

**NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**June 27, 2024**

I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board of Directors was held at the Tennessee State Library & Archives located at 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way, N., Nashville, TN 37219, on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

II. **Roll Call of Persons Present:**

Janet Miller, Vice Chair	Nick Oldham, CSSO
Jessica Dauphin, Member	Andy Burke, COO
Margaret Behm, Board Secretary	Vince Malone, COSA
Stephen Bland, CEO	Felix Castrodad, Director of Planning & Grants
Monica Howse, Sr. Exec. Asst. & Board Liaison	

The meeting commenced at 2:45 p.m. However, due to the lack of a quorum, Vice Chair Miller deferred all action items to the July board meeting and reviewed the remaining board packet for informational purposes only.

III. **Approval of Minutes:** The approval of the May 23, 2024, Nashville MTA Board minutes was postponed to the July Board meeting.

IV. **Public Comments:** Vice Chair Miller opened the floor for public comments. The public was reminded that comments were limited to two minutes. The following members of the public gave public comments:

- Roger Womack
- Darius Knight
- Barry Hobbs

V. **Informational Items:** The following items were presented for the Board members' review:

- Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget – No questions
- Monthly Operating Statistics – No questions
- Upcoming Procurement Projects List – No questions

VI. **Consent Agenda Items (deferred to the July Board meeting):**

- Revolving Line of Credit Renewal (M-A-24-013)
- MTA/RTA WeGo Ride Program Revenue Sharing Agreement (M-A-24-014)
- StrIDe Memorandum of Understanding (M-A-24-015)
- MTA/RTA Contract Renewal for Regional Transit Services (M-A-24-016)
- MTA/RTA Management Contract Renewal (M-A-24-017)
- Auto Damage/Catastrophic Insurance Renewal (M-A-24-018)
- WeGo Liability Insurance Renewal (M-A-24-019)
- March Network Onboard Surveillance Contract Award (M-A-24-020)

VII. **Operations & Finance Committee Report:** There were no Operations and Finance (O & F) discussion items for this meeting.

VIII. **New Initiative & Community Engagement Committee Report:** Vice Chair Miller introduced the following items for discussion:

- a. **Resolution of Support for the Choose How You Move Program (M-A-24.021):** Vice Chair Miller deferred this action item to the July Board meeting.

- b. **FY2025 Proposed Operating Budget (M-A-24-022)**: CEO Steve Bland presented an overview of the FY2025 Proposed Operating Budget and was available for questions. Following a general discussion, Vice Chair Miller deferred this action item to the July Board meeting.
- c. **Access Improvement Study Public Feedback and Policy Recommendations (M-A-24-023)**: Deputy COO-Systems Dan Freudberg presented the Access Improvement Study Public Feedback and Policy Recommendations and was available for questions, though there were none. Vice Chair Miller deferred this action item to the July Board meeting. Mr. Freudberg and Mr. Bland indicated that the recommended change to increase the monthly trip limit for users of Access on Demand could be implemented on July 1 as proposed as a "pilot" program until such time as the Board can take final action.

**IX. CEO's Report**: CEO Steve Bland provided the following report:

1. WeGo has continued to support Mayor O'Connell's "Choose How You Move" Transportation Improvement Program. Earlier this month, an ordinance was introduced at the Metropolitan Council that would put this program on the November ballot for consideration by the voters. This coming Monday, WeGo will attend three different Council Committee meetings to support their deliberations, as well as the Tuesday evening Full Council meeting, which will be on the second reading.
2. Earlier this month, the Metro Council also adopted an operating budget for FY2024-25. The Council ultimately adopted the alternate budget proposed by Budget and Finance Chair Porterfield, but this budget did not make any changes to the proposed funding to the MTA or RTA in the Mayor's original budget submission.
3. WeGo is recruiting for three senior leadership positions. CEO Bland said that he expects to announce the selection of individuals for two of these positions – Deputy CEO for Finance and Administration and Deputy CEO for Growth and Development – within the next week.
4. Work continues to advance at North Nashville, with significant construction activities completed. At this point, contractor activities are primarily focused on punch list items and addressing items found in our various regulatory inspections. WeGo anticipates that commissioning activities will begin within the next few weeks, with a soft opening in July. WeGo will be working on scheduling the formal dedication in August.
5. Earlier this month, WeGo received an unsolicited proposal from a development team – Holladay Properties – to integrate a neighborhood transit center into an affordable housing project they have in development on Upper Dickerson Pike. During our initial review, we found the proposal to be extremely favorable and aligned with our overall strategic plan for transit center development. As a result, and in accordance with our procedures and FTA regulations, we are currently out for public comment on the proposal, with a closing date of July 15. If WeGo does not receive any alternative competitive proposals during the comment period, we anticipate providing you with more information and a possible action item at your July meeting.
6. WeGo continues to meet with the Titans, various city departments, and the East Bank Development team to develop enhanced transit options for Titans games and other significant events at Nissan Stadium. Throughout several recent large concerts, WeGo has been working with the Titans, NDOT, and MNPD on dedicated lanes to improve the service reliability surrounding major events and hopes to expand the capacity in time for this year's football season. On a related note, WeGo is also in meetings with the prime contractor for the new stadium regarding transportation options for construction workers on the site, as they anticipate employment to ramp up quickly.
7. WeGo has also been meeting with the East Bank Development Team as they develop design options for the James Robertson Parkway realignment. This project is immediately adjacent to the proposed East Bank Transit Center and will be a very heavily used corridor for service. They are making every attempt to integrate transit into the redesign.

8. WeGo is currently working with Mayor O'Connell's Office to commemorate the completion of our 300<sup>th</sup> sheltered bus stop. We will keep you posted on a date. CEO Bland acknowledged and thanked Lydia Benda Dnese Nicolosi and their respective teams for accelerating the pace of the shelter delivery program.
9. Andy Burke and several staff have been working with Stantec on the Zero Emissions Fleet Transition Plan. This process would identify the issues and strategies necessary to advance the fleet toward zero-emission technology. Stantec has identified some policy and operational items associated with such a transition, and the Chair and CEO Bland have discussed putting together a Board workshop on this topic over the summer.
10. CEO Bland participated as a panelist for an Urban Land Institute "Power Hour" to discuss the implications of Mayor O'Connell's Choose How You Move Transit Improvement Program on development and affordable housing. The panel was very well-rounded, including lessons learned from our counterpart in Atlanta, and the attendance was excellent.
11. Earlier this week, CEO Bland participated in the Annual Planning Workshop of the Tennessee Public Transportation Association Board of Directors in Clarksville. This session is where we set priorities and plans for the upcoming year. This year, CEO Bland serves as President of TPTA.
12. On the RTA side:
  - a. WeGo continues to advance land acquisition toward a permanent park-and-ride location in Murfreesboro. The current owner of the land is a church, and their Board has approved the sale. WeGo is now awaiting approval from the Tennessee Secretary of State for the church to sell the property, at which time WeGo can close and begin design.
  - b. Hatch Engineering continues to advance the Star Future Vision Study and is working with the railroad to model a preferred scenario. WeGo anticipates that this will advance to public comment over the next month or two and then on to a final recommendation for the RTA Board.

- X. **Chair's Report:** In the absence of Board Chair Carr Williams, Vice Chair Miller delivered the following report on her behalf:

Vice Chair Miller expressed appreciation for the dedication of the administrative staff and drivers, for their hard work during this critical and exciting time for the city of Nashville. She reiterated her commitment to supporting the Mayor's Choose How You Move Program and expressed anticipation for his presentation at next month's board meeting.

- XI. **Other Business:** There was no further business to come before this Board.
- XII. **Adjournment:** With no further business, Vice Chair Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, which adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

**Attested:**

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**Gail Carr Williams**  
*Chair*

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**Margaret L. Behm**  
*Secretary*