



Minutes

NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 28, 2016

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors was held in the Music City Central (MCC) Meeting Room, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee on July 28, 2016. Present were: Lewis Lavine, Vice Chair; Colleen Hoy, Member; Walter Searcy, Member; Gail Carr Williams, Member; Secretary Harlan Dodson, and CEO Stephen G. Bland. A quorum was established and Vice Chair Lavine called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Vice Chair Lavine reported that in July the MTA Board usually meets informally for a tour of one of the facilities or for a ride on one of the routes. This year it was necessary for board business to meet, but it will be an abbreviated meeting followed by a Board tour of the Nestor facility.

Vice Chair Lavine also reported that former Nashville MTA Board Chair Marian Ott, after 17 years on the Nashville MTA Board decided to retire. Her term was up for renewal and made the decision not to continue. There are plans in the making to honor her service in the near future. In her place is Colleen Hoy who was appointed by Mayor Barry and confirmed by Metro Council last week. Vice Chair Lavine welcomed Ms. Hoy to the Board.

Vice Chair Lavine stated that the Board will hold its annual election of officers today and Board Counsel Harlan Dodson will lead them through that.

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Vice Chair Lavine opened the floor for public comments. The public was reminded that comments are limited to three minutes.

Margo Chambers of Nashville had these comments:

- Ms. Chambers stated that she is there to give the Board a head's up about a Tiger VIII grant that was submitted by Metro Council on June 8. It is for an Interstate 440 greenway and is a \$30 million ask grant with a \$7.5 million local match required and it was approved.
- She also stated that this is a greenway connecting Boyd Park in North Nashville to Battlement Park. Metro is getting ready to approve a portion of this grant and it could be taking away money from Nashville MTA. It is for a connection of this greenway between Centennial Park and Elmington Park.
- Concluding, she added that the grant application does not include Centennial Park. She believes it is taking away money from low income areas and she would like

for the Board to be aware of it because if this gets approved by Metro it will take up approximately a third of the state's potential Tiger Grant money.

There were no other public comments and the time for public comments closed.

- III. FALL 2016 SERVICE CHANGES TITLE VI ANALYSIS (A-16-019):** Vice Chair Lavine called upon Title VI Coordinator Shontrill Lowe to present this action item. Ms. Lowe reported that Title VI is a full directive from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which states that we are prohibited to discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs or activities of agencies receiving federal funds financial assistance. Nashville MTA (MTA) is one of those agencies and we look at minorities and low income when we review our service changes.

Even though the service changes were minor this time, staff looked at the total service area and the half mile distance with these proposed changes. Staff also considered each route separately. No disparate impact or disproportionate burden associated with the implementation of these proposed service changes was found. Therefore, staff recommends board acceptance of this Title VI equity analysis per the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title VI regulations prior to adoption of proposed service changes to be effective on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

There was some discussion on what defines a major service change and Chief Development Officer Julie Navarrete stated that the rule is that the agency can define that and MTA defines that as a 25% change of any major service, fare change, and a few other items. Currently, however, the agency looks at every change just to make sure that there is equitable service with each of these changes.

Vote on this was deferred to be included with the next action item.

- IV. FALL 2016 SERVICE CHANGES (A-16-020):** Vice Chair Lavine called upon Director of Planning and Grants Felix Castrodad to present this item. Mr. Castrodad reported that system changes are done twice a year, in the spring and the fall. It is an opportunity to look at the system and see how things are moving and if we need to make any adjustments or changes. This action item is in preparation for system changes in the fall and the Board was given a preview of this at their June meeting. Mr. Castrodad noted that the changes are very minimal and briefly reviewed those changes with the Board.

Public meetings were held to discuss the proposed service changes and to receive public feedback. The public was also encouraged to email, fax, or mail their comments to MTA. During one of the public meetings, a rider's comment made the staff aware of a concern with Route 6 Lebanon Pike and whether it would be able to meet the Music City Star train times of departure if one trip was eliminated and times shifted. After discussing this situation with the rider at the meeting, staff made a slight adjustment to Route 60 Blue Circuit to have a better connection to the Music City Star train departure at Riverfront Station. This will help mitigate the impact of the changes to Route 6 Lebanon Pike's schedule. The rider was satisfied with this solution.

Based upon the responses from the public meetings, comments received through the public comment process, and analysis on the impact of these changes, staff finds no major

issues with the implementation of these changes. We are requesting the Board approve the implementation of the service changes as outlined. The estimated cost for providing these services in FY 2016-17 is approximately \$100,000 and the funds have already been accounted for in the approved budget. The changes as outlined will become effective on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

Proper motion was made to adopt both recommendations as related to the Fall 2016 Service Changes as included in the Board book and for the routes themselves. Motion was seconded and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Before moving on to the election of officers, Vice Chair Lavine noted that next month's meeting will be a little out of sequence. The Nashville MTA board will have a joint meeting with the RTA Board on Wednesday, August 17, at 10:00 a.m. at the Nashville Downtown Library. The purpose of this meeting will be to review and possibly approve the final draft of the long range strategic plan. In our September meeting we will vote on the plan itself.

- V. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Vice Chair Lavine turned this part of the meeting over to Harlan Dodson, Counsel and Secretary to the Board. Mr. Dodson reported that in his role as Secretary to the Board it was time to have election for two positions that is the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Board. He will conduct that meeting for that purpose and at this time will take any nominations for the Chair of the Board. Acting now as a member of the Board, Lewis Lavine nominated Gail Carr Williams. There were no other nominations and the motion that nominations close was made and seconded and Gail Carr Williams was elected as the Chair of the Nashville MTA Board of Directors unanimously.

Mr. Dodson asked for nominations for Vice Chair and Gail Carr Williams nominated Lewis Lavine. There were no other nominations and motion was made and seconded that nominations close. Lewis Lavine was unanimously 98elected as Vice Chair of the Nashville MTA Board of Directors.

- VI. **OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business to come before the Board.

- VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.