

**BI-STATE DEVELOPMENT  
SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
(VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM)  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
January 14, 2021**

**(Immediately following Special Meeting of Board of Commissioners)**

**Sub-Committee Members Participating via Zoom**

Rose Windmiller  
Vernal Brown  
Fred Pestello

Herbert Simmons, Chair  
Irma Golliday  
(Derrick Cox – Absent)

**Other Commissioners Participating via Zoom**

Sam Gladney  
Nate Johnson

Terry Beach  
(Justin Zimmerman – Absent)

**Staff Participating via Zoom**

Taulby Roach, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Myra Bennett, Manager of Board Administration  
Brenda Deertz, Administrator / Executive Assistant to the President & CEO  
Stephen Berry, General Manager - Public Safety  
Kevin Scott, Director - Public Safety  
Jessica Mefford-Miller, Executive Director Metro Transit  
Ted Zimmerman, Vice President Marketing & Communications  
Charles Stewart, Executive Vice President Organizational Effectiveness  
Virgie Chaffen, Director of Labor Relations

**Others Participating via Zoom**

Captain Melissa Webb, St. Louis County Police Department  
ASL Interpreter, Karen Sneed  
ASL Interpreter, Rebecca Pursley

**1. Open Session Call to Order**

**9:42 a.m.** Chair Simmons called the Open Session of the Bi-State Development Agency, Safety & Security Committee Meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**9:42 a.m.** Roll call was taken, as noted above.

**3. Public Comment**

**9:42 a.m.** Chair Simmons asked Ms. Bennett if any speaker cards were submitted for today's meeting. Ms. Bennett noted that no comment cards were received.

**4. Introduction of St. Louis County Police Captain Melissa Webb as Police Task Force Commander**

**9:42 a.m.** Kevin Scott, Director of Public Safety, introduced St. Louis County Police Captain, Melissa Webb, as the new Police Task Force Commander. He provided background information regarding her credentials and achievements, noting that she has been serving in this capacity for approximately three and a half months. He stated that Captain Webb is a progressive leader, who truly understands the comprehensive and holistic approach we are trying to implement from a public safety perspective. Captain Webb addressed the Commissioners, stating that it has been her pleasure to have been serving in this new capacity. She stated that she believes in the regionalization of our community, and that we must stop acting in a segmented manner. Captain Webb stated that this also goes for MetroLink. She stated that we can no longer look at the Metro Area as "St. Clair County", "St. Louis County", "St. Louis City", but rather, as a single community.

Chair Simmons thanked Captain Webb for her regional approach. Members of the Board of Commissioners welcomed Captain Webb, and thanked her for her service.

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the August 13, 2020, Security Sub-Committee Meeting**

**9:49 a.m.** The minutes of the August 13, 2020, Security Sub-Committee Meeting were provided in the Committee packet. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Golliday. (Commissioner Windmiller and Commissioner Gladney abstained from the vote.) **The motion passed.**

**6. Presentation – Exclusions under the Metro Transit System Ride and Abide Policy**

**9:50 a.m.** An update regarding this item was provided by Stephen Berry, General Manager of Public Safety. Mr. Berry noted that the new Ride and Abide Policy has been in effect for several months, and they are having success with the program. He stated that the program shows great promise in delivering on the expectations that were set. Mr. Berry stated that there are currently 14 participants in the program, and that they have received no requests for hearings. He stated that this program focuses on the 5% of offenses that are related to trespassers, damage to the buses, rail cars, and platforms, as well as repeat offenders. He noted that overall, the program is going very well. (This item was provided as information only.)

**7. Summary of Media and Community Engagement Efforts**

**9:54 a.m.** A presentation regarding this item was provided by Kevin Scott, Director of Public Safety, Ted Zimmerman, Vice President Marketing & Communications, and Patti Beck, Director of Communications. Mr. Scott stated that he cannot stress enough about re-selling our product to the community. He stated that it is the goal to provide a safe, welcoming service to the region. Mr. Scott stated that he has been working closely with Ted Zimmerman and his team to develop innovative approaches and make outreach more effective, as well as build relationships within the

community. He noted that a summary was e-mailed to the Board as an overview of the items that they have been working on.

Mr. Zimmerman gave an overview of the summary. He stated that they want to ensure that information regarding the real progress that has been made regarding safety and security reaches the community. He stated that they are building relationships with strong media partners, which assist in setting the record straight, when there is false or misleading information regarding the system. He stated that his team has been requesting additional air-time, in order to get our message out to the public. Mr. Zimmerman stated that they are also looking at ways in which to proactively broadcast our messages to the community, and highlight the vital role that Bi-State and Metro Transit play in the region.

Chair Simmons stated that he can see the success that they are having, by the reduction of negative comments in the media. He commended staff for their work. Commissioner Windmiller posed questions regarding the third parties that staff is working with in these efforts. Mr. Zimmerman noted that one of the main groups they are working with is CMT; however, other groups assist within other industries, such as tourism, hospitality, and planning/development. Commissioner Windmiller encouraged the team to reach out to the higher education communities in the region, as well. Commissioner Pestello agreed. Commissioner Simmons asked if any outreach has been done with regard to the appointment of the new Police Captain, and introducing her to the public. Mr. Scott stated that Mr. Zimmerman has been working on this, and is continuing to do this. Mr. Scott stated that it is important to show that Safety and Security has meshed into a "one team component", and has become an example to the region. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he would like to acknowledge that it is not only he and Patti Beck that are making these changes happen, but instead an entire team involved in social media and outreach who are making these changes possible. The Commissioners commended the team for their work. (This item was provided as information only.)

**(Commissioner Johnson left the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m.)**

**8. Update on Comprehensive Training Program**

**10:04 a.m.** An update regarding this item was provided by Stephen Berry, General Manager of Public Safety. Mr. Berry noted that approximately one year ago, BSD was awarded a training grant that allows us to reach out to staff at a higher level, and allows us to hire third party experts in the fields of mental health, trauma, human trafficking, de-escalation, and safety and security training. He noted that it has allowed them to build a robust training platform.

Mr. Berry noted that this program began on January 5<sup>th</sup>, and has received a high level of participation. He noted that mid-level supervisors have been encouraged to participate in the trainings, and are anticipating opening the training to all employees and contractors, as well as our partners. He stated that this should be completed by mid-July. Chair Simmons thanked Mr. Berry and stated that he appreciates the progress that is being made. (This item was provided as information only.)

**9. Update on Systems Safety and Bi-State Development Oversight**

**10:09 a.m.** An overview of this item was provided by Stephen Berry, General Manager of Public Safety. Mr. Berry noted that they have been successful in turning in the public transportation, safety and oversight plan, which was executed in July. He reported that they are now going into

review of the plan, and they anticipate no major concerns. He noted that there will be a report presented to the Board in the spring. Mr. Berry reported that there have been no major violations with regard to the Metro Transit system. He noted that the third quarter performance report is available, if the Board is interested. (This item was provided as information only.)

**10. Motion to move Executive Session (if needed)**

**10:12 a.m.** Chair Simmons stated that the only item for consideration on the Executive Session agenda is the Approval of the Minutes of the August 13, 2020 Security Sub-Committee, Executive Session Meeting. He noted that, if there are no corrections to these minutes, and no discussion is necessary, the Committee could proceed to a motion and vote, without going into Executive Session. The Committee agreed.

Chair Simmons asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020, Security Sub-Committee Meeting, Executive Session, as presented, as a closed record. The motion was made by Commissioner Pestello and was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The poll of the Committee being:

Rose Windmiller – Abstain  
Vernal Brown – Yea  
Fred Pestello – Yea  
Sam Gladney – Abstain

Herbert Simmons – Yea  
Terry Beach – Yea  
Irma Golliday – Yea

**The motion passed.**

**11. Adjournment**

**10:14 a.m.** Chair Simmons asked if there was any further business; being none, Commissioner Windmiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Unanimous vote in favor was taken. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:14 a.m.

  
Deputy Secretary to the Board of Commissioners  
Bi-State Development