



**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**Thursday, September 1, 2016**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

A Work Session of the MARTA Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 12:08 p.m. in the MARTA Board Lounge, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30324

**Board Members Present**

Robert L. Ashe III  
Juanita Jones Abernathy  
Robert F. Dallas  
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr.  
Jim Durrett  
Roderick E. Edmond  
Jerry Griffin  
Freda Hardage

\* \* \*

**Approval of the Minutes of the August 4, 2016 Work Session of the MARTA Board of Directors**

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mrs. Hardage, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0, with 8 members present.

\* \* \*

Upcoming Meetings of the Board:

Thursday, September 29, 2016

- Operations & Safety Committee – 10:00 a.m.
- Business Management Committee – (immediately following)

Thursday, October 6, 2016

- 10:30 a.m. Planning & External Relations Committee
- 12:00 Work Session
- 1:30 p.m. Board Meeting

**Meeting Summary – Work Session**  
**9/1/16**  
**Page 2**

**Half-Penny Sales Tax Referendum**

---

Board members were briefed on guidelines to help understand what is acceptable speech and material that may be included when making public presentations or talks concerning the referendum in the role of MARTA Board member. There were also guidelines regarding what may be done in their role as private citizen.

**Wi-Fi and Cellular Project**

---

Board members received a briefing on cellular and Wi-Fi services for tunnels and underground stations, as well as Wi-Fi services on buses and trains.

**Wi-Fi on Buses and Trains**

- Aug 2015: Piloted 50 buses for free Wi-Fi
- Mar 2016: Added free Wi-Fi on the community bus
- July 2016: Added free Wi-Fi on 18 articulated buses
- Oct 2016: Board approval for contract award to a carrier for providing 4G LTE services on all buses and trains
- Nov 2016: Start configuration and installation
- Jan 2017: Complete bus fleet
- Apr 2017: Complete rail fleet

**Cellular Services for Tunnels and Underground Stations**

- March 2016: MARTA signed a contract with a neutral host provider to install and maintain a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) to cover all subterranean tunnels and stations with cellular service at no cost to MARTA
- April 2016: InSite wired MARTA \$1M up-front rent
- September 2016: Pilot construction for Five Points, Dome and Peachtree Center Stations will begin. Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint expressed commitments to participate in pilot
- November 2016: Potential cellular services from Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint for Five Points, Dome and Peachtree Center
- Estimated Project Completion Date: July 2018

**Summary of MARTA's Visit to WMATA**

---

The Board was briefed on MARTA's visit to WMATA. The trip was a fact-finding mission on the purchase of new rail cars and covered:

- Railcar buying lessons learned

## **Meeting Summary – Work Session**

**9/1/16**

**Page 3**

- Features of WMATA railcars for applicability to MARTA
- Public involvement strategies
- Tour of their Commissioning Facility

### **Background**

- WMATA is buying 750 new rail cars
- Approximately 100 have been delivered to date
- Car builder is Kawasaki
- MARTA and WMATA share similar designs, systems
- Both transits opened new in the late 1970's

\* \* \*

On motion by Mr. Dallas seconded by Mrs. Hardage the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 8 to 0, with 8 members present to go into Executive Session at 1:14 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and real estate.

On motion by Mr. Dallas seconded by Mrs. Abernathy, the Board unanimously agreed by a vote of 8 to 0, with 8 members present to adjourn the Executive Session at 1:48 p.m.

\* \* \*

### **Letter from Mayor John Ernst and Luke Anderson, Chair Brookhaven Development Authority**

---

Board members received information on a letter from Mayor Ernst and Mr. Anderson applauding MARTA efforts to redevelop unsightly parking lots around MARTA stations into healthy lifestyle centers in the evenings and on weekends. Additionally, MARTA and its development partners were commended for reaching out to residents and future neighbors in order to develop a quality project.

### **Adjournment**

---

The Work Session of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 1:53 p.m.