

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**OPERATIONS & SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**January 29, 2015**

The Board of Directors Operations & Safety Committee met on January 29, 2015 at 10:04 a.m. in the Board Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Board Members Present**

Roberta Abdul-Salaam  
Harold Buckley, Sr.  
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr.  
Jim Durrett  
Roderick E. Edmond, *Chair*  
Freda Hardage  
Barbara Babbit Kaufman

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/CEO Keith T. Parker, AICP; Chief Operating Officer Joseph Erves (Acting); Chief Administrative Officer Edward L. Johnson; Chief Financial Officer Gordon L. Hutchinson; Chief of Staff Rukiya S. Eaddy; Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill; AGMs Wanda Dunham, Robin Henry, Ming Hsi, Reginald Mason, Ryland McClendon and Donald Williams (Acting); Executive Director Ferdinand Risco; Sr. Directors Cynthia Beasley, Joseph Springstead and David Springstead; Directors Joel T. Larkins, Pat Minnucci and Knox O'Callaghan; Executive Manager to the Board Rebbie Ellisor-Taylor; Sr. Executive Administrator Brenda L. Williams; Finance Administrative Analyst Tracy Kincaid. Others in attendance Davis Allen, Abebe Girmay, Nicholas Gowens, Courtne Middlebrooks, LaTonya Pope, Srinath Remala and Dansby Wade.

**Consent Agenda**

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- a) Approval of the December 18, 2014 Operations & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
- b) Resolution to Accept the Contract for Project B12971, Auxiliary Power Switchgear Replacement – Arts Center
- c) Resolution to Accept the Contract for Project B22978, Arts Center Station Roofing Rehabilitation

On motion by Mr. Durrett seconded by Mr. Daniels, the Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with 7 members present.

Mrs. Abdul-Salaam abstained.

### **Individual Agenda**

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#### **Briefing – WMATA Tragedy and MARTA's Response**

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Reginald Mason, AGM Safety & Quality Assurance, briefed the Committee on the recent WMATA tragedy and MARTA's responsive actions.

#### ***Preliminary Report***

- WMATA Smoke and Electrical Arcing Accident in Washington, DC

#### ***MARTA's Responsive Action***

- Increased Focus on Tunnel Ventilation

#### ***Timeline of Events***

- On January 12, 2015, at approximately 3:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail train 302 stopped after encountering an accumulation of heavy smoke while traveling southbound in a tunnel between the L'Enfant Plaza Station and the Potomac River Bridge
- After stopping, the rear car of the train was about 386 feet from the south end of the L'Enfant Plaza Station platform
- A following train, stopped at the L'Enfant Plaza Station at about 3:25 p.m., and was also affected by the heavy smoke – this train stopped about 100 feet short of the south end of the platform
- Passengers of both trains, as well as passengers on the station platforms, were exposed to the heavy smoke
- Both Metrorail trains involved in this incident consisted of six passenger cars and were about 450 feet in length
- As a result of the smoke, 86 passengers were transported to local medical facilities for treatment; there was one passenger fatality

*What MARTA is Doing*

- MARTA is reviewing the safety information that it provides to its customers
- As part of that effort, MARTA is developing new safety brochures, information cards and rail maps with specific instructions about what to do in case of an emergency on a train, in a tunnel or at a rail station
- As part of its capital program, MARTA is also planning to spend \$150M to improve and upgrade its tunnel ventilation system
- Until the Tunnel Ventilation Project is fully commissioned, MARTA will continue bi-weekly checks of its tunnel ventilation system to ensure its components are working properly

*Next Steps*

- Major Emergency Planning and Preparedness Workshop with local jurisdictions and MARTA Leadership is being held at the Carter Center
- Refresher course focusing on emergency procedures for all Rail Operators and Station Agents
- Rollout of a campaign to raise public awareness about the emergency evacuation procedures

*Conclusions*

- MARTA's top priority is always the safety and security of its customers, employees and the general public
- MARTA recognizes that the key to keeping everyone as safe as possible at all times is to keep them informed about what to do in the event of an emergency

Mr. Daniels asked if training was in place prior to the WMATA incident.

Mr. Mason said yes. The Authority is now focusing on refresher training as a result of the WMATA incident.

Mr. Daniels asked if construction for the tunnel ventilation upgrade will impact the current system.

Mr. Mason said the work will be performed at night while no trains are running but the system will still be in place.

Mrs. Hardage asked what is the timeline for completion.

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Mr. Parker said the project is more complex than originally thought – staff will provide an update to the Board next month.

Mrs. Abdul-Salaam asked how often MARTA performed tunnel ventilation system checks prior to the WMATA incident.

Mr. Mason said MARTA has done bi-weekly checks of its tunnel ventilation system for over a year.

Mr. Erves said in addition, MARTA has a task force.

Mr. Springstead added that a team does the monitoring and reports to Operations for maintenance. Also there is a requirement within the contract to put a plan in place when any parts of system are disabled.

Mr. Parker said this happened before at MARTA and it showed how well the Authority's tunnel ventilation system works; however, WMATA's incident is a reminder to refresh training. Additionally, over the next several weeks MARTA will communicate with riders to raise awareness about emergency procedures and get their feedback. This is very dynamic – with transparency and feedback received from the Board and public MARTA can be ready.

Dr. Edmond said this gives the Board a lot of confidence in staff.

**Other Matters**

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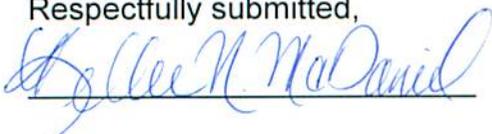
No other matters came before the Committee.

**Adjournment**

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The meeting of the Operations & Safety Committee adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kellee N. McDaniel  
Sr. Executive Administrator to the Board