

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PLANNING & EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**June 28, 2019**

The Board of Directors Planning & External Relations Committee met on June 28, 2019 at 9:32 a.m. in the Board Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Board Members Present**

Robert L. Ashe, III, **Chair**  
Roderick E. Edmond  
William 'Bill' Floyd  
Roderick A. Frierson  
Alicia M. Ivey  
John 'Al' Pond  
Rita A. Scott  
Christopher S. Tomlinson\*

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/ CEO Jeffrey A. Parker; C-Suite Team Members Chief Administrative Officer Luz Borrero, Chief of System Safety, Security & Emergency Management/Police Wanda Dunham, Chief Financial Officer Gordon L. Hutchinson, Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax, Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill and Chief of Rail Operations David Springstead; AGMs Heather Alhadeff, Marsha Anderson Bomar, Virgil Fludd, James Sibert (Interim), Kirk Talbott, Emil Tzanov and Tom Young (Interim); Chief Information Security Officer Dean Mallis; Senior Directors Jennifer Jinadu-Wright, Colleen Kiernan and Jacob Vallo; Directors Robin Boyd, Jacqueline Holland (Acting), Tory Kirby and Adam Shumaker; Managers Stephany Fisher, Miranda Johnson and Jim Robinson; Sr. Executive Administrator Ashanti Boothe, Sr. Executive Administrator Kenya Hammond, Sr. Executive Administrator Keri Lee; Department Administrator Debra Oliver. Others in attendance Hunter Abel, Adrien Carter, Abebe Girmay, Janelle Jones, Courtne Middlebrooks, Negesha Stone-Boyd and Cassandra Whitfield.

Also in attendance Anthony Allen of ABC; Pam Alexander of LTK Engineering; Adam Halpin of Arcadis; Brad Henn of LTK; Eric Peterson of OSS Tech; Marshal Phipps of Beltline Rail Now; Jim Schmidt of HNTB and Cara Vojdani of Arcadis.

\* Christopher Tomlinson is Executive Director of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and is therefore a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors

**Approval of the May 30, 2019 Planning & External Relations Committee Meeting Minutes**

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On motion by Mr. Pond seconded by Ms. Ivey, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with 7\* members present.

**Briefing – Fifteenth Amendment to the Rapid Transit Contract and Assistance Agreement**

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Ms. O'Neill provided an update on the Fifteenth Amendment to the Rapid Transit Contract and Assistance Agreement.

A version of the Fifteenth Amendment was passed back in January 2017. Subsequent to the time, there was discussion with MARTA jurisdictions regarding various items. Members from the jurisdictions requested to address these various items by the Fifteenth Amendment.

The version presented today, includes several changes from the original passed amendment.

One primary purpose of the Fifteenth Amendment was to add the list of projects that were previously voted on in the 2016 referendum by City of Atlanta voters. Another revision was the deletion from the Clayton County Comprehensive Transit Plan of any reference to a SPLOST.

The SPLOST was initially identified in the Clayton County Plan as providing \$5M for Capital Expenditures. Subsequent to Clayton County joining the system, it was discovered that there were no additional SPLOST funds. Clayton County requested any reference to SPLOST be deleted.

There also is a provision that was added by the request of jurisdictions, that they have the right to review and comment on any planned transit-oriented development. It would commit the Authority to make good faith efforts to address any concerns raised by jurisdictions.

A draft of the Fifteenth Amendment along with Exhibit A and B has been distributed for your review. Exhibit A is the list of city projects funded by the 2016 additional half penny city.

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Exhibit B is the Fulton County project list which is divided into various components. The different areas cover projects that can be funded by the existing penny and projects that could be covered in the future with other funding sources. These funding sources include federal funding and local taxes.

The Authority is also in the process of finalizing Exhibit C which will be identical to the DeKalb County project list.

One additional purpose of the Fifteen Amendment is the need to have the current one penny sales tax extend from 2047 until 2057. This item was in the initial Fifteen Amendment and has not been changed.

Mr. Ashe asked does the Committee need to vote on this item or is it a briefing.

Ms. O'Neill said this item is a briefing.

Mr. Ashe asked if the MARTA Board will request approval of the Fifteen Amendment in the future.

Ms. O'Neill said once the exhibits are presented and approved by the jurisdictions, the Board will then vote on the Fifteen Amendment.

Mr. Pond asked what are the plans for bonding in the future.

Mr. Parker said after the bonds that were previously approved, the Authority does not have any capability for additional bonding.

Mr. Hutchinson said the Authority does have a budget of \$170M for bonding capabilities.

Mr. Parker said the Authority should utilize the bonding budget in order to advance the list of projects and we should wait until the Fifteen Amendment has been approved before signing a contract.

Mr. Floyd asked does the Fifteen Amendment replace the need for MARTA to do bonding for future capital expenditures.

Mr. Parker said looking at DeKalb or Fulton County, the mechanism that DeKalb County has to raise additional sales tax is the Transit Governance Bill. Under Mr. Tomlinson's organization there are requirements around projects being on the regional project plan that will allow a referendum to move forward. Assuming that a referendum happens, then MARTA would enter into an agreement around a half-cent sales tax.

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Once an agreement takes place, the Authority will have the ability to create a program for future bonding.

Mr. Floyd asked would the DeKalb County program be similar to the MARTA and Gwinnett County Agreement.

Mr. Parker said the Authority would need an agreement similar to the agreement executed with the City of Atlanta. It is anticipated that the additional sales tax would roll over and be handled in a similar manner.

Mr. Ashe asked would it be in both MARTA's and DeKalb County's interest to have the bonding done by MARTA.

Mr. Parker said it is anticipated that it would be in the best interest for MARTA to handle the bonding. The Authority would execute an agreement that would allow us it. Unlike the MARTA Act, funds would not automatically be distributed to the Authority.

Mr. Floyd asked why is in the best interest for MARTA.

Mr. Parker said the Authority has safeguards to ensure that staff manage the bonding well. Also, the Authority has a strong revenue source in sales tax.

Mr. Floyd asked does House Bill 930 and the Fifteenth Amendment give DeKalb County the option to oppose projects.

Mr. Ashe said the Fifteenth Amendment is intended to list the potential projects that the county has identified through their transit plan. This plan would be under the assumption that MARTA would enter into an agreement to be executed. The Fifteenth Amendment does not give DeKalb an option that is not already offered. It facilitates a continued evolution between MARTA and DeKalb County.

Mr. Tomlinson said Appendix A, B and C regarding DeKalb County was previously discussed. He asked are there any project changes related to Clayton County that would be part of the Fifteen Amendment.

Ms. O'Neill said when the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted it included the Clayton engineering plan. This plan was broad enough that it included the Appendix discussed today.

Mr. Frierson asked are the changes highlighted in the Fifteenth Amendment to Rapid Transit Contract and Assistance Agreement based on changes that were made from documents presented to MARTA in April of 2017.

Ms. O'Neill said the highlighted area of Fifteenth Amendment to Rapid Transit Contract and Assistance Agreement are changes that was discussed during the initial Fifteenth Amendment voted on by the MARTA Board in 2017. These changes were at the request of jurisdictions.

Mr. Frierson referenced Item #4(j), noting that the statement made in the original document is from April 19, 2017. He asked how did we get to this point.

Mr. O'Neill said there were several suggestions discussed. However, item #4(j) was a mutual agreement between MARTA Board and the Interim.

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**Adjournment**

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The meeting of the Planning & External Relations Committee adjourned at 9:59 a.m.