



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MARCH 16, 2016

- 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, March 16, 2016. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chair Kim McMillan, Clarksville Mayor.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair McMillan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chair McMillan opened the floor for public comments and recognized the following member of the public:

Jo Ann Graves with Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee (TAMT) had these comments:

- The information graphic (hand-out on table at board meeting) contains current details of the public transit issues the region is facing in Tennessee and what TAMT is doing to address these issues.
- The next class of the Transit Citizens Leadership Academy will begin on April 27th. Recommendations of citizens for participation are welcome.
- New in 2016 -TAMT is instituting the Transit Government Leadership Conferences to be held in the counties. Elected and appointed leaders of the county will be invited to come in for a three hour session and to participate in discussion led by keynote speakers from the region about why transit is important.
- TMTAT has started a second round of RTA county community meetings that give citizens in the out-lying area an opportunity to hear directly from the CEO of the RTA and have their questions answered. They are also invited to complete the survey, giving everyone an opportunity to have a voice in this project.
- The P3 (Public-Private Partnership) legislation is in the House Transportation Sub-Committee today at noon. The P3 bill allows for an infrastructure to be developed that the private sector could actually come in and do business with the public sector for transit projects. TDOT will write the rules on that bill. It has not passed out of the Senate Committee. This bill would allow us to expedite projects related to transit.

There were no other public comments at this time.

- IV. **FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT:** Board Chair McMillan called on RTA Controller Shelley McElhaney to present the report.
- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (I-16-003):** Ms. McElhaney reviewed the Statement of Operations Compared to Budget and the Comparative Balance Sheets for the period ending January 31, 2016. All things were in order, and there were no questions.
- b. **Fifth-Third revolving Line of Credit Renewal(A-16-002):** RTA has had an operating line of credit through Fifth-Third Bank for the last year in the amount of \$1.5 million for general borrowings to cash flow expenses for the Music City Star. The maturity date for the current line of credit is April 1, 2016. While we continue to reduce the frequency of need to utilize the line, it is difficult to forecast the availability of future federal grant funding. Consequently, we believe it is imperative to renew the line of credit in order to ensure timely cash flow for expenses. All covenants have been met, and there is currently no balance on the line of credit. Costs to renew the line include attorney's fees and a small closing fee. These have been included in the annual budget.

Any borrowings are paid back through federal 5307 formula grants when the grant funding becomes available. The general line of credit is only utilized to pay for expenses incurred for the train that are reimbursable by a federal grant.

We are requesting that the Board authorize CEO Steve Bland, to sign a one-year extension of the Fifth-Third Bank revolving credit agreement for \$1.5 million.

Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the vote to adopt this item was unanimous.

- V. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** Chair Mayor Wilber reported that the committee did not meet. He asked RTA Operations Supervisor Gabriel Burgess to review the operating statistics for the Board.
- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (I-16-004):** Mr. Burgess noted that snowy conditions in January impacted ridership numbers for a full week. Additional circumstances that had impact on the ridership numbers were one less week day in January compared to the year before, the loss of a park-and-ride, and gasoline prices for both diesel and regular continued to be low. Ridership is expected to come back up in February.
- VI. **CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Steve Bland reported the following:
- Hamilton Springs Station project designs have been completed.
 - All regulatory work with the City of Lebanon has been completed.
 - In the past month we have cleared the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) with the Federal Transit Authority.
 - We have been asked to do a cost justification for our approach to level platform boarding. On the Music City Star, you generally step up into the train and there is one ramp section for wheelchair access. About a year or so ago, the federal government passed a revised level platform boarding guidance where they require full level platform boarding on any new station. We can apply for an exemption from

this if we can prove cost or operational justification. We are in the process of doing that and we expect it to be approved.

- We continue to work on Positive Train Control (PTC).
 - Terry Bebout and his group have been doing quite a bit of work in responding to questions from the Federal Railroad Association (FRA). We are asking for type approval on an alternate system to save money.
 - The core PTC guidelines were written with areas like the northeast corridor in mind and we have a very simple corridor. We are very creative in coming up with an alternate solution and we are now working through that process.
 - The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act did include an extension that we should have no trouble meeting if, and when, we get the type approval from the FRA.
- We participated in Rutherford County Chamber's Legislative breakfast this past week and we were grateful to have Mayor Burgess' participation. We were also fortunate to have Senator Jim Tracy, Senator Bill Ketron, and Representative Mike Sparks on the panel. There was good dialog on transportation in Middle Tennessee.
- The bus on shoulder legislation cleared the Senate Finance and House Transportation Committees yesterday. This doesn't mean we are done, but we are hopeful. This could have a positive impact for the RTA.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair McMillan waived her report in light of getting back on schedule.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: Jo Ann Graves noted that the TAMT is hosting an alumni reception on April 6 at the Baker Donelson building and invited the members to attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paula Mansfield

Governor's Appointee
RTA Secretary