



Board of Directors Work Session Meeting Minutes for: January 24, 2019

Board of Directors  
Work Session Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Denton County Transportation Authority convened the work session of the Board of Directors with Charles Emery, Chairman presiding on January 24, 2019 at 1955 Lakeway Drive, Suite 260, Lewisville, Texas 75057.

Attendance

**Small Cities**

Connie White  
Skip Kalb  
Michael Savoie at 2:14 pm

**Large Cities**

Charles Emery, Lewisville, Chairman  
Dianne Costa, Highland Village  
Sara Bagheri, Denton  
Carter Wilson, Frisco  
Mark Miller, Flower Mound  
Allen Harris, The Colony  
Tom Winterburn, Corinth  
Ron Trees, Little Elm

**Denton County Unincorporated**

George Campbell  
Don Hartman  
Dave Kovatch, Denton County At  
Large, Treasurer

**Legal Counsel**

Pete Smith

**DCTA Staff**

Raymond Suarez, Chief Executive Officer  
Kristina Holcomb, Deputy Chief Executive  
Officer  
Marisa Perry, Chief Financial Officer, Vice  
President of Finance  
Nicole Recker, Vice President Marketing &  
Communications  
Michelle Bloomer, Vice President,  
Operations

**Other Attendees**

Amanda Riddle, Budget Manager  
Adrienne Hamilton, Communications  
Manager  
Lindsey Baker, Director of Strategic  
Partnerships  
Danny Bailey, Assistant Vice President Rail  
Operations  
Rony Philip, Director of Railway Systems  
Kelly Briggs, Community Relations Manger  
Brandy Pedron, Executive Administrator

CALL TO ORDER: *Chairman, Charles Emery, called the meeting to order and announced the presence of a quorum at 1:31 p.m.*

1. Recognition of Service for Richard Huckaby and George Campbell – *Charles Emery and Raymond Suarez presented a service recognition plaque to George Campbell at the meeting and noted the service of Richard Huckaby who was not present.*
2. Monthly Financial Reports – *Marisa Perry, Chief Financial Officer, VP of Finance, provided a report on the following. No further discussion*
  - a. Financial Statements for November 2018 and December 2018
  - b. Capital Projects Budget Report for November 2018 and December 2018
  - c. Quarterly Investment Report Q1 FY2019
  - d. Quarterly Grants Update Q1 FY2019 – *Kristina Holcomb added to the discussion on implications of the Federal Shutdown*
3. Update and Discussion Regarding Agency Initiatives
  - a. 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Activities – *Raymond Suarez welcomed Judge Andy Eads who spoke to the Board about his support for DCTA on behalf of the County; Judge Eads stated that there are 250 million reasons to be involved and support the growth of DCTA and will protect the investment. Judge Eads stated that he believes the DCTA bylaws should be refreshed to match how the agency operates and look at what is good for the whole of the agency. Judge Eads affirmed that the County desires the drafted bill be unanimously approved. Board member, Carter Wilson, representative of Frisco, has served on the DCTA Board for six years and stated that he does not support the draft legislation as it stands today because he believes that it keeps people from joining the agency and limits the regionalism. Board Member, Allen Harris, representative of The Colony, stated that Mayor requested to post-pone the legislation so that the city can have a meeting about the implications. Allen Harris believes that the legislation presented would alienate the non-member cities and take regionality out, making it a tri-cities agency rather than a regional agency. Board Member, Connie White, Small Cities representative, agreed that the bylaws need to be refreshed and adjustments made as Judge Eads implied, but stated her concern about the founding cities always being the majority vote and voiced that some points in the legislation are not done in good faith for regionalism. She stated that there may be a threat to looking into the future. Board Member, Mark Miller, representative for Flower Mound, stated that he understands the idea of the proposed legislation but does not like the language. He believes that new cities should be able to vote. Board Member, Tom Winterburn, representative of Corinth, feels that Corinth and the Lake Cities are the closest to becoming a new member city. Tom Winterburn relayed that the Mayor of Corinth asked for more time to discuss with city council. He believes that the proposed legislations heavily favor the original cities. Board Secretary, Sara Bagheri, representative of Denton, voiced that she shares the regionalism perspective and reiterated that the legislation is not permanent and that it can evolve as it is in the process. She expressed her concern for postponing the vote on the draft legislation due to the time constraints. Board Vice Chair, Dianne Costa, representative of Highland Village, discussed that changes were made from the original drafted language such as term length and expressed that the legislative language is lenient to help get new cities in with more flexibility to join. Mrs. Costa also discussed how if DCTA carries the bill to legislation, then DCTA holds the power for no change and if the County carries the bill, it limits DCTA's power to make changes. Drew Campbell, Capitol Insights, stated that March 8, 2019 is the last date for a bill to be entered and a bill needs to go to council committees weeks before that. Campbell reiterated the bill can still be amended or changed*

*through the legislative process and expressed that he feels DCTA should carry this as DCTA's bill and as a positive force moving forward. Raymond Suarez, CEO, stated that the Resolution presented is to help us carry the bill and if not passed, the County or a city will carry it and may add or remove language. Board Member, Connie White asked Judge Eads if he was comfortable with the language on voting. Judge Andy Eads answered by stating that we would look at the language broadly and regionally; there were safe-guards put in to help allow every city to have an opportunity to join; delaying this legislation would not be harmonious; and there is no incentive for other cities to join as it stands today. Board Chair, Charles Emery, representative of Lewisville, added that every city had the opportunity to join DCTA as the three member cities had. Board Secretary, Sara Bagheri, stated that there are timing issues; we don't have time or control; and DCTA can tweak the language in the process. Board Treasurer, Dave Kovatch, representative of Denton County At Large, expressed his worry that DCTA will have difficulty getting new members because of the voting issues; the proposed language gives the member cities with majority vote regardless if a new city puts in more sales tax; and expressed that we are different from DART because we are a corridor, not a city center. Mr. Kovatch stated that he believes if anyone is a financially participating city, they should have equal representation on the board as the original member cities. His concern with the legislation is with the founding members language; "founding municipalities". Judge Andy Eads stated our board composition needs to be changed. He also stated that in the spirit of good faith and good will, the draft bill needs to be passed today to maintain an ongoing good relationship with those cities that keep DCTA breathing. Board Member, Skip Kalb, Small Cities representative serving on the board for 14 years, stated that DCTA is the most innovative transit agency in the nation especially for its size and relationships and working with national corporations and agencies. DCTA is located in the fastest growing area in the nation and he is willing to support the draft bill. Drew Campbell, Capitol Insights, expressed that the state legislative council may also change the language during the process. Judge Andy Eads spoke to wanting this to be unanimously passed today and then we will deal with the language in earnest need to operate in good faith on behalf of the representing body; we need to push through today with positive action and have good faith and good will to address the changes. Mike Leavitt, Highland Village City Manager, stated that Highland Village supported this draft bill after lots of conversation. Claire Powel, City of Lewisville Assistant City Manager, stated that Lewisville is in support and is focused on regionalism; the Lewisville City Council has passed a resolution in support of this bill.*

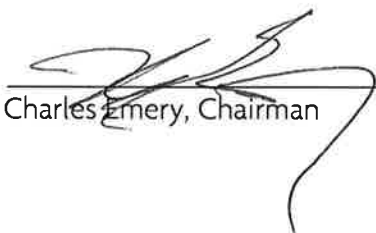
- b. Establishing a local government corporation – *No discussion at this time*
- c. Local assistance for member jurisdictions – *No discussion at this time*
- d. Operating Cost Model – *No discussion at this time*
- e. A-train Extension Planning & Cotton Belt Connection – *No discussion at this time*
- f. North Texas Xpress & Alliance Link – *No discussion at this time*
- g. Elderly & Disabled Service Options – *No discussion at this time*
- h. Inclement Weather Service – *No discussion at this time*
- i. Positive Train Control Status Update – *No discussion at this time*

#### 4. Committee Chair Reports


- a. Finance Committee report of items discussed at the January 14, 2019 meeting – *No discussion at this time*

- b. Program Services Committee report of items discussed at the January 15, 2019 meeting – *No discussion at this time*
  - c. Discussion of Regular Board Meeting Consent Agenda Items
- 5. Discussion of Regular Board Meeting Agenda items – *No discussion at this time*
  - 6. Convene Executive Session – *The Board did not convene into Executive Session at this time*
  - 7. Reconvene Open Session – *not applicable*
  - 8. Discussion of Future Agenda Items – *No discussion at this time*
  - 9. ADJOURN at 2:53 p.m.

The minutes of the January 24, 2019 Work Session meeting of the Board of Directors were passed and approved by a vote on this 28th day of February 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Emery, Chairman

ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Bagheri, Secretary