



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
AUGUST 17, 2016

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) met on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 in conjunction with the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors. This meeting was held in Conference Room 1 of the Nashville Downtown Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219. A quorum for both the MTA and the RTA was established and RTA Chair Kim McMillan, City of Clarksville Mayor, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

RTA Chair Kim McMillan

RTA Chair McMillan welcomed everyone to this historic gathering, the first time the boards of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Nashville/Davidson County (Nashville MTA) have met together. Mayor McMillan stated that the Boards are meeting together today in joint session of an historic event and that is to hear a presentation of the long-range transit plan for this region. This plan has been in development for more than 18 months and lays out a transit strategy for the region to follow for the next 25 years.

Chair McMillan personally thanked the members of the RTA Board, including Nashville & Davidson County Mayor Megan Barry, who is the host for today's meeting. She added that RTA's Board members have been very engaged in this strategic planning process from the very beginning acknowledging that any transportation plan we develop must take into account the needs of this entire region.

Mayor McMillan also welcomed the members of the Nashville MTA board and noted how glad she was that they can meet to hear the nMotion plan together. At this time Mayor McMillan invited Nashville MTA Vice Chair Lewis Lavine to say a few words.

MTA Vice-Chair Lewis Lavine

Vice Chair Lavine thanked Mayor McMillan and noted that he was representing Nashville MTA Board Chair Gail Carr Williams. Continuing he added that the Nashville MTA Board consists of five members appointed by the Nashville Metropolitan Mayor. He noted that this event is a culmination of quite a long time of service for Mr. Lavine on transit boards. He was on the RTA Board quite a while ago and has been on the Nashville MTA Board for a long time as well.

About a year and a half ago, the Nashville MTA Board went through a series of discussions about what transportation was going to look like in Nashville; and since then, we have been working on a plan. This is a wonderful day. It is not a conclusion, but a beginning. This is an opportunity for Middle Tennessee and Nashville to come together and he appreciates the opportunity to meet jointly today. Vice Chair Lavine turned the floor over to Nashville and Davidson County Mayor Barry noting that she has been in office almost a year and has shown herself to be a great friend of transportation and transit.

Nashville & Davidson County Mayor Megan Barry

Mayor Barry thanked the Nashville Downtown Library for hosting this event today.

Mayor Barry noted that she was wearing several hats today, but was at this meeting in her official capacity as a member of the RTA board. She agreed with Chair McMillan that transit is a regional problem and needs a regional solution.

Continuing, Mayor Barry added that she is also very interested in today's presentation in her role as Mayor of Nashville. She added that the mobility needs of the community have been on the top of her list since her first day in office. People need a much easier way to get around, and if they can do that, it improves their quality of life. It is an environmental issue. It is an economic development issue. It is a growth issue, and it is also an affordable housing issue. All of those together are key. Mayor Barry noted that we have to be bold and what we are going to see today is bold.

Continuing, Mayor Barry added that this (plan) is probably going to take more time than her entire time in office, but we have to start, and we have to start now because it is not going to get any better. She is grateful for all the hard work that Steve Bland and his team have done to make this possible. We are going to hear some really exciting things today. With that, we will be able to take those exciting things and move to action, because at some point you have to stop studying things and put a shovel into the ground. Mayor Barry acknowledged that Mayor McMillan has been key in all of this and she gave the floor to her.

RTA Chair Kim McMillan

Mayor McMillan stated that all of the members of both boards share the feeling that this is truly a regional issue and needs regional solutions. The members of the RTA Board that are here today and the members of the MTA Board stand ready to do whatever it takes to put those regional solutions into action.

Concluding, she stated that in order to get to the heart of the meeting today, it is necessary for the RTA to first conduct some preliminary business. At this point Chair McMillan opened the floor for public comments.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chair McMillan asked that public comments be kept to three minutes. She then recognized the following member of the public:

Margo Chambers of Nashville had these comments:

- Ms. Chambers had commented on the Title VI Analysis for Fall Service Changes that was presented at the Nashville MTA Board meeting concerning the maps. Ms. Chambers stated that the two Title VI maps

presented were not titled. She would like the maps to be titled indicating which one has MPO land use incorporated into it.

There were no other public comments and the time for public comments closed.

II. OPERATIONS REPORT: Operations Chair and City of Portland Mayor Ken Wilber presented the following action items for the Board's consideration:

- a. Title VI Analysis for Fall Service Changes (A-16-014):** The committee reviewed the proposed fall 2016 service changes including two specific items. The first one is RTA Route 94X Clarksville Express. The changes will include adding an additional morning and afternoon trip to the schedule to meet the growing ridership need. This is funded through a Congested Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant and is in the approved budget. The Park & Ride lot on I-24 will be relocated from Exit 8 to a larger site on Exit 11 to allow for 200 parking spaces (there are 125 spaces in the existing location) and a covered shelter and a bus turn-around. The Park & Ride project is funded by TDOT.

RTA Staff presented the proposal for service changes for public comment in July through public hearings and additional rider outreach. The current service changes discussed here reflect slight adjustments based on those public comments.

A full review of potential impact for Title VI and Civil Rights Acts found no disparate impact or disproportionate burden associated with the implementation of these proposed service changes. Therefore, the Operations Committee recommends full board acceptance of this Title VI analysis per FTA Title VI regulations prior to adoption of proposed service changes to be effective on Monday, Oct. 3, 2016.

Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the item was adopted unanimously.

- b. Fall Service Changes Title VI Analysis (A-16-015):** Chair Wilber motioned that this item be put forth for a vote of approval. Motion was properly seconded and there was no discussion. The item was adopted unanimously.

AT THIS TIME IT WAS NOTED THAT THE MINUTES HAD NOT BEEN APPROVED.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Proper motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016 RTA Board of Directors meeting. There were no additions or corrections, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

IV. nMOTION RECOMMENDATIONS: CEO Steve Bland clarified for both boards that the action being requested today is not final approval of this plan. It is a request that this be released to another 30-day wave of public comment to allow the public to have an opportunity to make their comments as they will at the public meetings, online, and at each of the board meetings the next month. Mr. Bland then presented the nMotion Transit Plan Recommendations that can be found at http://nmotion2015.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MTA_RecommendedPlan-Draft.pdf.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Bland stated that in reference to next steps, this plan has been designed in a building block approach of short-term, medium-term, and long-term. A lot of the design is to use short-term steps to build toward longer-term success. Short-term steps will have immediate benefit, but will also set us up for longer-term success.

Concluding, Mr. Bland commented on how we will pay for this. He suggested that before we get too deep into how we are going to fund the plan, let us gain some regional consensus that we are shooting at a target we really want to hit. Other regions that have successfully done this have been able to demonstrate to the public this is what you are going to get for your money, this is how you are going to pay for it, and this is when you will see benefit and also the types of benefits that you will see. If we are able to get to that point, it will make how we pay for it a little easier. This concluded the presentation.

RTA Chair Kim McMillan thanked Steve Bland for the presentation and presented the following action item:

- a. **nMotion Recommendations RTA (A-16-016):** Over the last year and a half, the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) have been undertaking a Strategic Plan process known as nMotion. The project is a 25-year comprehensive plan designed to meet Nashville's and the region's vision for transit. The plan looks at how the transit system works today and identifies opportunities to enhance the transit system, improve service, attract and retain riders, and meet the growing needs of the Middle Tennessee region through the year 2040.

With public transportation and regional mobility in the forefront of public discussion, the nMotion process focused on engaging a broad range of people in the discussion of potential futures. To date, approximately 19,000 comments from Middle Tennesseans have expressed thoughts about values, concerns, and desires for the future of regional mobility. Throughout the process, MTA and RTA have shared a myriad of information including the current state of the system, regional development and population trends, descriptions of dozens of potential strategies to enhance the system, and three different future transit scenarios as possible options to shape regional travel in the coming decades.

The nMotion strategic plan is the culmination of a comprehensive process that reflects the NashvilleNext's preferred future, the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Regional Transit Vision, other regional efforts, and public desires captured during extensive civic engagement. The recommended plan is designed to make transit an integral part of Middle Tennessee's transportation system and a viable and attractive option to single occupancy vehicle. The plan recommendations are intended to guide the development of future transit services and projects in the region and are outlined on the nMotion Recommendations Overview Report.

Staff requests that the RTA Board endorse the recommendations from the nMotion Strategic Plan to be released for a 30-day public review and comment

period. A Final Plan will be presented for adoption at the September 21, 2016 Board meeting.

Proper motion was made and properly seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Chair McMillan recognized Nashville MTA Board Chair Gail Carr Williams. Chair Williams presented the following action item:

- b. nMotion Recommendations MTA (A-16-021):** Over the last year and a half, the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) have been undertaking a Strategic Plan process known as nMotion. The project is a 25-year comprehensive plan designed to meet Nashville's and the region's vision for transit. The plan looks at how the transit system works today and identifies opportunities to enhance the transit system, improve service, attract and retain riders, and meet the growing needs of the Middle Tennessee region through the year 2040.

With public transportation and regional mobility in the forefront of public discussion, the nMotion process focused on engaging a broad range of people in the discussion of potential futures. To date, approximately 19,000 comments from Middle Tennesseans have expressed thoughts about values, concerns, and desires for the future of regional mobility. Throughout the process, MTA and RTA have shared a myriad of information including the current state of the system, regional development and population trends, descriptions of dozens of potential strategies to enhance the system, and three different future transit scenarios as possible options to shape regional travel in the coming decades.

The nMotion Strategic Plan is the culmination of a comprehensive process that reflects the NashvilleNext's preferred future, the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Regional Transit Vision, other regional efforts, and public desires captured during extensive civic engagement. The recommended plan is designed to make transit an integral part of Middle Tennessee's transportation system and a viable and attractive option to single occupancy vehicle. The plan recommendations are intended to guide the development of future transit services and projects in the region and are outlined on the nMotion Recommendations Overview Report.

Staff requests that the MTA Board endorse the recommendations from the nMotion Strategic Plan to be released for a 30-day public review and comment period. A Final Plan will be presented for adoption at the September 22, 2016 Board meeting.

Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted unanimously.

RTA Chair McMillan acknowledged that the work for which they had been brought together in a joint meeting has now been accomplished. She thanked the members of both boards and those that had taken part in the presentation but

with the admonition that their work is not done. This is a continuing effort on behalf of all the regional partners in this area as we continue to move forward.

Chair McMillan gave the floor to MTA Board Chair Gail Carr Williams for her final remarks. Chair Williams thanked the members of the community for being there and for the active participation of the community during this process. She thanked the MTA Board members with a special note of appreciation to Lewis Lavine who has spearheaded the efforts of the committee overseeing the nMotion process since its inception.

Continuing, Chair Williams acknowledged the presence of former MTA Board member Marian Ott who just recently concluded her term on their board of directors. Chair Williams stated that Marian Ott epitomizes all that is best about the MTA and about public service in general. Her commitment to transparency and decision making, her demand for best possible information to support our decisions, and her interest in serving those in our community who have the greatest need for our services is beyond compare. This nMotion process would not have happened without her leadership, and we are all deeply grateful. Marian Ott is one of a very small handful of people in this community who we can truthfully say that without her we could not possibly have enjoyed the many successes to date that position us to take on the aggressive agenda called for in this plan. Marian, on behalf of so many people here, we thank you. This concluded her comments.

RTA Chair McMillan also acknowledged Marian Ott's role not only as the chair of the MTA Board, but in the role she played in the RTA and the whole regional transit effort. She added that Marian was the founding executive director of the RTA, and its growth and success, including the constructing and commissioning of Tennessee's first and only existing commuter rail line, the Music City Star, could not have been possible without Marian's efforts. We appreciate her for all of her public service and her work in that regard.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business to come before the Board.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paula Mansfield

Governor's Appointee
RTA Secretary