



**MINUTES**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

- 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 Wednesday, September 16, 2015. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Chair Kim McMillan, Clarksville Mayor.
- II. **Special Presentation to Retiring Metro Nashville and Davidson County Mayor Karl Dean:** Chair Kim McMillan noted that this was Mayor Dean’s last meeting of the RTA and because he has been such a stalwart leader and friend to the RTA and to transportation issues in general we have a special presentation for him. Mayor Dean was asked to come forward and Chair McMillan read the inscription: “Thanks for moving Nashville and the RTA forward.” From the RTA Board we want to say thank you, Mayor Dean, for everything you have done. (Applause.)
- Mayor Dean thanked everyone for their friendship and help over the last eight years. The work that the RTA does is absolutely essential. He is most proud of how much the ridership in RTA has grown in the last five or six years. It is very impressive and the potential for continued growth and expansion is absolutely fantastic but it is also key to the success of this region. This and education are the issues we have to get right and he feels very confident that this group will keep moving forward in a thoughtful and progressive way.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair McMillan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2015 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the vote of approval was unanimous with one abstention.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chair McMillan opened the floor for public comments and recognized the following members of the public:

**Jo Ann Graves with Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee (TAMT)**

Ms. Graves updated the Board on recent activities in the Transit Alliance:

- The first class of this year’s Transit Citizen’s Leadership Academy (TCLA) will start on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a seven week class held at Lipscomb University with two slots left and if anyone has a recommendation for one of those, please let her know.
- Cumberland Region Tomorrow (CRT) as well as TAMT are working on our community outreach meetings thanks to Nashville MTA’s partnership and working with us. Meetings will be set up in the respective counties to talk

about feedback from your citizens as to how they see transit and what they want to happen over the coming years. That feedback will be given to Nashville MTA and the RTA to use in their strategic plan.

**Margo Chambers of Nashville, TN** spoke from the floor stating that she would like to have a slot in the TCLA class.

- V. **MARKETING REPORT:** Committee Chair Gerald Herman, City of White House Alternate, reported that the Committee met on September 8th. The following are the highlights from their discussion:
- **Wilson County Fair:** Staff reported that nearly 400 people rode the Music City Star for the special two days of transit to the Wilson County Fair.
  - **The Titan Game Day Express:** We now have a signed contract with MillerCoors, Office of Responsibility, to provide free Music City Star train rides to-and-from the Titan home games. Rides will be free for the first 650 customers who reserve their tickets in advance. The first home game is September 27th.
  - **Greensboro North:** The new Greensboro North Park-and-Ride, located on Enterprise Drive in Gallatin, is now open. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at its location which is on the back side of the campus of Volunteer State Community College. This is the first component of Middle Tennessee's first planned Transit-Ready Development. This was a public/private partnership with Green and Little, L.P., City of Gallatin, and the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

There were no action items and this concluded the Marketing report.

- VI. **FINANCE & AUDIT REPORT:** Chair Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt reported that the committee met last week and everything seemed in order with our financials as we started off our fiscal year. They had a lot of discussion and some good news in that the Congested Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding has come in for the next three years. The 2016 budget was discussed. There are still some questions to be answered and the committee feels it is advantageous to us to defer passing that budget. Mayor Moore is working on some funding issues with the City of Franklin and we need to allow him time for that.

- VII. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** Committee Chair City of Portland Mayor Ken Wilber reported that the committee met and received a good report from operations. He then presented the following action item:

- a. **Fall 2015 Service Changes (A-15-015):** Mayor Wilber recommended that the Board approve the Fall 2015 Services Changes with the amendment that the changes affecting the Route 91X- Franklin Express be removed from the action item.

Chair McMillan accepted a motion on the amendment to Board Action Item A-15-015. This was properly seconded and the amendment passed unanimously.

Chair McMillan called for a vote on the action item as amended and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**VIII. CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Steve Bland reported on the following projects:

- **Greensboro North Park-and-Ride:** Opened this past Monday (September 14). He extended a special thanks to our Sumner County delegation – County Executive Holt, Gallatin Mayor Brown, and Governor Appointee Lee Zoller. This is a first-rate facility and something we ought to emulate in the other corridors in the other counties.
- **Mt. Juliet:** We have been working very closely with the City of Mt. Juliet Mayor Hagerty on a joint development request for proposals around the Mt. Juliet station. We had a pre-proposal the last couple of weeks with significant interest from the development community with those proposals due September 25<sup>th</sup>. We would anticipate before the end of the year bringing something forward for your consideration.
- **Hamilton Springs:** We are advancing that project and are still negotiating the Memorandum of Understanding with the developer, Mr. Bell. We are also addressing some storm water issues with the City of Lebanon and a couple of environmental issues we need to work out, nothing major, before we can advance the actual construction documents on that.
- **Positive Train Control Plan:** We are working with the Nashville and Eastern on their Positive Train Control plan. The pending deadline for Positive Train Control has brought that to the attention of Congress. There has been a considerable amount of dialog with both the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Senate Committee overseeing that but it continues to progress.
- **Strategic Plan:** Next month at the Marketing Committee meeting we will be doing some significant reporting on the update to the Strategic Plan. In the next couple of weeks we anticipate the State of the RTA System Report to be published on the plan website, [www.nmotion2015.org](http://www.nmotion2015.org). We think the October meeting will be a great opportunity to bring the Board up to speed on what is going on and where this is headed and also bring forth the action item to expand the outreach to the ring counties around Davidson County.
- **Northwest Corridor Study:** This study continues at pace and on schedule with a significant number of outreach events happening this past month and ongoing for this week and next.

In closing, Mr. Bland thanked the Robertson County Chamber and former board member Margo Fosnes for the opportunity to speak at their “Lunch and Learn” on the topic of transit. The level of attendance for a noon-time event was very impressive as was the volume and quantity of well thought-out questions. Whatever the Transit Alliance is doing in Robertson County definitely has the people’s attention.

**IX. CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair McMillan thanked Mayor Dean for his dedicated service to the City of Nashville and to the RTA. It was his real dedication to transit that has set us off on the right track to moving forward with so many transit opportunities.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mayor McCullough thanked Ms. Patricia Harris-Morehead and her team for all the work they have done on the Music City Star for the free train excursion for the Titan’s season. We were looking at what would have been a step

backwards had we cancelled the Titan's Game Day Express and have instead, taken a huge leap forward with the Millers/Coors endorsement. Chair Mayor McMillan encouraged the membership to be there next month when the final budget would be presented for their approval.

Steve Bland was asked to tell the Board about the electric buses and he took the next couple of minutes to give a brief overview of their operation.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully,

*Paula Mansfield*  
Governor's Appointee  
RTA Secretary