



Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority  
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## **CALLED BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Guin Robinson, at 10:10 a.m. in the Executive Briefing Room, located at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

**Members Present:** Joyce Brooks, Brian Hamilton, Walter Jones, Johnnye P. Lassiter, Ronald Lyas, Doris Powell, Rev. Patrick Sellers, and Guin Robinson

**Members Absent:** Frank Galloway

**Others Present:** Debra Anderson-Burse, Peter Behrman, Anna Brown, Senator Linda Coleman, Gwen DeRu, Marva Douglas, Jacquese Gary, Barbara Lawson, Chris Leffert, Richard Nardecchia, Rudy Roussel, Joi Scott, Ken Simon, Rhonda Siserir, and Lou Willie

A moment of silence was observed.

Rev. Patrick Sellers led the assembly in the recitation of the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Guin Robinson recognized Senator Linda Coleman and thanked her for her presence and her long time advocacy for transit.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by general consent.

### **Item for Information and/or Discussion:**

#### Lease of Vehicles

Executive Director Peter Behrman explained that the BJCTA is in a crisis situation regarding the deficit of vehicles needed to provide service to both the Paratransit and Fixed Route customers. The time to repair BJCTA vehicles could be weeks or months and the delivery of the new paratransit vehicles will not be completed until November 2010. The total cost to lease thirteen (13) vehicles is \$45,000 per month.

Doris Powell commented that there was a public notice in the *Birmingham News* regarding steps for Paratransit passengers to take regarding complaints and service issues. They were encouraged to contact the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Transportation Association. She cautioned Mr. Behrman that all complaints to the Call Center be documented. Mr. Behrman replied that he would provide a monthly report. Ms. Powell requested disciplinary action be taken against any employee that exhibits rudeness to the callers.

Walter Jones asked if legal counsel or staff could review the purchase contract of vehicles for stipulations that would allow the BJCTA to be reimbursed for the expenditure of the lease of buses because of late deliveries. He then requested to make this part of today's resolution.

Brian Hamilton asked if legal had reviewed the contract. Ken Simon, Legal Counsel, reported that he is still reviewing the lease to make sure that the BJCTA is protected on the lease side. He advised that the transaction could be approved by the Board but the lease may require a few modifications.

Mr. Hamilton then asked what the procurement would do to the year end projections. Mr. Nardecchia replied that it would not have much of an effect because the money would ordinarily have been spent on buses that are ready for retirement.

Mr. Robinson confirmed with Mr. Behrman that the lease payments would be month to month with the understanding that when the new buses arrive, the lease would no longer be needed. He requested that the Board be sent the delivery dates of the vehicles being purchased.

#### **Resolution for Consideration and/or Approval:**

**Resolution No. 2010-34: Declaration of Emergency and Waiver of the Competitive Bid Process in Connection with the Lease of 13 Paratransit Vehicles from Transportation South, Inc.,** was moved by Rev. Patrick Sellers, seconded by Johnnye P. Lassiter and approved by a roll call vote that resulted unanimously in eight (8) ayes from Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lassiter, Mr. Lyas, Ms. Powell, Rev. Sellers, and Mr. Robinson.

#### **Public Comments:**

- A. Senator Linda Coleman reported that she has been receiving many calls regarding BJCTA service. Also, a meeting was held with Mr. Behrman regarding an evaluation of bus stops and their accessibility to the handicap riders. She requested to the Board that riders be allowed to be part of the solution to BJCTA problems and that the public be kept aware of issues. Senator Coleman asked the Board to occasionally ride the buses and talk with the riders. In the November elections, there is a road bill that would provide \$2 million for transit in Jefferson County. For the first time, this would open the door for state funding of public transit. She commented that funding would increase if the City ordinance regarding advertising at bus stops/shelters could be changed.

The **Meeting Adjourned** at 10:40 a.m. The next **Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors** will be held **Wednesday, August 25, 2010 at 12:00 PM** at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, AL.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Lawson, Administrative Assistant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guin Robinson, Chairman