



Minutes

1316th Meeting of the Board of Directors March 22, 2007

Mr. Deegan called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. Present were:

Directors

Mr. Charles Deegan
Mr. Christopher Zimmerman
Mr. Ray Briscuso
Mr. Dana Kauffman

Alternate Directors

Mrs. Catherine Hudgins
Mr. Anthony Giancola

Staff

Mr. John Catoe, Jr.
Mr. Steven Feil
Mr. Raymond Feldmann
Mr. Fred Goodine
Mr. James Haggins
Ms. Polly Hanson
Mr. Adrian Hendricks

Mr. James Hughes
Ms. Carol O'Keefe
Ms. Suzanne Peck
Mr. Jack Requa
Ms. Sara Wilson
Ms. Leen'da Chambliss

Mr. Deegan moved, seconded by Mr. Briscuso, that the Board meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters consistent with Board Procedures VI.3.

The Board Meeting was suspended at 9:18 a.m.

Mr. Deegan reconvened the meeting at 11:04 a.m. Present were:

Directors

Mr. Charles Deegan
Mr. Christopher Zimmerman
Mr. Jim Graham
Mr. Ray Briscuso
Mr. Dana Kauffman
Mr. Emeka Moneme

Alternate Directors

Mr. Marcell Solomon
Mr. William Euille
Mr. Anthony Giancola
Mr. Gordon Linton
Mrs. Catherine Hudgins
Mr. Marion Barry

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/962-1234

*By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square-Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines*

*A District of Columbia,
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership*

Staff

Mr. John Catoe, Jr.

Mr. Steven Feil

Mr. Raymond Feldmann

Mr. Fred Goodine

Mr. James Haggins

Ms. Polly Hanson

Mr. Adrian Hendricks

Mr. James Hughes

Ms. Carol O'Keeffe

Mr. Jack Requa

Ms. Suzanne Peck

Ms. Sara Wilson

Ms. Leen'da Chambliss

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Zimmerman moved, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, that the agenda be approved. The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 15, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Report by Riders' Advisory Council (RAC):

Mr. Snyder referred to the RAC report submitted to the Board. He encouraged Metro to prioritize the future roll-out for NextBus service based on bus line reliability rather than volume of passengers, noting that NextBus service would be a welcome alternative to a long, unknowing wait. Additionally, he suggested using solar batteries to power the signage.

Mr. Snyder also addressed the two days of formal training completed by the entire Customer Information Center staff following the disciplining of two customer information agents as a result of a complaint of their handling of a specific incident on the "Y" bus. He thanked the Customer Information Center for being responsive to the RAC's requests for improvement in handling "real-time" incidents.

Mr. Snyder noted that the Budget Subcommittee conducted a three-day Budget Workshop to explore opportunities to find cost savings and revenue enhancements in the areas of fare policy, non-fare revenue, criteria for service changes, and administrative cost savings. He further requested an opportunity to present the resulting report at the May Budget Committee meeting.

He also stated that he was pleased that Mr. Catoe had taken seriously the request to make safety and security Metro's #1 priority by implementing several initiatives, including inviting the RAC and other customers to participate in the development of Metro's Safety Program. Mr. Snyder asked that bus drivers, train operators, station managers and other front-line staff be empowered to take full responsibility

for their vehicles, facilities and services provided, for example having station managers scan the track beds for debris or clogged drains and report the situation to rail maintenance.

Mr. Snyder further discussed the RAC's process for organizing and tracking goals and initiatives. Metro's CRM system is being considered as a venue for deploying this tracking system. Once this system is formalized, a summary report from this database will be included as an appendix to this report. Mr. Snyder suggested using students to participate in the evolution of Metro, through work/study, as interns, as community service, and for class-related projects.

Finally, Mr. Snyder requested the Board appoint a replacement for Ms. Katy Chang who has stepped down as a RAC Member from the District of Columbia due to relocation from the area.

Public Comment Period:

There were no speakers during the public comment period.

Report by Chair:

A. Remarks by Board Chair

Mr. Deegan reported that, since the last Board meeting, he attended two bus operator graduations and the two funerals for Martha Schoenborn and Angel Walters. Additionally, Mr. Deegan attended the Black History Month program, the COMTO reception honoring Mr. Catoe, the Washington Board of Trade Annual Dinner, nearly all meetings of the Joint Development Task Force, and the roll out of the Route 79 MetroExtra Bus.

He stated that at the previous Board meeting, he promised to hire an Inspector General within 60 days. Therefore, he was pleased to introduce WMATA's first Inspector General, Helen Lew. Mr. Kauffman moved, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, that the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Lew as WMATA's first Inspector General. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 6 – Mr. Deegan, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Graham, Mr. Briscuso,
Mr. Kauffman, and Mr. Moneme

Mr. Deegan then administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Lew.

Report by General Manager:

Mr. Catoe welcomed Ms. Lew as the new Inspector General. He then remarked that 1,332 passengers used the new MetroExtra Bus on its first day of service, emphasizing that the service was off to a good start. He discussed the Town Hall meeting hosted by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that WMATA held in concert with the District of Columbia to discuss pedestrian safety after the death of two FTC employees, and stated Metro was looking into the feasibility of recommendations made at the meeting.

Further, he mentioned the kick-off for this year's Street Smart campaign to raise awareness about pedestrian and bicycle safety. He again stressed that Metro is focusing on safety, exemplified by a campaign to distribute safety materials to customers driving or walking to Metrorail stations where pedestrian and vehicle traffic creates safety hot spots. He mentioned his meeting with the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, Mr. Jim Simpson, where Mr. Simpson discussed his commitment to quality transportation services in the Washington region.

Mr. Catoe stated that he is continuing to meet with and listen to Metro employees to introduce himself and find ways to improve operations, with a particular emphasis on improving safety, saying that he believes the best solutions often come from the people who are on the front lines.

He remarked that Chief Hanson did an outstanding job with the launch of the RESPECT campaign, a new outreach program to encourage appropriate behavior from youths when riding the Metro system.

Mr. Catoe also announced that, beginning April 2, 2007, customers will be able to use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and Japanese Credit Bank cards to pay for parking at select Metro-operated parking lots as part of a three-month pilot program. After the pilot program, credit card acceptance would be extended to all parking facilities.

Mr. Catoe mentioned that the Wirefly National Marathon scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2007, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. has caused rerouting on thirty-three Metrobus routes, thereby possibly causing delays for Metrobus and MetroAccess customers.

Mr. Catoe recognized Station Manager Robert Wormely for his actions on December 7, 2006. Customers at the Gallery PI-Chinatown station alerted Mr. Wormley that a man was having a heart attack on the Red Line platform. Mr. Wormley immediately responded, taking the station defibrillator with him. Station manager Wormley assisted another customer who was administering CPR to the ailing man by administering a shock with the defibrillator. The man responded to the shock and was taken to a local hospital.

Mr. Ray Feldmann provided a brief overview of pending legislation at the federal and state level on dedicated funding and recent American Public Transit Association Legislative Conference activities.

The dedicated funding bill, H.R. 401 authorizes \$1.5 billion in federal funds for a ten year period, beginning in federal fiscal year 2009 (WMATA fiscal year 2010), contingent on amending the WMATA Interstate Compact to require a 50% federal – 50% non federal matching ratio, with non federal payments to WMATA to be derived from dedicated funding sources; establish an Office of the Inspector General of the Transit Authority, reporting directly to the WMATA Board of Directors; and expand the WMATA Board of Directors to include four appointees representing the federal government – two voting and two alternate members. Staff has received word that the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee may consider H.R. 401 this Spring.

On the Senate side, U.S. Senators Mikulski, Cardin, Webb and Warner are each reviewing the House-introduced WMATA dedicated funding bill (H.R. 401). It is anticipated that the above-named Senators are interested in introducing a Senate bill in the near future.

During the 2006 Maryland legislative session, one bill was amended to create a Transit Funding Study to look at transit needs in Maryland for the next 20 years. The Transit Study was released in January 2007 and projects a \$13.5 billion statewide transit shortfall from 2007-2027. It is possible the legislature could call a special session in the Fall of 2007 to address revenue. If this happens, the Governor would be able to budget new revenue when developing the FY09 budget that he would introduce in January, 2008. The legislature may also choose to deal with revenue during the 2008 session next January to next April.

In the recently concluding session of the Virginia General Assembly, the legislature approved and sent to the Governor a comprehensive transportation funding bill. This bill includes a statewide funding component, which relies on the issuance over time of \$2.5 billion in bonds. It also includes enabling legislation that allows the local governing bodies in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads regions to enact certain taxes and levy fees to generate revenues that would be spent for transportation improvements within these regions. It is likely that the Governor will send amendments to this bill for consideration by the legislature when they return for a one-day "veto session" on April 4, 2007. Northern Virginia localities have expressed concern at some of the provisions in the legislation. The Governor has until midnight, Monday March 26, 2007 to sign, veto, or amend bills passed by the General Assembly.

If enacted by all the Northern Virginia localities, it is estimated that approximately \$400 million will be generated annually. The Northern Virginia enabling legislation provides that from the revenues generated by the imposition of regional taxes and fees, the first use would be to pay debt service for any bonds that are issued; the

next use would be to provide \$50 million annually to WMATA for capital improvements.

It should be noted that as of now, the WMATA dedicated funding provision is embedded in the enabling legislation for Northern Virginia regional funding. The final version of the overall transportation funding legislation will not be known until the April 4, 2007 session of the legislature.

The APTA legislative conference was held March 11-13, 2007. WMATA staff participated and General Manager John Catoe had the honor of introducing Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, who addressed the Conference. Additionally, staff is working closely with Mr. Hoyer and other members of the local delegation on FY07 discretionary funds and FY08 appropriations to seek funding for new railcars, new buses, and to expand and enhance our School-to-Career training program.

Mr. Zimmerman commented that while it was good news that the Virginia General Assembly had passed something that contained a Metro provision, the bad news was that the Governor would not sign it and the Governor would have to propose an alternative. He stated he was confident the Governor's proposals will include the Metro funding provision.

He also commented on the launch of the RESPECT campaign, saying that the vast majority of young people are well-behaved and just trying to get around like everybody else. He spoke of a teen transit advisory council in Arlington County in 2006, noting that they raised the same issues as adult riders, except that they often felt intimidated by the system and sensed hostility towards them as adolescents. He suggested that staff develop an outreach program. Chief Hanson noted that the idea for the RESPECT campaign came from a teen focus group. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he appreciated Metro's approach.

Report by Planning and Development Committee

A. Approval of Rehabilitation Project for Metro Center Bearings

Mr. Zimmerman referred the Board to the request for approval to advertise and award a competitive contract for rehabilitation of the Metro Center Platform bearings and girders estimated at \$1.3 million. Funding is included in the Capital Improvement Program under Metro Matters and the work will be done next January or February.

Mr. Zimmerman moved, seconded by Mr. Moneme, that the Board approve to initiate and award a competitive contract for rehabilitation of the Metro Center Platform. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 6 – Mr. Deegan, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Graham, Mr. Briscuso, Mr. Kauffman, and Mr. Moneme

Mr. Zimmerman added that a NextBus Initial Service Update, NextBus new routes, and a briefing on the proposed Tyson's Tunnel Option were discussed at the committee.

Administrative Actions

Other Items

Mr. Zimmerman moved, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, that the Board approve, en bloc, Administrative Items IX.A numbered 1, 2 and 4. This motion was unanimously approved.

1. Approval to Initiate & Award a Contract for a Prime Mover

Approval to initiate and award a competitive contract for the procurement of a Prime Mover. These units are required for rail replacement, insulator replacement, floating slab work and other heavy work requiring equipment transportation and heavy lifting. There are no other means to perform this work.

2. Approval to Initiate & Award a Contract for Flat Cars

Approval to initiate and award a competitive contract for the procurement of two flat cars. These flat cars are required for use with two new Maintenance and Way Equipment units (Prime Movers) recently received by the Structures Maintenance section. Specifically, one flat car will be used to support the station tunnel leak mitigation program, transporting manlifts and scaffolding, and the other flat car will support the concrete mixing plant, used for rehabilitating deteriorated concrete track bed grout pads.

4. Approval to Indemnify Bus Manufacturers

Approval to obtain indemnification for four Bus Manufacturers, New Flyer, NABI, Orion and DesignLine, for any claims arising out of WMATA's operation or use of their demonstration buses.

A copy of the approved Resolution (2007-12) has been made a part of the official file.

Mr. Zimmerman asked that Administrative Item IX.A.3 be deferred to the next meeting. It was deferred without objection.

REPORT BY D.C.: Mr. Graham reported that the introduction of the MetroExtra service was a success and, while it was obvious by their configuration that the buses were the CNG buses, he would like the buses to have that designation displayed on their exterior. He then invited Mr. Moneme to speak, who commented favorably on the Street Smart campaign, the outreach program encouraging safety in our streets.

REPORT BY WSTC: Mr. Briscuso announced that he expected this to be his final meeting as a Board member, and said he wished to take this opportunity to thank everyone, saying that if he were to be remembered for anything, it would be as part of the team that recruited Mr. Catoe. As chair of the Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee, he was saddened by the number of deaths from accidents.

He added that several policies and procedures need to be changed. Finally, he gave special tribute to Charles Deegan, saying that Mr. Deegan has gone to the funerals, the escalator schools, the buses, train stations and graduations, and it has been an honor to serve with him.

REPORT BY NVTC: Mr. Kauffman also stated his appreciation of the service of Messrs. Briscuso and Deegan, and said it was fitting that at Mr. Deegan's final meeting as Chairman, he would introduce the new Inspector General, an idea embraced while Mr. Kauffman was chairman but that took Mr. Deegan's leadership to bring it to fruition. Mr. Kauffman declared there was not a bus or rail line that Mr. Deegan had not ridden, which was the kind of service customers want; and that to the front-line employees, Mr. Deegan's most fitting legacy was that they had a direct contact with the Board through him.

Each Board member in turn praised the service of Messrs. Deegan and Briscuso.

Remarks by Board Chair

Mr. Deegan announced that this would be his last Board meeting as Chair and member of the Board, and wished to reflect on his time here. He was most proud of posting fares on the fare card machines, rewarding bus operators driving a million or more miles without accident, saving \$25,000 in the Board's budget by choosing to have their weekly information mailed to them rather than having it hand-delivered, and improving transparency and accountability by having town hall meetings and hiring the Inspector General. The accomplishment he was most proud of was helping to hire Mr. John Catoe.

He regretted leaving several things unfinished and hoped that the Board would work to make these things a reality: expanding the program accepting credit card payments at all WMATA parking facilities; establishing a telephone and communication system that works throughout the system; eliminating paper farecards and making SmarTrip® cards work on buses throughout the region. His fondest memory is of the hundreds of fine people that work for WMATA, especially the transit police and the bus operators. He attended all but one transit officer graduation and will always be amazed by the million mile bus operators.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Deegan moved, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, that the Board meet in Executive Session immediately following the meeting to discuss labor issues. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 6 – Mr. Deegan, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Graham, Mr. Briscuso, Mr. Kauffman, and Mr. Moneme

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.


Leen'da Chambliss, Assistant Board Secretary