MINUTES
DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’
August 11, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus, DART Board meeting rooms were closed to the public. All meetings took place by videoconference and are available at https://www.dart.org/about/board/boardvideo.asp.

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors’ meeting came to order on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 7:43 p.m., at DART Headquarters, 1401 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, Texas, with Chair Wageman presiding.

City of Dallas
Ray Jackson – Assistant Secretary
Patrick J. Kennedy
Jon-Bertrell Killen
Michele Wong Krause – Vice-Chair
Amanda Moreno-Lake
Rodney Schlosser
Dominique P. Torres

City of Garland
Jonathan R. Kelly – Secretary

City of Irving
Rick Stopfer

City of Plano
Paul N. Wageman – Chair

City of Cockrell Hill and Dallas
Eliseo Ruiz, III

Cities of Carrollton and Irving
Doug Hrbacek

Cities of Farmers Branch and Plano
Robert C. Dye

Cities of Garland, Rowlett, and Glenn Heights
Mark C. Enoch

Cities of Richardson and University Park; Towns of Addison and Highland Park
Gary A. Slagel
General Items:

1. Roll Call

Chair Wageman took Roll Call, confirming a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes: July 7, 2020

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the July 7, 2020, Board of Directors’ meeting Minutes, and entered into record, as written.

Mr. Slagel seconded.

Chair Wageman took a Roll Call vote and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. This item will be discussed in Committee-of-the-Whole only.

4. PAAG Report

Chair Wageman read into record an overview report of the Paratransit Accessibility Advisory Group (PAAG) meeting, provided by Ms. Marsha Hampton, PAAG Representative (Copy on file with the Office of Board Support).

5. Public Comments

Public comments for the Board of Directors’ meeting were accepted via email at the following address: boardmeetingpubliccomments@dart.org until 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. All comments received were read into the public record during the Board meeting by Chair Wageman.

Chair Wageman read into record a total of 11 Public Comments, received via email (Copy on file with the Office of Board Support).

General Public Comments were as follows:

Ms. Tracey Hicks, DART Employee:
Ms. Hicks questioned when the DART essential workers would receive their hazard pay.

Ms. Heather Davis-Allen:
Ms. Davis-Allen inquired how DART could consider defunding public transportation at this time.

Ms. Shay’Nesha West-Jones-Mitchell:
Ms. West-Jones-Mitchell reached out regarding her unique situation in reference to her Workers Compensation back pay.

Ms. Jocelyn Ickes:
Ms. Ickes voiced concern regarding the short time of the deadline set for responses from property owners/taxpayers to vote on the betterments near the Silver Line Rail.

Ms. Roslyn Smith, Employee:
Ms. Smith posed several questions regarding her reassigned status from a station concierge to cleaning buses. She wondered when the retirement packages would be available.

Ms. Maura Schreier-Fleming:
Ms. Schreier-Fleming, President of the Highlands of McKamy IV & V HOA, posed several questions concerning the Silver Line Rail and the ballot deadline, received on August 7th and due by August 14, 2020.
Ms. Patricia A. Taylor:
Ms. Taylor wrote in reference to possible changes to Bus Route 210, Plano Express and her need for clarification. She stated she was unclear of what the changes will be.

Mr. Robert Horton, Employee:
Mr. Horton questioned when DART will offer the early retirement packages.

No name; referred to self as “Boss Lady”:
Boss Lady, faithful DART rider, wrote in reference to the tardiness of Bus #19 every morning. It was stated that the bus should arrive at Gaston/Collet at 5:35 a.m., however, it arrives at 5:47 a.m. The request was made for staff to look into that.

Mr. Hadrian Blackwater:
Mr. Hadrian Blackwater voiced an opinion regarding the D2 Subway Project and the Silver Line Rail project.

Mr. Dane Cofer:
Mr. Cofer submitted a 142-page Public Comment regarding agenda items 2, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19-22. Only three minutes of the comments were read into record.

Ms. Deb Tarantino:
Ms. Tarantino voiced an opinion that DART should consider reducing the President/Executive Director’s pay.

Mr. Brian Finkelstein:
Mr. Finkelstein voiced an opinion that DART should consider reducing the President/Executive Director’s pay.

Consent Items:

Mr. Hrbacek moved to forward Consent Items 7 through 13.

Customer Service, Safety and Mobility:

7. Contract Award for Janitorial Services for Operating Facilities
Moved for approval of Resolution 200074 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to award a contract for janitorial services for operating facilities to Texas Elite Facility Services with a total authorized amount not to exceed $509,100.

8. Contract Award for Trash Disposal and Recycling Services
Moved for approval of Resolution 200075 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to award a contract for Trash Disposal and Recycling Services to Republic Waste Services of Texas LP, Inc. for a total authorized amount not to exceed $396,924.

9. Contract Award for Natural Gas for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Buses
Moved for approval of Resolution 200076 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to execute a one-year Interlocal Contract (ILC) with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to provide DART’s natural gas fuel, beginning in Fiscal Year 2021, for a total authorized amount not to exceed $4,122,082.
Planning and Capital Program:

10. Call for a Public Hearing for a Service Plan Amendment for the Proposed D2 Subway Alignment, Grade Separations, and Station Locations

Moved for approval of Resolution 200077 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to schedule and give notice of a public hearing on September 22, 2020 to receive public comments to add the proposed D2 Subway alignment, grade separations, and stations to the DART Service Plan.

11. Contract Award for General Planning Consultant Services (GPC VII)

Moved for approval of Resolution 200078 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to award a two-year contract with one, one-year option for General Planning Consultant (GPC) services to HDR Engineering, Inc., in a total authorized amount not to exceed $9,225,000.


Moved for approval of Resolution 200079 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to:

Section 1: The restriction, reservations and other matters of record affecting the DART Northwest Plano Park and Ride property fully described in Exhibit 1 are hereby removed, subject to Federal Transit Administration approval.

Section 2: The President/Executive Director or his designee is authorized to proceed with the execution of the Ratification of the Termination of Declaration of Covenant, Conditions and Restrictions of the Building Covenant Agreement and the Withdrawal and Release of Deed Restrictions.

Administration:

13. Approval to Execute a Trademark Consent to Agreement with Des Moines Transit Authority

Moved for approval of Resolution 200080 stating the President/Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to execute the Trademark Consent to Register Agreement between Des Moines, Iowa Area Regional Transit Authority and Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

Mr. Enoch seconded.

Chair Wageman took a Roll Call vote and the Consent items were approved unanimously.

Individual Items:

14. Approval to Distribute the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Budget and Twenty-Year Financial Plan to Municipalities Within DART’s Service Area for Review

Mr. Enoch moved for approval of Resolution 200081 stating the President/Executive Director or his designee, is authorized to distribute the Proposed FY 2021 Annual
Budget and Twenty-Year Financial Plan to the governing bodies of the municipalities within DART’s Service Area for their review.

Mr. Slagel seconded.

Chair Wageman took a Roll Call vote and the item was approved unanimously.

15. This item will be discussed in Committee-of-the-Whole only.

16. Approval of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with City of Dallas for Hillcrest Road and Coit Road Design Modifications for the Silver Line Regional Rail Corridor Project

Mr. Enoch moved for approval of Resolution 200082 stating the President/Executive Director or his designee, is authorized to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) addressing Hillcrest Road and Coit Road Design Modifications for the Silver Line Regional Rail Corridor project, substantially in the form as shown in Exhibit 1 to the Resolution and subject to legal review.

Ms. Wong Krause seconded.

Chair Wageman took a Roll Call vote and the item was approved unanimously.

Approval of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Dallas for Freight Abandonment over the Silver Line Regional Rail Corridor between Waterview Parkway and Knoll Trail Drive

Ms. Wong Krause moved for approval of Resolution 200083 stating the President/Executive Director or his designee, is authorized, contingent on approval by the City of Dallas Council of the Hillcrest Road and Coit Road Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of Dallas and DART, to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) addressing freight abandonment on a 5.34 mile portion of the Silver Line Regional Rail Corridor, extending between Waterview Parkway and Knoll Trail Drive.

Mr. Kelly seconded.

Chair Wageman took a Roll Call vote and the item was approved unanimously.

17. This item will be discussed in Committee-of-the-Whole only.

18. This item will be discussed in Committee-of-the-Whole only.

Other Items:


Public Hearing comments for the Proposed October 2020 Service Modifications and Reductions Related to COVID-19, on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, were accepted via email at the following address: dartpublichearingcomments@dart.org until the conclusion of the Hearing. All comments received were read into the public record by Chair Wageman.

Chair Wageman introduced Mr. Rob Smith, Assistant Vice President of Planning and Development, who provided the technical presentation. Mr. Smith read, into the record, all pertinent details of the Proposed October 2020 Service Modifications and Reductions Related to COVID-19.
Ms. Moreno-Lake joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Chair Wageman opened the floor for Board Members to question Mr. Smith regarding his presentation.

Mr. Killen noted Board Member Schlosser had previously asked about potentially restoring the core frequent routes ahead of the October meeting, given that they move more than 50% of DART’s riders. He then questioned if there was any reason they could not move up and restore those routes. Mr. Killen further inquired what would be the rough estimate to get those routes back in place a month earlier than anticipated. Mr. Smith responded there were more issues, aside of the cost, for those core routes, that DART would need to deal with. He continued, in order to do the implementation, staff would need to publish new time tables, complete all of the background work relating to preparing electronic information and schedules for service, and go through an operator signup process. Mr. Smith noted staff was already accelerating this process to reach the October deadline and did not feel they could get the information out any sooner for the public. Mr. Killen questioned, if it was possible for DART to simply return to the pre-pandemic schedules. Mr. Smith responded, due to the constraints DART is operating and due to COVID-19 at the moment, it would be extremely difficult to do it sooner than currently scheduled. Mr. Killen requested staff provide the earliest date that the core frequent routes could be returned to pre-pandemic service.

Ms. Moreno-Lake voiced concern regarding Route 27 and what will be happening with the senior citizens who ride that route. She requested Mr. Smith speak about what can be done to keep that route. Mr. Smith responded, regarding Route 27, the issue Ms. Moreno-Lake is referring to involves the Senior Source facility, located on Harry Hines Blvd. He continued, the ridership on the route’s entirety is about 50 riders per day, the route is performing very poorly and has been underperforming for a while. Mr. Smith said, to give the Board perspective on the ridership, there are approximately four riders per day that use the stop near the Senior Source, and this is pre-pandemic numbers. He further said, there are two other routes that serve that section of Harry Hines Blvd., and staff is working to make sure that they stop in front of Senior Source to continue to provide service for the ridership at that location. Ms. Moreno-Lake questioned if staff had spoken to the Senior Source to see how DART can assist the senior citizens from that location. Mr. Smith responded yes, a staff-member spoke to the Senior Source the previous week. Ms. Moreno-Lake inquired what was staff’s solution to this issue. Mr. Smith responded staff is working through the issue of the stop location to incorporate it into Routes 206 and 278. He explained both these routes operate along Harry Hines Blvd., and would continue service under what staff is looking at doing.

Prior to continuing, Chair Wageman questioned Mr. Gene Gamez, General Counsel, if it was permissible for the Board Members to discuss the presentation with Mr. Smith. Mr. Gamez responded, while this has never been done, it is permissible due to the flexibility caused through COVID-19.

Ms. Moreno-Lake reiterated her concern for the senior citizens at the Senior Source, and recommended staff come up with solutions to assist them during these trying times.

Chair Wageman noted, with both Ms. Moreno-Lake, and Mr. Killen, making their comments, he would begin at the top of the list of Board Members to see who had questions or comments.
Ms. Wong Krause inquired, regarding the groups of routes that are being discontinued, were there any considerations regarding life-line access, or was it solely a consideration of ridership without thought to life-line access. Mr. Smith responded, most of the routes included in group 4 were chosen, not solely on low ridership and not meeting DART’s standards, but also due to these routes generally being alternatives. He then clarified, in many cases, the alternative buses are routes that run on the same street, in the same direction. In reference to Route 27, Ms. Wong Krause questioned if both the mentioned routes, Routes 206 and 278, run the same as Route 27, staff would be able to incorporate a stop near the Senior Source. Mr. Smith responded yes.

Mr. Schlosser recommended Mr. Smith meet with the Chief Executive Officer of the Senior Source, and their leadership, regarding the stop of Route 27 and assisting the senior citizens. He understood staff had spoken with the Senior Source the previous week, however, he had a conversation with facility members as early as Monday, August 17, at 5:25 p.m. and opined DART staff needed to have a follow up conversation with them to close any loose ends with the Senior Source staff.

Ms. Torres echoed Mr. Schlosser’s and Ms. Moreno-Lake’s concerns regarding the Senior Source residents and the Route 27 bus stop near their facility. She stated she had received numerous comments, calls, and text messages regarding Route 27. Ms. Torres requested Mr. Smith find out if any of the Senior Source residents are eligible for the Dallas Rides Program. She further recommended providing this information to the staff at the Senior Source for their constituents.

Mr. Enoch acknowledged the concern for the senior citizens and the Route 27 bus stop, however, he did not want to lose sight that typically during the year, staff is following protocols, rules and parameters, that have been given by the Board. He noted, to make exceptions, based upon particular routes, makes it unfair to others. Mr. Enoch continued, there are two senior living centers, in the City of Rowlett, that for a long time, have requested regular fixed-route service, however, DART has not provided that due to the ridership criteria that it insists it must have. He recommended, if those policies and procedures need to be worked on, then the Board needs to work on those to make it fair to every community.

Ms. Moreno-Lake stated she was in agreement with Mr. Enoch concerning the need for equality, however, she wanted to be sensitive to the needs of senior citizens during this pandemic.

Chair Wageman established himself as the hearing officer and reviewed the guidelines that would govern the public hearing (on file in the Office of Board Support). He then stated the public hearing was being conducted in virtual format in conjunction with the DART Board meeting. Chair Wageman noted that the public hearing would be divided into two parts: the first part would consist of a brief overview regarding the project provided by DART’s technical staff and the public hearing would follow immediately. He then went on to describe specific guidelines that would be followed during the public hearing.

Chair Wageman stated tonight’s hearing would be recorded by a court reporter, so all comments received were a matter of public record.

Chair Wageman stated the time was 8:40 p.m., on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, and the public hearing would be held in pursuant to the requirements of DART’s enabling legislation.
Chair Wageman read into record seventy (70) public comments, received via email, on the above issue. Any written comments, or emails, received by the end of the hearing will be added to this total.

Chair Wageman stated the time was 9:46 p.m. and the Public Hearing was now closed.

20. **Public Comments**

There were no additional Public Comments to address the Board.

21. **This item will be discussed in Committee-of-the-Whole only.**

22. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Joséfina Chavira, CAP
Board Committee Secretary

/jc

+ Same Night Item
* Briefing Item