

**Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority
245 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE, Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30303**

**Board Meeting Minutes
In Person and Virtual**

June 3, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlie Sutlive, Chair
Earl Ehrhart - virtual
Felicia Franklin - virtual
Andy Macke - virtual
Russell McMurry - virtual
Howard Mosby
Charlotte Nash - virtual
Robb Pitts - virtual
Teddy Russell
Michael Thurmond - virtual
Mark Toro - virtual
Tom Weyandt

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keisha Lance Bottoms
Paul Radford
Todd Ver Steeg
Chuck Warbington

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the minutes for the Board meeting held on April 1, 2021. Mr. Weyandt made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Mosby 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. Weyandt made the motion to approve the agenda, and Mr. Russell seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one email received for public comment from Ms. Sherry Williams. Chris Tomlinson read the email aloud and noted that the email will be attached to the meeting minutes.

Jereme Sharpe spoke in person.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Xpress Operations Committee

Mr. Mosby provided the Board with a report of the Xpress Operations Committee meeting held on May 6, 2021. The resolutions for the following contracts were recommended to the Board for their approval:

- Atkins Contract
- Enterprise Leasing Exclusive Vanpool Agreement
- Boswell Oil Fuel Purchase
- Cobb County & GDOT IGAs

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to collectively approve the resolutions, as recommended by the Xpress Operations Committee. Mr. Russell made the motion, and Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved all of the resolutions.

b. Regional Transit Planning Committee

Chair Sutlive provided the Board with a report of the Regional Transit Planning Committee meeting held on May 6, 2021. There were no action items.

c. Administrative Committee

Mr. Ehrhart provided the Board with a report of the Administrative Committee meeting held on May 6, 2021. The resolutions for the following items were recommended to the Board for their approval:

- Renewal of ATL 20-006 Transit Planning Services (AECOM)
- FY 2022 Budget
- FY 2022 Grant Applications Approval

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the Renewal of ATL 20-006 Transit Planning Services (AECOM). Mr. Mosby made the motion to approve, and Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The Resolution was approved unanimously.

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the FY 2022 Budget. Mr. Ehrhart made the motion, and Mr. Mosby seconded the motion. The Resolution was approved unanimously.

Chair Sutlive called for a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the FY 2022 Grant Applications. Ms. Nash made the motion, and Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. The Resolution was approved unanimously.

VICE CHAIR ELECTION

Chair Sutlive opened the floor for nominations for the election of ATL Board Vice Chair. Mr. Weyandt nominated Ms. Felicia Franklin to be re-elected as Vice Chair and Chair Sutlive seconded. There were no other nominations, and the Chair closed the floor. Mr. Russell made the motion to re-elect Ms. Franklin, and Ms. Nash seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved to re-elect Ms. Franklin as Vice Chair.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Scott Haggard provided the Board with a federal and state legislative update. Scott discussed the current status of federal infrastructure initiatives, and in particular key legislation including The Bus Act (HR3334 – The Build Up the Suburbs Act) and the Invest in America Act (HR 2 – House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Reauthorization bill). Scott also discussed upcoming key dates for both federal and state.

HENRY COUNTY TRANSIT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Tye Salters with Henry County Transit introduced Regan Hammond with VHB for the presentation. Ms. Hammond provided an overview on Henry County's transit master plan, its existing and future conditions, plan engagement activities with the public and stakeholders, and their next steps.

AIR QUALITY

Jamie Fischer provided an update on air quality in the region. Jamie discussed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, transportation contributors to ozone and the impacts of public transit.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN UPDATE

Jonathan Ravenelle provided an update on the American Rescue Plan. Jonathan discussed the ATL's role as designated recipient for Atlanta Urbanized Area, reviewed the proposed American Rescue Plan (ARP) suballocation as compared to CARES and CRRSAA, and provided an update on proposed project recommendations for ARP funding.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris Tomlinson provided the Board with an update on the following:

- MARTA's upcoming procurement for the Breeze system upgrade
- COVID-19 update regarding a steady-state plan as the organization returns to the office

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

Felicia Franklin

Felicia Franklin, Vice Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:

Merryl Mandus

Merryl Mandus, Chief Legal Officer

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Jamie Harris

Jamie Harris, Board Secretary

DATE MINUTES APPROVED:

August 5, 2021

Jamie Harris

From: Sherry Williams <sherryb92@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 4:45 AM
To: Public ATL
Subject: CORRECTION: ATL Link Authority 6/3/21 Public Comments: Transit & Transportation Equity Issues

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of SRTA. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments.

(Meeting date corrected.)

To the ATL Link Authority Board,

Since you rarely have public comments, please consider reading all of this into the public record during today's meeting minutes.

Transit, transportation and mobility inequities continue to be problematic across metro Atlanta and the state of Georgia. Despite so-called commitments, Black, Brown and underserved communities continue to be victims of systematic inequities. When the much anticipated FAST Act funds arrive, legacy and underserved residents are expecting their fair share. However, until it arrives, please note our disturbing observations:

1) MARTA's Summer Hill BRT, North Ave BRT Streetcar East Extension and other projects seem to be ahead of the the SouthWest Atlanta (SWAT) Projects. Specifically, the Greenbriar-Campbellton BRT-LRT project, with primarily legacy residents, has a timeline lagging behind the before mentioned projects of primarily gentrified neighborhoods. Why is that?

2) Why is it that this new ATL Link Authority, to our knowledge, has rarely addressed the forbidden subject of "isms" to rectify inequality? Why not stop non-MARTA participating county buses from bypassing MARTA rail stations and traveling into Atlanta/Fulton County and remain separate from MARTA bus riders, as they are dropped off within a few feet of their offices? Why are these luxury coaches allowed to tear up Atlanta streets and pollute Atlanta air, especially as they idle in various downtown staging areas?

3) Why would these non-MARTA counties want to tax themselves when they are getting all the perks without the tax? Is this a form of modern day "separate but equal"?

4) Why is it that GDOT is doing major, yet critical construction at the I-285/I-20West/MLKingJr Drive interchange (30+ years in the making) and there is no mention of any accommodations for a BRT connection from Cobb or possibly a flyover ramp for commuters to enter the Hamilton Holmes MARTA station, as is the case with one of the north side rail stations (North Springs, I think). Wouldn't this decrease downtown traffic and pollution while increasing the opportunity for I-20 East and I-285 South commuters to more easily access this rail station?

5) The 2020 Regional Transit Plan looks great on the surface until a deep dive reveals gross inequities. Who is addressing this? Which ATL Board members meet with grass roots neighborhood organizations in underserved areas of their districts? Or, are they only required to meet with Corporate

and Chamber stakeholders?

6) Who are the real equity voices among this body?

7) Is anyone looking to find matching funds for those Governor Deal designated for the GA-400 BRT project (before he left office) for the south side? Is that not an inequality in funding issue?

8) As a SWAT native representing SWAT neighborhood groups, our virtual meeting discussions reveal it is mind boggling that in 2021, overt racism is penetrating policies despite your diverse Board. So, how can we remedy these issues to ensure the SWAT has access to affordable, safe public transit as a civil right and humanitarian "must have".

9) Can we work together to have more equitable outcomes and be granted access to our fair share of FAST Act funds when they become available?

10) Who will be our ATL Link Authority contact person to help us navigate through the process to correct these inequities moving forward?

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you about working together to resolve these age old inequities moving forward.

Sherry B. Williams
Public Policy & Civic Engagement Consultant
Representing SWAT neighborhood groups on transit equity initiatives.
(678) 453-6891

P.S. Please excuse any typos.

Sent from my iPhone