



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 16, 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, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN on October 16, 2013. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. by RTA Secretary Paula Mansfield, Governor's Appointee. Chair Mayor Karl Dean and Vice Chair Mayor McMillan both had other commitments and were not able to attend today.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Secretary Mansfield entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Nashville resident Margot Chambers addressed the Board. Ms. Chambers reminded the Board that the East-West Connector needs to conform to USDOT Section 4F.
- IV. **MARKETING REPORT:** Committee Chair Governor's Appointee Kelly Dannenfeler reported that Ms. Morehead presented information concerning the New Year's Eve train service and that will be brought before the Board officially in one of the following committee reports.

Committee Chair Kelly Dannenfeler also reported that the committee is continuing to work on rebranding goals for RTA services. One goal that is emerging is to work towards the transit message for the region. The committee has asked the other transit operators in the region to attend next month's meeting on November 12th at 10:00 a.m. Franklin Transit, Murfreesboro, and Clarksville are on board and will be invited to join in this discussion. The committee hopes that MTA will be able to join as well as the committee explores the concept of one region with many different transit options.

- V. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** Committee Chair Portland Mayor Ken Wilber reported that the fiscal year 2014 numbers remain on a positive note with all four corridors reporting double digit increases compared to last August. The RTA bus express and shuttle services had another month with a double digit increase of almost 19%. The commuter rail and express bus totals were up 5.1% over the same period last year. The combined public transportation numbers for Middle Tennessee show a 2.6% increase when comparing August 2013 with August 2012. Bus service for MTA, RTA, and Franklin Transit all reported increases.

He then presented the following item:

- a. **NEW YEAR'S EVE TRAIN SERVICE (A-13-018):** Dawn Distler brought an Action Item to the committee regarding the proposed New Year's Eve train service. There have been many requests for this service to be added and the committee feels this is an excellent opportunity to attract new riders to the Music City Star service. The New Year's Eve train would operate on Tuesday, December 31st, much like the regular Friday night train service with the exception of the last outbound train. The last train would depart from Riverfront Station thirty minutes after the end of the fireworks show. The Star would run a three-car set and RTA would set a selling maximum of 400 tickets. The roundtrip ticket price will be \$12.

The committee reviewed and discussed the proposed plan and recommends this action item to the Board for approval. The committee's recommendation was seconded, there was no discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- VI. **FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:** Committee Chair Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess reported that the operational revenue is favorable compared to budget; our other income at Federal and State is favorable according to budget; capital revenue is lagging a little bit and may lag a little bit more depending on the government shutdown; and, our operating expenses are less than budget. We are having to draw the line of credit down, and can continue to do so until it runs out November to December, if the funds in Washington continue to be unavailable.
- VII. **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Secretary Mansfield deferred the Chair's report.
- VIII. **CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Paul Ballard reminded the Board that they will be meeting a week earlier in December. The committees will meet on December 3rd and the full Board will meet on December 11th.
- IX. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** General Manager Lora Baulsir reported that revenue exceeded expenses by approximately \$3,000.00 on the Wilson County Fair train service. She and Mayor Craighead have already been discussing next year's train service to the Wilson County Fair and how they can make it bigger and better.

Ms. Baulsir noted many activities happening with the RTA. The highlights included:

- **The Star** - In September, Lebanon High School had a class reunion and as part of that event they took a train trip on the Friday night train to have dinner in Nashville. The next weekend, Hip-Donelson had their annual event to promote the train, combining a Friday night train ride with dinner in Nashville.
- **Requests for filming** - Murfreesboro wants to produce a public information spot on how to ride and use the Murfreesboro service. They

plan to play this on their local station to encourage more people to try the bus. The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce has gotten some grant money and wants to do a short filming on the Music City Star next week.

- **Transit Leadership Summit** - was held in Dickson County and Ms. Baulsir thanked Mayor Rial and Scott England for coordinating that. They had good discussions and are looking forward to being able to find funding to start express bus service in their county. Dickson County has a strong van pool operation, which is really good to move us toward express buses next. Another summit is planned in November for Montgomery County.
- **Update on Balance of 2009 Stimulus Funds** – We initially received funding for rehab for a locomotive and also to build the permanent Martha Train Station. We had about \$80,000 left that had to be spent before the end of September of this year. With that we were able to buy some spare parts that we normally do not have the money to keep in stock. This will help us avoid repair delays due to waiting on parts. We also purchased some windows for rehab on some of the train cars.
- **TPTA Conference** – is next week at Music City Center. All of the state transit systems attend. Included in this year's activities will be a train excursion to the Hamilton Springs property where a lot of apartments have now been sold. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be done in conjunction with this.

X. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson asked if we were working with the new company that is coming into Montgomery County to help fulfill some of those job requirements from this area. CEO Paul Ballard replied that we are really excited about this and that we would first start with van pool and car pool matches. He also noted that we will be looking at where they are going to build and how that lines up with the present Clarksville service. This is something that does have our focus.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paula Mansfield

Governor Appointee
RTA Secretary