



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MARCH 20, 2013

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors was held in the meeting room at Music City Central at 400 Charlotte Avenue on March 20, 2013. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by RTA Vice-Chair Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Vice-Chair McMillan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2013 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
- IV. **MARKETING REPORT:** Committee Chair Williamson County Governor Appointee Kelly Dannenfeler reported that the committee met last week with an extended session and had a great discussion about possibilities for future marketing opportunities. Some of these included some short term opportunities like assisting the Transit Alliance with a presentation at the Power of 10 and marketing the additional service for the 94X Clarksville Express. Continuing, Chair Dannenfeler included longer term opportunities such as coordinating branding efforts for the RTA's express bus service with other transit service including the future bus rapid transit East West Connector and the new BRT lite project. In closing, Chair Dannenfeler thanked the Marketing Committee for their great participation and stated they will be continuing the discussion next month.
- V. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** Committee Member White House City Administrator Gerald Herman reported that ridership continues to go up which is exciting for all. The only concern was that the Springfield/Joelton route was down in numbers. The Marketing Committee is planning to target that area with marketing materials in hopes of boosting awareness of the route and subsequently increasing ridership.
- VI. **FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT:** Committee Chair Paul Webb noted that in the reports we are comparing actual numbers to prior numbers, which helps in budgeting. At the end of January, which is being reported today, it is still very positive compared to budget and we are doing great in cash flow. Our balance sheet is showing a positive balance and working capital is up. The accounts payable are good and the line of credit has only drawn \$70,000, which is indicative of a very good cash flow.

Chair Webb then asked CFO Ed Oliphant to give the Board a brief update on his recent legislative trip to Washington. Mr. Oliphant reported that he actually met with four congressmen and two senators and that the meetings were very positive. He thanked Mayors McMillan and Bowers for finding Marsha Blackburn for him. She was extremely positive in terms of support for the potential of a train running between Nashville and Clarksville. Additionally, they discussed the increased ridership, the additional service on the southeast corridor, the transit –oriented development at Hamilton Springs and the Park and Ride at Volunteer State. It was a very positive visit. Congressman Blackburn would like to hear the results of the study for the potential of a train between Nashville and Clarksville once that has been completed.

VII. CHAIR’S REPORT: Chair Karl Dean was out of town and there was no Chair’s report.

VIII. CEO’S REPORT: CEO Paul Ballard reported that yesterday (March 19) was the Tennessee Public Transportation Association’s (TPTA) Day on the Hill here in Nashville. This is done every year and each of the transit systems from around the state set up tables in the legislative plaza. They participated in several committee meetings and met with several members of the legislature.

At one of the committee meetings he was asked to talk about the Southeast corridor; what is going on in that corridor, what is the service that we provide, and what are some of the future plans. Mr. Ballard talked about the MPO plan that is currently going on in that corridor. It was a very, very positive day with a lot of interest and a lot of questions.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Ballard made a presentation to the North Carolina Railroad Conference in Raleigh, NC. He had two video presentations that he shared at the conference and then presented them to the Board. The first, *A Day in the Life of the Music City Star*, is a slide show with music and he offered to make it available to any of the members who might want to use it. The second video was of a little girl in Nashville who had her third birthday party and rode the train. That video can also be made available to anyone who would like to have it.

IX. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT: RTA General Manager Lora Baulsir presented the following:

a. 2013 DUES REPORT (I-013-004): Ms. Baulsir presented the dues for 2014. Although the payment is not due until October 1, 2013, Ms. Baulsir knew that many would need their figures now for work on their upcoming budgets.

Continuing, Ms. Baulsir reported that she went on an excursion train on Saturday with a transportation fraternity. It was exciting to see the Hamilton Springs project. Additionally, she and Mr. Ballard will be meeting in a few weeks with Mayors Craighead and Hutto to tour two development sites with potential future commuter rail service requests. The mayors will provide a briefing for the Board when the plans are more concrete.

Greensboro North is moving ahead with the transit ready development and at last night’s Gallatin Council meeting the council voted to accept some property that

was donated to them and that will serve as the local match for the Greensboro North project and will become a park and ride location for this corridor.

Ms. Baulsir reported that she has been working with a group of leaders from the Donelson/Hermitage Chamber who are planning several events on the Friday night train to increase awareness of this service. The next event will be in April where about 100 people will be taking the train to a Predators game.

At the earlier MPO meeting today, the Board approved some projects that RTA had submitted. Some of them include:

1. Positive Train Control - to begin installation of the safety equipment
2. Fare collection – we are going to put ticket vending machines at all the train stations
3. Passing siding – going to start the process to get another rail line at the Martha station that will enable trains to pass and that will allow all three trains to run the full route to Lebanon
4. Rehab work on Music City Central line – replacement of ties, continuous welding of rail, straightening curves
5. Several train cars and locomotives will be rehabbed
6. We will start the feasibility study for the Clarksville rail service
7. Wi-Fi for the train

Ms. Baulsir also noted that Wi-Fi was being installed on all the express buses this week.

Conversation was initiated by Vice-Chair McMillan about proximity cards for use with the Express Bus services. Ms. Baulsir stated that it is now available for anyone who regularly uses RTA services. It is a smart card that will allow RTA customers to transfer from their express bus to an MTA local bus to complete their commute. This is at no charge to the user; the RTA pays the MTA for the proximity cards used.

X. OTHER BUSINESS: Ed Cole mentioned the upcoming Transit Leadership Summit meetings in each of the ten counties with the first scheduled in Sumner County on the 4th of April and the second in Rutherford County on the 16th of April.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paula Mansfield

Governor Appointee
RTA Secretary