

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**May 20, 2013**

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A regular meeting of the MATA Board of Commissioners was held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday May 20, 2013 at 1370 Levee Road in the MATA Board Room.

**BOARD PRESENT:** Vice Chairman, Marion McClendon  
Commissioners: Karl Birkholz; Charles Pickard; Andre Gibson; John Vergos;  
M. P. Carter

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

**OTHERS:** Betty Anderson, Travel Trainer; Kenny Bond, Citizens for Better Services; Mike Brugge, Parson; Bennett Foster, MBRU; Maria Fuhrmann, City of Memphis; Aury Kangelos, TDOT; Johnnie Mosley, Citizens for Better Services; Carlos McCloud, TDOT; Panisha Stigger, Mid-South Convoy of Hope; Betty Robinson, MBRU; Jose Rodriguez, MCIL/ADAPT/BRU; Shahir Samiei, MBRU; Luke Waters, MBRU; Gilda Williams, Audubon Oaks; Shelia Williams, MBRU

Vice Chairman McClendon called the meeting to order and called for Board roll call. The Board Secretary, Linda Eskridge called the roll. Six Board Members were present. Chairman Healy was absent due to Jury Duty. There was a quorum for the meeting. Vice Chairman McClendon called for approval of the April 22, 2013 Board Minutes. Mr. Pickard made a motion for approval. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion and the April Board minutes were unanimously approved.

**BUSINESS & REPORTS**

**A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**1. Resolution to Award a Contract to Gillig Corporation for 15 40-Foot Hybrid Electric Buses and 15 40-Foot Diesel Buses - Res. No. 13-17**

**Discussion:** Mr. Hudson presented this resolution to the MATA Board. This proposal was sent out to 20 bus companies, but MATA only received one bid, which was from Gillig Corporation. This will replace 30 to 40 fixed route buses that have met their useful life. Performance period is 350 days from the notice to proceed. Federal, state and local money is available. Staff recommend award to Gillig for the purchase of 15 40' hybrid-electric buses and 15 40' diesel buses at a total contract price of \$14,531,685. **Mr. Gibson moved that Resolution No. 13-17 be approved. Mr. Pickard seconded the motion and the resolution was unanimously approved.**

**2. Resolution to Award a Contract to Sam Swope Auto Group for One (1) Flatbed Truck - Res. No. 13-18**

**Discussion:** Mr. Hudson presented this resolution to the Board. The award was based on the lowest responsive and responsible offer for the purchase of 1 Flatbed truck with mounted 14HP air compressor and pressure washer. MATA received one bid. This proposal was awarded to Sam Swope Auto Group for a total of \$57,478.50. MATA also asked for the purchase of (1) Extended Wheelbase Cargo Van. No offers were received, and MATA will have to go back out for bids. *Staff will survey other transit agencies to find out how many bids they usually get for certain goods as requested by Mr. Vergos, and bring this information back to the MATA Board at the next meeting.* **Mr. Pickard moved that Resolution No. 13-18 be approved. Mr. Vergos seconded the motion and the resolution was unanimously approved.**

**B. SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**1. Resolution to Approve FY13 Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Capital Projects -Res. No. 13-19**

**Discussion:** Dr. Fox presented this resolution to the Board. This is to allow staff to apply for a grant to purchase up to 12 paratransit vehicles. This is monies that TDOT got in earmark that was about to lapse, so they decided to divide it up among transit agencies in the state, and MATA's share is roughly \$592,000. MATA will look at different types of vans to purchase up to 12 vans. We do have city monies appropriated for this purchase and the state will provide their share as well. **Ms. Carter moved that Resolution No. 13-19 be approved. Mr. Pickard seconded the motion and the resolution was unanimously approved.**

**2. Resolution Honoring the Memory of MATApplus Operator, Chantel Sanders - Res. No. 13-20**

**Discussion:** Ms. Burton read a resolution in honor of Ms. Chantel Sanders, MATApplus bus operator, who lost her life while on duty on May 14, 2013. Staff is recommending approval from MATA to adopt this resolution honoring the life of Ms. Chantel Sanders. **Mr. Gibson moved that Resolution No. 13-20 be approved. Mr. Pickard seconded the motion and the resolution was unanimously approved.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Mr. Gil Noble**

**10 months of the fiscal year**

Mr. Noble stated that expenses are favorable year-to-date, as well as revenues are favorable year-to-date. Revenues are favorable primarily due to timing of our drawdown of receiving grants. Expenses are favorable primarily due to the relief received on the pension contributions this year.

The FY2014 budget is looking to get approved with our city money in June, as our FY2013 draws to a close. We have some significant issues in trying to put together our 2014 budget due to some reduction in funding. \$4MM overall we project a reduction in funding from city, federal and planning grants. A budget summary was presented to

City Council Budget Committee, and we indicated that we have a gap that we need to bridge of \$5.4MM. We need to make that level of cuts to get to a deficit of \$7MM, but until we cut the \$5.4MM, we are not there yet.

## **MARKETING REPORT**

### **Alison Burton**

During the month of April MATA had several activities going on. We celebrated our Trolley 20 Celebration on April 24-26, 2013 by offering a reduced fare down to \$.20 and experienced a 50% increase in ridership during the three-day period. Large groups of customers joined us for the celebration at the North-End Terminal, as well as at Central Station where they also enjoyed some cake with MATA.

**The Green Machine** – MATA donated a bus to the Vance Avenue Collaborative and St. Patrick Church. On May 5<sup>th</sup> the bus was unveiled at St. Patrick Church. It was an exciting event. Attendees had a chance to tour the bus and have a free vegetable or fruit. Look out for the bus on the streets of Memphis beginning next month.

**Memphis in May** – Our ridership numbers were slightly under, but excellent in spite of the rain, which is now a tradition with Memphis in May. Staff did a wonderful job in responding to the great demand. There were no incidents or problems.

**MATA's New Website** – MATA launched the new site last month. We are still making a few minor modifications to a few pages, but encourage you to please review it in its entirety. We would like your input if you have any edits or questions.

**Books on Buses** – This is a partner with Memphis Shelby County Library and the Friends of the Library organization. Books will be at our transit centers to include donated books and magazines for our riders while waiting for their bus on their daily commutes. All reading materials are free for the public to take home with them after riding with MATA. Every two weeks or so, the Friends of the Library will replenish the book shelves with materials at each transit center. We currently have over 200 books ready to go! The program will begin in early summer 2013.

Thanks to the Maintenance staff who made the book cases to house these books. Anyone wishing to donate old books, you may get with Ms. Alison Burton, Director of Marketing and Customer Relations at 722-7119.

**Bike to Work Day** - This event took place on Thursday May 16th. Our numbers show that we had 73 people to ride with their bikes in spite of the rain on that day. MATA did offer free rides for bike riders. There is a Bike Summit hosted by Rhodes going on this week, and MATA will have some staff participating in this as well.

**Resolution in Memorial of our MATA Bus Driver** - Ms. Burton read a resolution honoring our MATAplus Bus Operator, Chantel Sanders that was killed while on duty in a tragic accident involving a MATA bus and a cement truck. The accident was May 14, 2013 at approximately 8:45 a.m. Ms. Sanders was a mother, grandmother, and a loving daughter. This is a great loss to the MATA family and we are asking the MATA Board to approve this resolution in memorial of Ms. Chantel Sanders, Bus Operator 8008. We have received calls and email from Mayor Wharton's office. Ms. Burton also read a letter of sympathy from Mayor Luttrell's office. Ms. Burton read a card from Memphis Center for Independent Living (MCIL) with signatures from the staff of MCIL. It has been an outpouring of comfort to MATA and we extended this comfort onto the family of Chantel Sanders. Because of the abundance of calls received wanting to donate, a fund has been set up at Regions Bank for her son, who graduated from Whitehaven High School three days after his mom's death. Staff also had a candlelight vigil on the MATA lot on Sunday May 19 at 7:00 p.m. The repast was held at Central Station after the services and interment. **Mr. Pickard moved that the resolution be approved. Mr. Vergos seconded the motion and the resolution be unanimously approved as Resolution No. 13-20.**

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **William Hudson**

Mr. Hudson added how heartbreaking it was to stand at the scene of such a horrific accident of one of our MATAplus faithful drivers. Mr. Hudson stated that he has met with the family and MATA has gone as far as we can go.

Mr. Hudson shared an email with the MATA Board on an elderly rider, Ms. Ivy Lee Williams who passed away after 91 years. The family wanted to thank MATA for the services that her mother received while riding MATA. Ms. Burton added that Ms. Williams was still actively working at Macy's.

## **Budget**

Mr. Hudson went through the budget that was presented to the Memphis City Council Budget Committee. MATA's operating budget for FY2013 was \$22,615,398, of which \$2.3MM come out of the CIP budget. The city cut out the \$2.3MM leaving MATA a balance of \$19,615,398; \$2,314,000 was actually short of the 2014 budget as we move forward. I advised the Memphis City Council that this was actually a 20% cut in all services of MATA. Mr. Hudson expressed what the cuts would be to include 5 routes eliminated. These routes would be the 5 Central; 6 North Haven; 15 President's Island; 58 Fox Meadows Express; and 82 Germantown Parkway. Weekday service would be cut back to 9:15 p.m.; Saturday service would be cut back to 8:00 p.m. affecting 12 routes; Sunday service would end at 6:00 p.m. affecting 12 routes. Holiday service would be eliminated on Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving and Christmas. Four to six routes will have reduced frequencies. Trolley service cuts would include elimination of early and late service on all lines and all Sunday service on Madison Avenue. This is what was presented to Memphis City Council Budget Committee and these are the cuts that would be required if we do not receive any replacement of the \$5MM that we are short. The city's part of that was \$2.3MM. There is a small chance that we can get the federal government to increase the dollar amount that we lost, or the Job Reverse Commute or even the state. The only avenue that we have is to ask the city to reinstate some portion of the money. Mr. Hudson stated that he will be making a recommendation to reinstate the Line 82, reinstate service to 11:15 p.m.; reinstate service back to 8:15 p.m. on Saturday and reinstate Sunday service back to 6:15 p.m.; add one hour and possibly two hours in some cases to the Main Street Trolley. That would represent about \$450,000 service that we would be requesting that the city reinstate to MATA for our budget for 2014. Mr. Hudson stated that he will come back and ask for a resolution from the Board to include with our comments and recommendations.

## **SPEAKERS:**

**Rev. Panisha Stigger, Mid South Convoy of Hope  
P. O. Box 2108, Cordova, TN 38088**

Ms. Stiggers stated that she was here today representing Convoy of Hope, which is a national, faith-based, non-profit organization who has a driving passage for feeding the world. She serves for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a coordinator for the outreach on September 7<sup>th</sup>, called Convoy of Hope. Last year the event was held at the Mid-South Fair grounds on June 30, 2012 and it was extremely hot. MATA provided a bus for attendees feeling faint and ill to cool off, and Rev. Stigger thanks MATA for that as well.

This year the event will be held at the Cook Convention Center and it will be on September 7, 2013 where we will provide some of the same free services to those in need. We are expecting around 10,000 as last year within about 2 ½ hours they were able to serve about 5,000. This group is comprised of about 50 leaders and we will provide many many free services to the city. This is just a wonderful day for us to give back as many are in need. The request for MATA is if we would consider this day to be a reduced rate or a free rate to many that will attend the event on September 7, 2013. Rev. Stigger left a CD showing what went on last year as well as a brochure available. She thanked the Board and staff for listening. Vice Chairman McClendon stated that MATA would take that request under consideration and get back with Rev. Stigger.

Vice Chairman McClendon called for recognition of guest by Ms. Carter. Ms. Carter recognized the many guests that were present at the Board meeting and called each by name. She thanked each one for coming and stated that MATA doors are always open.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hudson took the opportunity to thank Mr. Johnnie Mosley, Mr. Jose Rodriguez, Ms. Betty Anderson as well as others who supported MATA by showing up at the Memphis City Council Committee budget presentation.

Also Mr. Hudson congratulated the Trolley Division, Mr. Alvin Pearson, Mr. Don Forsee, and Mr. Warren Henderson who did an outstanding job during the Memphis in May Barbeque as well as the Music Fest. In spite of all the rain, ridership was still good and it was a great success. Thanks to all involved.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Vergos moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Birkholz seconded and the MATA Board of Commissioners Meeting was adjourned.

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**Marion Dale McClendon**  
**Vice 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.*