



**HILLSBOROUGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 22, 2011  
1201 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Florida Conference Room  
Tampa, FL 33602**

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**Board Members Present (10)**

- Karen Jaroch
- Wallace Bowers
- John Byczek
- Fran Davin
- Ron Govin
- Alison Hewitt
- Sandra Murman
- Steven Polzin
- Mark Sharpe
- Mike Suarez
- David Mechanik

**Board Members Absent.....(1)**

- Kevin Beckner

**Staff Members Present**

- Sylvia Berrien
- Katharine Eagan
- Philip Hale
- Marcia Mejia
- Martha Milligan
- Brenda Mowen
- Lena Petit
- Mary Shavalier
- Michael Stephens
- Ken Wagner

**Others Present**

- Charles “Chip” Fletcher, Gray-Robinson
- Chris Weber, Westshore Alliance
- Ted Jackovics, The Tampa Tribune

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Sign-in sheets are attached.**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Hewitt at 11:10 a.m.

**PRESENTATIONS**

***FY2012 – FY2021 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update***

Ms. Mary Shavalier, HART Director of Grants Management and Planning, presented the draft Transit Development Plan (TDP), required by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and its key elements. She indicated that recent input received from the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Hillsborough County Aviation Authority and the public was also addressed in the presentation. A full copy of the presentation is on file and can be obtained from the Clerk of the Board at [petitl@gohart.org](mailto:petitl@gohart.org).

Director Davin requested confirmation of \$9 million decrease in ad valorem revenue over the last four years as depicted in the presentation

Ms. Shavalier confirmed.

Mr. Philip Hale, HART Interim Chief executive Officer, clarified that HART compensated for the reduction in the ad valorem revenue by reallocating Federal funds to the operating budget.

Director Murman brought to the Board's attention the State of Florida proposal to cut transportation funds for the disabled to make up a portion of the deficit which is becoming an unfunded mandate in the transportation system. She suggested HART develop strong advocacy with the legislative delegation advising them we cannot afford this mandate. Director Murman urged the Board to send a letter to Will Weatherford, incoming Speaker of the House, making him aware of the situation.

***Director Murman made a motion for HART General Counsel to prepare an advocacy letter for Board approval under the signature of the Interim CEO and Board Chair in support of additional funding and/or improvement in the availability of the funding. Director Sharpe seconded. All Board members present voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.***

Director Govin stated the Board should plan to have representation at the delegation meeting.

Ms. Shavalier clarified that HART does not receive funds from the State for disabled service, but does receive block grant funding for the transit program. She added that she believed the funding in question was the State funding paid to Hillsborough County for the Sunshine Line. Ms. Shavalier explained that HART paratransit service is federally-mandated service for the disabled that must be ran parallel to the fixed route bus service. She added that HART paratransit ridership has increased as patrons come to HART when other means of transportation become unavailable to them.

Director Govin left at 11:30 a.m.

Director Murman asked about Bus Rapid Transit plans in New Tampa.

Ms. Shavalier responded that the MPO has approved construction for eight travel lanes of traffic on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard corridor. She added that a striping pattern modification could be made to those lanes for use by High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) or buses, although HART currently does not have funds allocated for service on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

Director Murman encouraged HART staff to identify heavily congested intersections throughout the County and develop high-usage lanes in those areas. She said that giving buses access to move rapidly through those vicinities should increase ridership. Director Murman suggested that the Board expand their vision and continue to focus on that opportunity.

Ms. Shavalier reported that the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority is initiating a study to examine the potential to implement bus toll lanes to be used by HART buses and passengers who chose to pay a higher toll. She added that under the concept, if HART contributed funding towards the development of the bus toll lanes, then the agency could receive a portion of the operating proceeds, which could supplement existing revenues.

Director Murman asked if fares were higher for the express routes than for the local routes.

Ms. Shavalier replied they are more per trip.

Director Murman stated that with more express routes planned, the increased fares could help fund the deficit.

Ms. Katharine Eagan, HART Chief Operating Officer, responded that the express pass sells for \$90 a month and the local pass sells for \$60 a month. She also stated that two percent of overall ridership was from express service, while 40 percent of deadhead miles were generated from express service.

Director Jaroch asked if the *MetroRapid* fares would be considered an express rate or local rate.

Ms. Shavalier replied that would be considered local because the existing Route 2 service currently in operation on the *MetroRapid* route would be reduced. She also mentioned that Transit Signal Priority is being applied in three test corridors.

*Director Polzin made a motion to approve and move forward the Transit Development Plan. Director Sharpe seconded. All Board members present voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

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**Alison A. Hewitt, Chair  
HART Board of Directors**

**ATTEST**

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**Wallace Bowers, Secretary  
HART Board of Directors**