

**Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority  
*Virtual Meeting***

**Board Meeting (Specially Called)  
Minutes**

**May 27, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Charlie Sutlive, Chair  
Keisha Lance Bottoms  
Steve Dickerson  
Earl Ehrhart  
Andy Macke  
Russell McMurry  
Howard Mosby  
Charlotte Nash  
Paul Radford  
Teddy Russell  
Michael Thurmond  
Mark Toro  
Todd Ver Steeg  
Chuck Warbington  
Felicia Franklin Warner  
Tom Weyandt

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the minutes for the Board meeting held on February 6, 2020. Mr. Warbington made the motion, and Mr. Macke seconded. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA**

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Macke made the motion, and Mr. Russell seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

For the benefit of the public, Chris Tomlinson read a letter from Mary Norwood with Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods which was sent received e-mail. The letter is attached to these minutes.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Ehrhart provided the Board with a report of the Administrative Committee meeting held on May 7, 2020. He then made the motion to approve the following resolutions as recommended by the Administrative Committee during the May 7 meeting:

- Resolution Amending the Bylaws to Create the Xpress Operations Standing Committee;
- Resolution Approving the Assignment of Certain Contracts from SRTA to the ATL Authority; and
- Resolution Authorizing the Submission of IMI Grant Application to FTA.

Mr. Warbington seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the resolutions.

### **b. REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Macke provided Board with a report of the Regional Technology Committee held on May 7, 2020.

### **c. REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sutlive provided Board with a report of the Regional Transit Planning Committee held on May 7, 2020 and called for a motion to approve the resolution adopting the ARTP Administrative Modification and Amendment Process, which was recommended by the Committee. Mr. Mosby made the motion, and Mr. Ver Steeg seconded. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

## **GWINNETT COUNTY AMENDMENT TO THE 2019 ARTP**

Scott Haggard provided a brief overview of the proposed Gwinnett County Amendment to the 2019 ARTP. The proposed amendment includes the following:

- Combines project lists from Connect Gwinnett, Transit Review Committee recommended Plan, No-Rail option, and BOC deliberations.
- Uses highest estimated cost to provide greatest flexibility for the county in the future.
- If referendum is advanced, a financially constrained subset of projects would be selected for inclusion in the referendum. The ATL would then need to review this list before Gwinnett can include it in the referendum.
- Categories of project changes that are included in the proposed amendment include:
  - Projects with minor changes*
  - Projects with modified termini*
  - Projects with a change in mode*
  - New projects*

Mr. Haggard also advised the board that ATL staff received public comments received during the public comment period, which was from April 22-May 22, 2020. There were 59 total comments received by email, phone and webform. The general breakdown of the comments are as follows:

- Support amendment – 33 (55.9%)
- Support transit, but suggest project/mode/route changes – 10 (16.9%)
- Opposed to amendment – 16 (27.1%)

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the proposed Gwinnett County Amendment to the 2019 ARTP. Mr. Weyandt made the motion, and Mr. Warbington seconded. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ver Steeg made the motion, and Mr. Weyandt seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

DocuSigned by:  
*Felicia Franklin Warner*  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Felicia Franklin Warner, Vice Chair**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

DocuSigned by:  
*Merry Mandus*  
32B69DD61344E8  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Merry Mandus, Chief Legal Officer**

**ATTEST:**

DocuSigned by:  
*Jamie Harris*  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jamie Harris, Board Secretary**

**DATE MINUTES APPROVED:**

June 4, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_



Mr. Chris Tomlinson  
Executive Director  
ATL Atlanta-Region Transit Link  
245 Peachtree Center Ave, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303

May 27, 2020

**RE: Express Bus Service to Buckhead**

Dear Mr. Tomlinson:

In October of last year, the 38 neighborhoods that comprise the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods (BCN) approved an eighteen point Transportation Resolution to address the overwhelming volume of traffic that flows into and through our Buckhead residential neighborhoods on a daily basis. One of the three solution avenues of that the Resolution is to reduce traffic by increasing transit options. To that end, we want to encourage the Atlanta-Region Transit Link (ATL) to include provision for express bus service directly to the Buckhead Central Business District (BCBD) in the ATL Regional Transit Plan (ARTP).

According to Livable Buckhead's comprehensive Housing and Commuting Study (Summer 2019), 92% of the over 100,000 people who work in Buckhead on a daily basis travel in from outside of Buckhead. While there are Express Bus services provided by the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and the Cobb County Department of Transportation, these routes terminate at the Perimeter or in Midtown and Downtown Atlanta. We believe that having routes terminate in the BCBD would allow workers either direct access to their places of employment or to be able to take advantage of the 'last mile' access via The Buc (Buckhead Uptown Connection) powered by Via shuttle service which is sponsored by Livable Buckhead.

We believe that implementing this Express Bus service will benefit employees who now travel for hours in Single Occupancy Vehicles with an improved transportation experience. It will allow the BCN to achieve our goal of providing relief from traffic congestion to the residents of the Buckhead. And it will ensure that Buckhead remains the dynamic business and commercial center that has been a vital engine of growth for the City of Atlanta and the entire region. We have the support of both the Buckhead Community Improvement District and Livable Buckhead for this initiative.

Sincerely,

**Mary**

Mary Norwood  
Chairman

**Robert**

Robert Patterson  
Chair, Transit

**David**

David Gylfe  
Co-Chair, Traffic

**Robert**

Robert Sarkissian  
Co-Chair, Traffic

Cc Jim Durrett, Buckhead CID  
Denise Starling, Livable Buckhead