

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

September 26, 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 September 26, 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: Charles Murphy, Dave Dickey, Rachel Umana, and Deborah Garcia.

Members Absent: Ken Blair

Also in attendance was President/CEO Craig Ross, Brenda Banks - Executive Assistant, Jami Gaudet- Public Information Officer, Celestial Yates, Grant/Accounting Associate, Mark Strozier, Transit Planner, Georgia Slagle, CPA for the Authority and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., attorney for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were Laura Corley, Commissioner Elaine Lucas, Jackie Glover, Theodore Jackson, Keyatta Lampkin, Mekerria Lampkin and Wade Horton.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tompkins and a moment of silent prayer or reflection was observed. The Board was then requested to review the agenda and note any changes or additions that needed to be made. The agenda was approved following a motion by Dave Dickey and a second by Deborah Garcia.

The Board was then asked to review the Minutes of the August 29 meeting and indicate any changes or additions that were needed. A motion was made by Dave Dickey to approve the Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Deborah Garcia and approved.

Chairman Tompkins welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that Public Comments at this portion of the agenda would be limited to Agenda Items. The Chairman then reviewed the procedural rules and the required conduct for all those individuals who wish to speak. It was then noted that no request had been made.

Ms. Georgia Slagle was then recognized by the Chairman for presentation of the Financial Report. Ms. Slagle noted that the Authority has a favorable cash balance with grant receivables of \$1,588,363.00. Approximately one-half of that total is for Operating grants due

the Authority. Assets currently total \$17,471,264.00 with \$12,797,187.00 being comprised of net property and equipment. Accounts payable total \$835,196.00 with the line of credit having a zero balance. The Deferred grant totaling \$145,582.00 will be used for bus shelters. Operating revenues are slightly ahead of last year while operating expenses are slightly more. Non-operating expenses are tracking closely with last year. Terminal Station revenues are also similar to last year.

Paratransit net property and equipment total \$1,725,140.00. Two electric buses were purchased in August. Revenues were similar to July. The change in net position stood at \$439,590.00. Following the completion of the Financial Report a motion was made by Dave Dickey to accept and approve the report. The motion was approved following a second by Charles Murphy.

President/CEO Craig Ross was then called on by the Chairman for presentation of the August 2023 Operations Report. He noted that some electric buses are out of service due to wiring and engine issues. The Authority still has openings for drivers and an advertisement will be airing soon on TV to address that issue. On-time performance for Paratransit stood at 98% in August. There have been 64 events for Terminal Station for 2023 and additional 26 events scheduled for 2024. Two accidents were reported in August, with one being non-preventable. Covid is starting to appear again and ridership in August was less than the previous year, but year-to-date passenger totals are 13.26% higher than the previous year. Conversations have been held with Mercer concerning its route due to the shortage of drivers.

Chairman Tompkins next recognized President Ross for the Terminal Station ADA survey update. He informed the Board that GDOT has located \$211,000.00 in funds that can be allocated to the work. A request for proposal will be put out for an architect for Terminal Station and it is estimated it will take 60-90 days to make that selection following which an RFP will be put out for a contractor. Financial assistance will be sought from GDOT.

Chairman Tompkins then recognized Mark Strozier for the update on TripSpark. Mr. Strozier stated that the Authority is approximately 80% complete and adapting to the software. Most of the drivers are receptive to the transition but it will probably take a year to be fully implemented. It will be initiated with Paratransit and there will be on-board computers in October with the Authority going live on Monday, October 2. Training will continue and it is our hope to be fully operational by the first of the year. The project costs totaled \$1,300,000.00. President Ross thanked Mr. Strozier for the exceptional job that he has done and continues to do.

Also in conjunction therewith, President Ross noted that CFO Lee Brown accepted an invitation to speak in San Diego at a seminar for transit authorities based on the success of our electric buses.

The meeting was then opened for New Business by Chairman Tompkins.

1. Cancel November and December Board meetings due to Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays(vote). Chairman Tompkins noted that November and December are key months for family time in celebrating the holiday season. If approved the October 31 meeting will be the last one for 2023, reconvening on January 30, 2024. Following discussion, a motion was made by Dave Dickey to cancel the November and December meetings. The motion was approved following a second by Deborah Garcia.

2. Approve GDOT Transit Trust Fund Program Application for ADA Renovations (vote). President Ross shared that the funds requested from GDOT totaling \$211,363.00 will be used for compliance with ADA issues at Terminal Station. After discussion a motion was made by Charles Murphy to approve the application. Deborah Garcia seconded the motion, and it was approved.


3. APTA TRANSform & Expo Conference on October 8-11, 2023 in Orlando FL. Transportation will be provided by bus to the conference.

The Chairman next opened the floor for OLD BUSINESS and Board Member Comments but nothing was presented. The floor was then opened for Public Comments but no requests had been made.

A motion was then made at 6:24 p.m. by Dave Dickey to exit the Board meeting and enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Rachel Umana and approved.

At 6:45 p.m. Rachel Umana made a motion to exit Executive Session and resume the regular session. The motion was approved following a second by Dave Dickey. Ms. Umana then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dave Dickey and approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Brown, Secretary

Approved:



Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman