

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

**Board Meeting (Specially Called)  
Minutes**

**March 11, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** (Virtual)

Charlie Sutlive, Chair  
Steve Dickerson  
Howard Mosby  
Charlotte Nash  
Paul Radford  
Todd Ver Steeg  
Felicia Franklin  
Tom Weyandt  
Earl Ehrhart  
Andy Macke  
Michael Thurmond  
Mark Toro

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Keisha Lance Bottoms  
Russell McMurry  
Chuck Warbington  
Teddy Russell

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Kimberly Johnson, Board Secretary, did a roll call and a quorum was confirmed.

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

Chair Sutlive called to approve the minutes for the Board meeting held on February 4, 2021. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA**

Chris Tomlinson reported one correction to the agenda. The Xpress Operations Committee action item for the Xpress AFY 2021 Budget will be addressed in the Administrative Committee Report. Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the revised agenda. Ms. Nash made the motion, and Ms. Franklin seconded. The revised agenda was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kimberly Johnson reported one comment was received via email from Dr. Ed Williams, which has been forwarded to all Board members. The email will be included with the board minutes of this meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### a. XPRESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Mosby provided the Board with a report summarizing the Xpress Operations Committee meeting held on March 4, 2021, including the committee's recommendation to the Board to approve the contracts for the Hickory Grove Park and Ride Construction Contract Change Order and the Xpress Operations and Maintenance Contract.

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the resolution for the Hickory Grove Park and Ride Construction Contract Change Order as recommended by the Xpress Operations Committee. Mr. Radford made the motion, and Mr. Toro seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Resolution.

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the resolution for the Xpress Operations and Maintenance Contract as recommended by the Xpress Operations Committee. Ms. Nash made the motion, and Mr. Weyandt seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Resolution.

### b. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ehrhart provided the Board with a report summarizing the Administrative Committee meeting held on March 4, 2021, including the committee's recommendation to the Board to approve the AFY 2021 Final Budget.

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the resolution for the AFY 2021 Final Budget as recommended by the Administrative Committee. Mr. Toro made the motion, and Mr. Weyandt seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Resolution.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Chris Tomlinson provided the results of the ATL Board elections held this week by the General Assembly. The board members are:

- District 1 – Andy Macke
- District 3 – Fulton County Chairman Rob Pitts
- District 5 – Tom Weyandt
- District 7 – Michael Thurmond
- District 9 – Howard Mosby

Mr. Tomlinson reported the FY 2022 Budget is moving through the Senate. The Senate Budget Hearing is currently scheduled for March 10, 2021. Budget updates will be provided during the ATL Board Meeting scheduled for April 1, 2021.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mosby made the motion, and Ms. Franklin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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**Charlie Sutlive, Chair**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**Meryll Mandus, Chief Legal Officer**

**ATTEST:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
A913B0289C3F4D6...  
**Kimberly Johnson, Board Secretary**

**DATE MINUTES APPROVED:**

**April 1, 2021**

(678) 304-7736  
4 March 2021

Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority Board  
245 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE  
Suite 2300 Marquis Tower One  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1223

**Public Comment ATL Link Regular Board Meeting March 4, 2021**

**Re: Board Representation**

**From: Dr. Ed Williams**

**[Public Comment Begin]**

**Good Morning Board:**

My name is Ed Williams, I am the chair of the group Concerned Citizens for Effective Government. Today citizens are frustrated because their government does not seem to listen or act in their interests. It does matter that citizens' voices are heard and that actions are taken to correct their issues.

The legislation that created the ATL Link HB930 envisioned that the board members would serve staggered terms.

The ATL authority was set up to serve Fayette, Cherokee, Clayton, Coweta, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale counties with a 16-member board serving 4-year terms.

The law provides for 10 members to be appointed by a caucus of state legislators, County Commission chairs and mayors, while six others are appointed by state level officials including the governor and Lt. governor and Speaker.

The ATL is a state authority, which is inconsistent with the Home Rule provision in the constitution of counties and municipalities to provide for public transportation through supplemental powers. There was no referendum to provide for the ATL transit authority to legally control any of the political subdivision's assets or transit systems.

There are no clear guidelines concerning qualifications of its members. Many of the current board members have conflicts of interests, and some are serving in dual public positions with different oversight and duties.

There have not been any calls by the county chairpersons to call for elections of board members of odd numbered districts.

The ATL Link has gerrymandered board member districts and put a group of people in control who are not exclusively elected by the voters.

How did we end up with elected officials who represent districts that are beyond the boundaries of a county or city where they live? Where in the Constitution do local elected officials have the authority to serve in two elected offices of different authorities or subdivisions of the state at the same time?

The ATL authority is certainly needed, however, there are several things that need to be addressed in the law and how it is implemented. What we have now are ATL board members represented by people who do not ride buses or trains and are not accountable to voters and know very little about transit.

So, how does the ATL link plan to address representation equity?

Thank You.

**[Public Comment End]**

Ed Williams. Ed.D. Chair  
**[Concerned Citizens For Effective Government](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ccegov/)**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ccegov/>  
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