

## **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

### **GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES**

*The following mission statement and governance guidelines, as amended, have been recommended by the Governance Committee and approved by the Chairman and a majority of the members of the MTA Board and, along with the laws of the State of New York, the MTA By-laws, the by-laws of certain MTA subsidiaries and component units, and the charters and key practices of certain Committee of the Board, provide the framework for the governance of the MTA and its subsidiaries and component units. The Chairman and the Governance Committee will review these guidelines and other aspects of MTA governance annually or more often if deemed necessary.*

*Adopted by the Board March 26, 2014*

## **Mission Statement of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“MTA”) preserves and enhances the quality of life and economic health of the region we serve through cost-efficient provision of safe, on-time, reliable and clean transportation services.

The MTA is the public benefit corporation of the State of New York responsible for an integrated mass transportation system for the City of New York and Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester counties. The statutory purposes set forth in the MTA enabling act are:

“the continuance, further development and improvement of commuter transportation and other services related thereto within the metropolitan commuter transportation district, including but not limited to such transportation by railroad, omnibus, marine and air, in accordance with the provisions of this title. It shall be the further purpose of the authority, consistent with its status as the ex officio board of both the New York city transit authority and the triborough bridge and tunnel authority, to develop and implement a unified mass transportation policy for such district.” (Public Authorities Law §1264(1))

## **Governance Guidelines**

These Governance Guidelines apply to MTA and the other public benefit corporations under common control of MTA (collectively with MTA, the “MTA Agencies”). The MTA Agencies consist of:

Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority  
New York City Transit Authority  
Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority  
The Long Island Rail Road Company  
Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company  
Staten Island Rapid Transit Operating Authority  
Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority  
MTA Bus Company  
MTA Capital Construction Company  
First Mutual Transportation Assurance Company

### **1. Functions of the MTA Chairman/Chief Executive Officer.**

(a) The Chairman of the MTA shall be primarily responsible for providing leadership to the MTA Board in performing oversight of the senior management in the effective and ethical management of the MTA Agencies’ integrated mass transportation system. The Chairman, inter alia, convenes and presides over Board meetings, establishes Board committees and appoints committee members and chairs, and shall serve as the principal liaison between MTA management and the Board.

(b) The Chairman, pursuant to statute, is the chief executive officer of the Authority and shall have responsibility to discharge the executive and administrative functions and

powers of the Authority. In discharging the executive and administrative functions and powers of the Authority, the Chairman shall, inter alia, be responsible for (i) managing the day-to-day operations of the MTA's integrated mass transportation system, (ii) coordinating the development and approval by the Board of long term strategy for the maintenance and expansion of that system, (iii) overseeing and providing appropriate direction to the President of each of the MTA's constituent Agencies and (iv) appointing, disciplining, and removing officers or employees.

2. **Functions of the MTA Board.** The Board shall meet no less than 11 times a year at which the Board shall review and discuss reports by management on the performance of the MTA, its plans and prospects, as well as immediate issues facing the MTA. Board members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of the Board and meetings of Committees on which they serve. The entire Board shall be responsible for the general oversight of the Authority's senior management in furtherance of the effective and ethical management of the entire MTA, as required by law. In addition to this general responsibility, the entire Board (with the assistance of Committees of the Board as appropriate) shall also perform a number of specific functions, including
- (a) providing counsel and oversight on the evaluation, development and compensation of senior management. When determining compensation for the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, the Board, as required by law, shall act without the participation of the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer;
  - (b) reviewing, approving and monitoring fundamental financial and business strategies and major actions, including fundamental financial and management controls;
  - (c) assessing major risks facing the MTA and reviewing options for the mitigation of these risks;
  - (d) ensuring processes are in place for maintaining the integrity of the MTA, including the integrity of the financial statements of the MTA (and the financial statements of the MTA subsidiaries or component units that are required by law to issue separate financial statements), the integrity of the MTA's compliance with law and ethics (including by adopting and updating codes of ethics applicable to MTA directors, officers and employees that at a minimum incorporate the standards established in section seventy-four of the Public Officers Law), the integrity of the MTA's relationships with customers and suppliers, and the integrity of the MTA's relationship with the public at large;
  - (e) establishing written policies and procedures on personnel including policies protecting employees from retaliation for disclosing information concerning acts of wrongdoing, misconduct, malfeasance, or other inappropriate behavior by an employee or board member of the authority; investments; travel; the acquisition of real property; the disposition of real and personal property; and the procurement of goods and services; and

- (f) adopting a defense and indemnification policy and disclose such plan to any and all prospective board members.
3. **Functions of Senior Management:** The Chairman/Chief Executive Officer serves ex officio as the chair and chief executive officer of each of affiliated and subsidiary MTA Agencies and is responsible for appointing such other officials and employees (including, in his or her discretion, an Executive Director) as he or she determines is necessary and appropriate. These other officials and employees serve under the direction and at the pleasure of the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer. The Presidents of the MTA's constituent Agencies, pursuant to the direction of the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, are primarily responsible for the general management and operations of such constituent Agencies.
  4. **Committees of the Board.** The Chairman has established the following Committees to assist him and the Board in discharging their responsibilities: (1) the Audit Committee; (2) the Committee on Finance; (3) the Committee on Operations of the New York City Transit Authority, the Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority, the Staten Island Rapid Transit Operating Authority and the MTA Bus Company; (4) the Committee on Operation of the Metro-North Commuter Railroad; (5) the Committee on Operation of the Long Island Rail Road; (6) the Committee on Operations of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority; (7) the Committee on Capital Program Oversight; (8) the Diversity Committee; (9) the Corporate Governance Committee; and (10) the Safety Committee. The current charters and key practices of these Committees shall be maintained on the MTA website. The Committees may hold meetings in conjunction with the entire Board, as appropriate.
  5. **Self-Assessment.** The Board, as a whole, and each of the Committees, individually, will perform an annual self-assessment. The Board will be requested to provide their assessments of the effectiveness of the Board, as a whole, and of the Committees on which they serve. The individual assessments will be organized and summarized for discussion with the Board and the Committees.
  6. **Setting Agendas for Meetings of the Board.** The Chairman shall be responsible for the agenda of the Board meetings. Upon the request of the Chairman, an Agency President shall report to the Board regarding that Agency's operations, finances, and performance (with specific reference to the benchmarks established for that Agency) since the last time such Agency President reported to a meeting of the Board. The Chairman, or Committee chair as appropriate in consultation with the Chairman, shall determine the nature and extent of information that shall be provided regularly to Board members before each scheduled Board or Committee meeting. Committee chairs shall report to the entire Board for approval the matters discussed or recommended at Committee meetings as appropriate. Board members are urged to make suggestions for agenda items, or additional pre-meeting materials, to the Chairman, or the appropriate Committee chair at any time.
  7. **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest.** The Chairman, Board members and the other officers and employees of the MTA are expected to act ethically at all times, to acknowledge their adherence to the policies comprising the MTA All-Agency and MTA Board Members

Codes of Ethics and to comply in all respects with the Codes of Ethics. If an actual or potential conflict of interest arises for an MTA Board Member, the MTA Member shall promptly inform the Chairman. All Board members will recuse themselves from any discussion or decision affecting their personal or commercial interests. Other than in such instances where jurisdiction over a conflict matter lies with the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, the Board shall resolve any unresolved conflict of interest question involving the Chairman, a Vice Chairman, an MTA Member, the Auditor General, or an Agency President, and the Chairman shall resolve any unresolved conflict of interest issue involving any other officer of the MTA. If a significant conflict exists and cannot be resolved, the MTA Board Member should resign.

8. **Oversight of Significant MTA Policies.** The Board shall ensure that the MTA has policies addressing significant issues, and shall regularly review and, as appropriate, suggest changes or additions to, all such statements of significant MTA policy. Each statement of a significant MTA policy should be published in an accessible manner.
9. **Access of Senior Management to the Board.** Senior management are encouraged to, from time to time, bring managers into meetings of the Board who (a) can provide additional insight into the items being discussed because of personal involvement in these areas, an/or (b) are managers with future potential that the senior management believes should be given exposure to the Board.
10. **Access to Independent Advisors.** The Board or any Committee thereof shall have the right at any time to retain independent outside financial, legal or other advisors.
11. **MTA Member Orientation.** Each new MTA Board member shall, within three months of appointment as an MTA Board member, spend a day at MTA headquarters for personal briefing by the Chairman and other senior management on the MTA's strategic plans, its financial statements, and its key policies and practices. In addition, within one year of appointment, each new MTA Board member must participate in State-approved training regarding their legal, fiduciary, financial and ethical responsibilities. The Chief Executive Officer, the MTA General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer shall be responsible for providing additional orientation materials and programs for new Board members, as appropriate. MTA Board members shall participate in such continuing training as may be required to remain informed of best practices, regulatory and statutory changes relating to the effective oversight of the management and financial activities of the MTA and to adhere to the highest standards.