and they are ready to proceed with the grant writing phase and seeking to obtain grants for the project funding. A motion was then made by Lynn Farmer for the Authority to approve and execute the Grant Consulting Agreement with GreenRock Partners, LLC to write grant proposals for the restoration of the colored waiting room at Terminal Station. The motion was approved following a second by Dave Dickey.

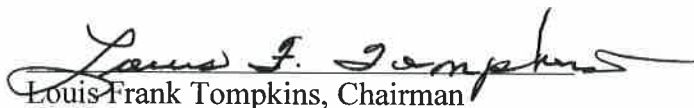
The Chairman then opened the floor for Board Member Comments but there were none. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Brown, Secretary

Approved:



Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman