



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**BOARD MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021**

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**via WebEx**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Board Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>Staff Members Present</b>
Roberta Abdul-Salaam	Jeffrey Parker
Robert Ashe III	Collie Greenwood
Stacy Blakley	Rhonda Allen
Jim Durrett	Luz Borrero
William Floyd	Ralph McKinney
Roderick Frierson	Melissa Mullinax
Freda Hardage	Elizabeth O'Neill
Russell McMurry <sup>1</sup>	Manjeet Ranu
Al Pond	Raj Srinath
Kathryn Powers	
Rita Scott, <b>Chair</b>	
Christopher Tomlinson <sup>1</sup>	
W. Thomas Worthy	

Also, in attendance: MARTA Board General Counsel Justice Leah Ward Sears of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP; other MARTA staff members: Marsha Anderson Bomar, Jay Claiborne, LaShanda Dawkins, Rob Goodwin, Tyrene Huff, Kevin Hurley, Michael Kreher, Patricia Lucek, Dean Mallis, Paula Nash, Santiago Osorio, Kirk Talbott.

**Public Comment [Attached]**

Jeremy Sharpe

**1. Approval of May 13, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Chair Rita Scott asked for a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Robert Ashe and

<sup>1</sup>Russell McMurry is Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Christopher Tomlinson is Executive Director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). Per the MARTA Act, both are non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

seconded by Board Member Freda Hardage. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13 members present. <sup>1</sup>

**2. External Relations Committee Report**

Committee Chair Robert Ashe reported that the Committee met on Thursday, May 20, 2021 and received the following briefings:

- a. Briefing - MARTA Rail Car Preliminary Design Review (PDR): Public Engagement Strategy
- b. Briefing - Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

**3. Audit Committee Report**

Committee Chair Freda Hardage reported that the Committee met on Thursday, May 20, 2021 and received the following briefings:

- a. MARTA FY21 External Audit Engagement
- b. FY22 Internal Audit Plan
- c. Briefing – Internal Audit Activity

**4. Planning & Capital Programs Committee Report**

Committee Chair Al Pond reported that the Committee met on Thursday, May 27, 2021 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution - Authorizing the Execution of a License Agreement with the Atlanta Hawks for the Placement of an Electronic Billboard and Power & Data Easement on Parcel D2108Y, Located in 14th District of Fulton Co, Georgia, at 90 Centennial Olympic Park D
- b. Resolution - Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of the Kensington, Indian Creek, and H. E. Holmes Stations Master Plan, RFP P48713
- c. Resolution - Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Specialized Professional Services, RFP P47520
- d. Resolution - Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Surveying Services (REI), AE46194

Committee Chair Pond requested approval of the resolutions, which was seconded by Board Member Hardage. The resolutions were approved unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13 members present. <sup>1</sup>

Committee Chair Pond reported that the Committee received the following briefing:

- e. Briefing - Operations and Maintenance Technical Support Services

**5. Operations & Safety Committee Report**

Committee Vice Chair Roberta Abdul-Salaam reported that the Committee met on Thursday, May 27, 2021 and received the following briefings:

- a. Briefing - Maintenance of Way Update
- b. Briefing - Bus Maintenance Update

**6. Business Management Committee Report**

It was determined that the BMC agenda displayed on screen did not reflect the BMC Committee agenda received by all Board Members and publicly advertised. The correct BMC agenda report was displayed on screen and the report commenced.

Committee Chair Roderick Frierson reported that the Committee met on Thursday, May 27, 2021 and approved the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of Consulting Services for Group Benefit Plans, RFP P46683
- b. Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Proposals for the Procurement of Employee Voluntary Benefits Program, RFP P48735
- c. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of MARTA Contactless Smart Card Fare Media, IFB B47281
- d. Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Procurement of CCTV and Enterprise Network Switches, IFB B48023
- e. Resolution Authorizing a Modification in Contractual Authorization for DocuSign Licenses, LOA L40203
- f. Resolution Approving Revisions to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct
- g. Resolution of the MARTA Board of Directors Approving a Member of the Fulton Technology and Energy Enhancement Authority
- h. Resolution to Approve the Operating and Capital Budgets for FY2022

Committee Chair Frierson requested approval of the resolutions, which Board Member Ashe seconded. The resolutions were approved unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13 members present.<sup>1</sup>

Committee Chair Frierson reported that the Committee received the following briefing:

- i. Briefing - FY2021 Third Quarter Financial Highlights and Financial Performance Indicators

## **7. Other Matters**

Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill requested the Board's approval for a resolution settling legal claims for \$2.9 million in the case of Nancy Wooten v. MARTA and Corey Graham. Chair Scott called for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Board Member Hardage made a motion to approve and Vice Chair Abdul-Salaam seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0 with 13 members present.<sup>1</sup>

## **8. Comments from the Board**

Chair Scott thanked GM Parker for issuing a public acknowledgment of the passing of Clayton County Commissioner Sonna Gregory. Chair Scott read the statement into the record:

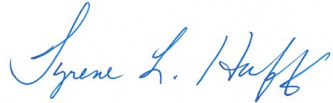
“MARTA joins Clayton County in mourning the loss of Commissioner Sonna Gregory and offers our deepest condolences to her loved ones and many friends. Commissioner Gregory prioritized representing her constituents and their interests and was the deciding vote on the Clayton Commission to call the Clayton referendum in 2014. However, she felt personal about public transit and MARTA at the time; she believed that it was her duty to let the people vote. Commissioner Gregory and MARTA developed a strong relationship and worked together on issues impacting her district from identifying bus stops needing shelters and the new Operations and Maintenance facility. MARTA salutes her spirit and integrity and remains grateful for the impact she had on Clayton County.”

Chair Scott also asked for a moment of silence to mourn the passing of nine fellow transit workers and members of the Amalgamated Transit Union at Valley Transportation Authority in Santa Clara, California.

**Adjournment**

The Board meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyrene L. Huff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tyrene L. Huff  
Assistant Secretary to the Board

YouTube Link: [https://youtu.be/ZvW0\\_ZV\\_-ds](https://youtu.be/ZvW0_ZV_-ds)

## June 10, 2021 Board Meeting Public Comments

Received via (404) 848-6000, marta.board@itsmarta.com, public@itsmarta.com

**Summary: 1 customer submitted a public comment**

**1 – E-mail**

**0 – Voice Messages**

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1.) Message Date: June 9, 2021 10:17a.m. (via email to public@itsmarta.com)

Jereme Sharpe (470) 795-1989  
jeremy@urbanefdn.org

MARTA Board,

Great evening. I ask that you please include my written Public Comment below.

**Great morning.** My name is Jereme Sharpe and I'm an Independent Consultant living here in Downtown Atlanta.

**Info:** The Beltline is a multi-use corridor. Atlanta's very own "utopia" of sorts where one can live, love, work, and play.

**Background:** 20 years ago The Beltline was imagined as a corridor that would loop around the City having both **Rail Transportation** and (Affordable) Housing.

**Current:** As it stands today, The Beltline has primarily become known by most people (residents of the City and visitors alike) as a Destination Point for strolling, biking, art, singing, eating, entertainment, and much more. A pedestrian path that truly fits the description of a "boardwalk" or promenade that loops around the City.

**Present:** In moving forward, I believe we should view The Beltline as one entire Destination Point. At this Destination Point, you'll discover many people, places, things, and ideas.

**Question:** So we ask, should one of those things discovered at The Beltline be Rail Transportation? **More simply put, should The Beltline have a Rail Transportation Network running parallel to Atlanta's 'Boardwalk? The answer is Yes!** —Great Destination Points like Disneyworld have their very own **independent transportation networks**, that are generally connected and integrate with a larger Transportation Network. The Beltline should be no different.

**Future:** **Very Light Rail is the newest Rail Technology that costs 40% less than traditional Light Rail such as we have on our Streetcar today.** No more crazy overhead wires, faster build time, and less noise. We can build Very Light Rail Transportation on The Beltline and use the cost savings on other projects like extending the Streetcar to connect to the Eastside and Southwest Beltline corridors.

I'll end with two points:

**The Beltline should have an independent transportation network. Very Light Rail Transport Technology should be used.** The Beltline Transport Network should be focused on; moving people literally around the perimeter of the City, and moving people throughout The Beltline corridor, and connecting as many Neighborhoods as possible with both MARTA Rail Transport and Streetcar Rail Transport.

**The Streetcar should have an independent transportation network. Traditional Light Rail Transport Technology should be used. The Streetcar Transport Network** should be focused on moving people within the City -and- connecting as many people as possible to the Beltline.

**When it comes to Rail on The Beltline and equitably extending the Streetcar, we do not have to choose one over the other. When considering all viable options, we can do both simultaneously.**

Regards,

Jereme Sharpe

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