

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**April 22, 2013**

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A regular meeting of the MATA Board of Commissioners was held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday April 22, 2013 at 1370 Levee Road in the MATA Board Room.

**BOARD PRESENT:** Chairman, Sean Healy

Commissioners: Karl Birkholz; Charles Pickard; Andre Gibson; John Vergos

**STAFF:** Lawson Albritton; Ashley Best; Frances Boyland; Alison Burton; Darryl Covington; Lavelle Fitch; Don Forsee; Tom Fox; Warren Henderson; William Hudson; John Lancaster; Glen Lockhart; Shelia Maclin; Maury Miles; Niketa Reed; Gilbert Noble; Alvin Pearson; Glenda Wade

**OTHERS:** Betty Anderson, Travel Trainer; Marion Bacon, MCIL; Kenny Bond, Citizens for Better Services; Deborah Cunningham, MCIL; Amy Doss, MPO; Aury Kangelos, TDOT; Carlos McCloud, TDOT; Reginald Merriwether, Citizen; Johnnie Mosley, Citizens for Better Services; Eddie Settles, backinriver.city.com; Betty Robinson, MBRU; John Paul Schaffer, MPO;

Chairman Healy called the meeting to order and called for Board roll call. The Board Secretary, Linda Eskridge called the Board roll. Five Board Members were present; two Board Members were absent, Mattie Carter and Marion McClendon. There was a quorum for the meeting. Chairman Healy called for approval of the March 25, 2013 Board Minutes. Mr. Birkholz made a motion for approval. Andre Gibson seconded the motion and the March Board minutes were unanimously approved.

**BUSINESS & REPORTS**

**A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**1. Resolution to Award a Contract to Clark Power Services for Retrofit of Buses with Diesel Particulate Filter and Closed Crankcase Ventilation System - Res. No. 13-13**

**Discussion:** Dr. Fox presented this resolution to the Board. MATA is working with the Shelby County Health Department and the Shelby County Commission. This would allow us to retrofit up to 65 of our older buses. This is the first one of these that will be done in this part of the country and it is being done with TDOT CMAQ money and Shelby County air pollution fund money. MATA received two bids and they both were responsive. Staff recommends the award to Clark Power Services per bus price of \$10,865.00. **Mr. Gibson moved to approve Resolution No. 13-13, and Mr. Pickard seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved after discussion.**

**2. Resolution to Award a Contract to Sam Swope Auto Group for the Purchase of Five 5-Door 7-Passenger Vans - Res. No. 13-14**

**Discussion:** Mr. Hudson stated that we are replacing vehicles that have met their useful life. We issued an invitation for bid for the replacement of these vans in the amount of \$19,736.17 each for a total cost of \$98,680.85. Solicitation was sent to five vendors and we received one responsive bid from Sam Swop Auto Group for five seven-passenger vans. These are new vans that are being purchased. There was no DBE participation on this contract. **Mr. Vergos moved to approve Resolution No. 13-14, and Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved after discussion.**

**B. SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**1. Resolution Authorizing Free Fares for all Customers with Bicycles on May 17, 2013  
- Res. No. 13-15**

**Discussion:** Mr. Hudson presented this resolution to the Board. This is to support Bike to Work Day that will be celebrated Friday May 17, 2013. This is an incentive that the marketing department has put together and is asking the Board to donate May 17<sup>th</sup> as Bike to Work Day, with free fares to the customers who bike and ride on that date. **Mr. Birkholz asked for a report back on how many bikes participated on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Vergos moved to approve Resolution No. 13-15, and Mr. Pickard seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved after discussion.**

**2. Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus/Obsolete Parts, Equipment and Materials  
- Res. No. 13-16**

**Discussion:** Mr. Hudson stated these are parts that are no longer useful to the authority. If we cannot sell the items, we ask Board permission for them to be sold as scrap or discarded. MTM staff or First Transit staff is not permitted to bid on any of the items sold by MATA. **Mr. Vergos moved to approve Resolution No. 13-16, and Mr. Birkholz seconded the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved after discussion.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Mr. Gil Noble**

**First 9 months of Fiscal Year**

For the month of March our expenses were roughly on budget, just \$2,000 off budget. Expenses are about \$1MM favorable to budget, due to some legislative relief that we received for employer pension contributions. All other items in the budget are roughly on budget. Revenues is slightly ahead, primarily because of drawing down some revenue and set up receivables on grant items earlier, but should still be roughly on budget for the year for revenues.

Mr. Noble expressed more bad news on our projected revenues for FY2014. Seems like we will receive \$4MM less in grant revenues overall. We had already been reduced by close to \$2MM from the federal, state, and then \$2.3MM from the city of Memphis. The earlier \$4MM gap that we suggested we would likely have is now closer to \$6MM from last month's news. City funds will be reduced to a similar level as back in 2005. All revenues are now being projected at about \$51MM, just a little bit above where we were in 2008. We've had a number of things that raised the level of our expenses. We still face a difficult situation and will be addressing it the next upcoming weeks.

## **MARKETING REPORT**

### **Alison Burton**

Last month the Board authorized MATA to have reduced fares on the Trolley Turns 20 celebration. The celebration will begin on Wednesday - Friday, April 24-26, 2013 and ride for \$.20. Persons with disabilities, senior citizens with a valid ID can ride for \$.10. On Thursday cake will be served to the customers at the NET, and on Friday cake will be served to the customers on the Plaza at Central Station at 12:00 noon. The trolleys started April 29, 1993 with six trolleys on Main Street. Riverfront was added in 1997, and in March 2004 we added the Madison Line. Today we are operated by 16 trolleys on 17 miles of track. In 2012 we had this big 45% increase in passengers up to 1.4MM riders. Recently the Memphis Business Journal named the Main Street Trolleys as #6 on their top 10 list of attractions, and this is based on attendance. Posters will go out announcing the Trolley Turns 20 as well.

Ms. Burton talked about MATA's new website and Niketa Reed showed a presentation of the new site, as well as a thorough explanation of each page. The site will be launched on May 1, 2013 and asked for any feedback for the Board Members. To confirm the MATA web address it is [www.matatransit.com](http://www.matatransit.com).

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **William Hudson**

Mr. Hudson's report was very brief. Staff is going to try to post all of the runs for June 2, 2013. We plan no changes or no recommendation for that sign-up, but will come back to the Board for approval of August sign-up, which will include all the modifications that we will present to the Board. This is in an effort to bridge the gap with where we are and where we need to be. The June Board Meeting may be a little late to get it all in place.

Mr. Hudson stated if appropriate, we may have to call a special meeting to approve all the modifications in an effort to be timely in making our presentation. This is something that we may ask a little later, but just wanted to put it on the Board Members minds.

Mr. Hudson talked about the ridership numbers, which continue to increase particularly on fixed route, as well as MATApplus. The trolley numbers are down a little for the first quarter of the fiscal year, but on the annual we are about 92,000 riders to the good.

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Ms. Betty Robinson - Memphis Bus Riders Union** - Ms. Robinson addressed the Board regarding the issue of hot weather, and not being able to get the windows open on the bus. The other issue is the green route entertainment shuttle to west Memphis and the fact of where they are being deboarded on the right side of the highway. Ms. Robinson stated the seniors are willing to pay \$3.00 if we could get the buses on the right side of the road to avoid walking the bridge. She feels this would be an increase to our ridership if this could happen. *Chairman Healy stated that staff have stressed time and time again that the issues with the green route is in the hands of west Memphis, not MATA. Mr. Hudson addressed the windows on the buses, by stating that on May 15<sup>th</sup> the bus air conditioner will be operational. With some of the older buses, when they open the windows all the air conditioning goes out the window; therefore, a mechanism is used to keep the windows closed. Glen Lockhart stated that on certain buses, the drivers cannot turn the air on, it has to be done with a computer. The manufacturers do not make it where the driver has the ability to turn the air conditioner on and off.*
- **Mr. Reginald Merriwether - 3382 Denver St. Memphis, TN 38127**  
Bus drivers need to be complimented as well as if you are complaining. Mr. Merriwether stated that certain bus drivers are very rude. Most of the drivers are courting on the buses with young girls. Some drivers dispute what you put in the fare boxes. Riders are getting tired of the drivers and the service they are receiving. It is wrong the way the bus drivers treat riders. Mr. Merriwether became very emotional. He stated that he is a minister and it really hurts him the way the riders are being treated. *Chairman Healy thanked Mr. Merriwether for his comments.*

- **Mr. Eddie Settles**

Stated he has three requests. He would like an explanation of the relationship between First Transit, Mid South Transportation Management, and Amalgamated Transit Union in support of how it affects MATA. He searched the website for answers to this, but there was no information on it. He would like to review the contracts between the three entities and MATA. *Mr. Hudson stated that Amalgamated is the union. The rest of the request will be forwarded to Mr. Settles via email.*

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Healy called for any old/new business. Chooch asked if there is an update on the GPS for the trolley system. *Mr. Hudson stated that looks like we will have to take some other measures to get this done. We are not receiving any progress on it. Mr. Hudson asked for an opportunity to get back with Mr. Pickard on this with some kind of a solution to this problem.*

Ms. Eskridge stated that she polled the Board on a change in the next Board Meeting to be scheduled for May 20, 2013 due to the Memorial Day holiday falling on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Chairman Healy stated that he has jury duty for that week, but encouraged the Board to go ahead with the May 20<sup>th</sup> date. It was unanimously voted that the meeting be held on May 20, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman Healy stated in the performance measures where staff is not meeting the targets, he would like for Mr. Hudson to include this in his general manager's report on the actions that are being take to meet these targets or what happens when there is a dramatic improvement. Chairman Healy stated it is important that stay focused on what we have committed to as far as goals are concerned.

Mr. Healy took this opportunity to recognize our guests at the meeting. He called each name of each guest and thanked them for attending the meeting. He also stated that he appreciates their participation as well. Mr. Gibson moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Pickard seconded the motion and the April Board Meeting was adjourned.

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**Sean Healy**  
**Chairman of the MATA Board**

*NOTE: A taped recording of the MATA Board of Commissioners Meetings is always available in the event of clarity on a particular item.*