

**BI-STATE DEVELOPMENT
SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
October 29, 2019**

Sub-Committee Members in Attendance

Missouri

Rose Windmiller, Co-Chair
Vernal Brown
Fred Pestello – absent

Illinois

Herbert Simmons, Co-Chair
Derrick Cox
Irma Golliday – absent

Other Commissioners in Attendance

Constance Gully
Aliah Holman – absent

Michael Buehlhorn
Justin Zimmerman – absent

Staff in Attendance

Taulby Roach, President and Chief Executive Officer
Barbara Enneking, General Counsel and Deputy Secretary
Myra Bennett, Manager of Board Administration
Brenda Deertz, Administrator/Executive Assistant to the President & CEO
Stephen Berry, General Manager - Public Safety, Central Facility - Public Safety
Kevin Scott, Director - Public Safety, Central Facility - Public Safety
Vernon Summers, Manager - Contract Security, Central Facility - Public Safety
Jessica Mefford-Miller, Executive Director Metro Transit
Patti Beck, Director of Communications
Larry Jackson, Executive Vice President Administration
Andrew Ghiassi, Director of Safety, Chief Safety Officer
Ted Zimmerman, Vice President Marketing & Communication
Jerry Vallely, External Communications Manager

Others in Attendance

Ken Sharkey, St. Clair County Transit District
Jim Wild, East-West Gateway
Marcie Meystrik, East-West Gateway
Lurae Stuart, WSP
Michael Calhoun, KMOX radio

- 1. Open Session Call to Order**
9:00 a.m. Chair Windmiller called the Open Session of the Bi-State Development Agency, Security Sub-Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, as noted above.

3. Introduction of Security Team (Preliminary Findings and Current Status)

9:02 a.m. President and Chief Executive Officer, Taulby Roach, noted that the three new members of the Security Team: Stephen Berry, General Manager - Public Safety, Central Facility - Public Safety; Kevin Scott, Director - Public Safety, Central Facility - Public Safety; and Vernon Summers, Manager - Contract Security, Central Facility - Public Safety, are in attendance at today's meeting. Mr. Berry introduced Mr. Scott and Mr. Summers, and all three members of the security team gave brief overviews of their backgrounds.

Stephen Berry gave an overview of the security team's preliminary findings and assessment of the current status of Metro Transit security. He noted that nuisance behavior has been drawn into the transit system, and that Metro must be proactive to reduce those elements from impacting the system. He stated that a team approach will be used to address these issues, and considerable change is needed. Mr. Berry stated that there are multiple layers of issues that are impacting safety issues, and Metro must "unwind", before it will be able to rebuild.

Mr. Berry noted that the system must focus on the needs of its clients and ridership. He stated that ridership is down, due to a number of factors, outside of safety concerns. Ridership stems off of the economy, and currently, it is fairly easy to own a car and drive, versus using public transit. The relationships formed with the riders are extremely important, and this needs to be a focus. He noted that partnering with WSP has been a significant help in identifying and concentrating on the needs of the riders. He added that WSP has identified 99 "bullet points" which need attention, and Metro is working to address those issues.

Mr. Berry stated that Metro has had a history of fragmented relationships with its contracted security and law enforcement partners, and these issues are being addressed. Meetings are being held to rebuild and strengthen these relationships. A code of conduct is being established, as well as contracts which better outline the roles and responsibilities of the members of the team. In addition, Metro needs to develop a long-term technology solution for the transit system, including the updating of cameras, and restructuring of roles so that dispatch can focus on dispatch, and security will focus on monitoring of cameras and other security issues. Mr. Berry noted that obtaining and sharing of safety and security data is necessary, such as times and dates of incidents, in order to determine any patterns of conduct or activity, and address those patterns. He stated that the entire security team understands that, with regard to these issues, all eyes are on them at this point. Mr. Berry stated that the team is focused on changing the climate and atmosphere of the system, and that they are moving as quickly as possible to address these issues.

Commissioner Cox stated that he feels better hearing from the new security staff, and has faith that they can make the needed changes to the system. He asked the security team what the Board of Commissioners can do to help them. Mr. Berry stated that staff appreciates input on any items that the Board feels needs to be addressed. He stated that everyone in this room needs to be on the same team, working towards the same goals, and he stated that he appreciates knowing that leadership stands behind them in addressing these important issues.

Commissioner Gully asked for clarification of the 99 bulleted areas Mr. Berry referenced. Mr. Berry noted that these will be reviewed in more detail by Ms. Lurae Stuart in the executive session; however, they are 99 issues, divided into 6 categories, which WSP has identified as areas in which Metro should improve. He noted that they are not “location based” areas.

Commissioner Gully asked for clarification as to how security efforts will be coordinated within the transit system, not only regarding the trains, but also the buses and with ridership. Mr. Berry stated that contracted security, secondary police officers, and in house public safety officers will be trained regarding the needs of the ridership. Although the riders and operators are the “boots in the field”, they help to provide information of what issues need to be addressed and the level of interaction that may need to improve, in order for the entire system to be more customer focused.

Commissioner Buehlhorn stated that it seems that no matter what happens in the community, Bi-State always seems to be blamed for the issues. He asked how Metro will be working with its law enforcement partners. Mr. Berry was noted that there have been issues between Metro and its law enforcement partners in the past, but that Metro is working to mend those fences; however, there may be some resistance, because they do not know the new security team members yet. It was also noted that through recent meetings, there has been more sharing of information, and that information sharing is critical to Metro achieving its goals and success.

Commissioner Buehlhorn commended Jessica Mefford-Miller, Executive Director Metro Transit, and Scott Grott, General Manager MetroLink, for their work during this interim period and for their efforts regarding the hiring process for the new security team members.

Commissioner Simmons stated that the security team will have the support they need from the Board of Commissioners on these efforts, and he stated that he feels that the bar has been raised.

Commissioner Brown stated that she would like to welcome the new members of the security team, and cannot wait to see them in action.

4. Public Comment

9:40 a.m. Chair Windmiller noted that no speaker cards were presented.

5. Motion to move Executive Session

9:41 a.m. Chair Windmiller requested a motion to allow the Committee to move into closed session as permitted under Bi-State Development Board Policy, Chapter 10, Section 10.080, (D) (1) – Legal, (D) (3) – Personnel, (D) (7) – Purchasing and Contracts, and (D) (11) – Security.

A motion to move into Executive Session was made by Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Brown. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rose Windmiller – Yea
Vernal Brown – Yea
Constance Gully – Yea

Herbert Simmons – Yea
Derrick Cox – Yea
Michael S. Buehlhorn – Yea

Motion passed unanimously, and the Committee moved into Executive Session at 9:42 a.m.

Chair Windmiller left the Executive Session portion of the meeting at approximately 10:29 a.m., and Co-Chair Simmons served as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6. Reconvene to Regular Meeting

10:55 a.m. The Committee reconvened to the Regular Meeting at approximately 10:55 a.m. Chair Simmons noted that no action items votes are needed at this time.

7. Adjournment

10:56 a.m. Chair Simmons asked if there was any further business; being none, Commissioner Gully made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Unanimous vote in favor taken. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:56 a.m.



Deputy Secretary to the Board of Commissioners
Bi-State Development