



**MINUTES**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board of Directors was held in the meeting room at Music City Central, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Kim McMillan, Clarksville Mayor.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair McMillan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017 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 members of the public:

Cheryl Lewis, a frequent rider of the Music City Star, was recognized and stated her support of Transit Solutions Group's (TSG) management of the Music City Star and encouraged the Board to renew their management contract with TSG.

Jo Ann Graves, President and CEO of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee (TAMT), reported that another Transit Citizenship Leadership Academy class has started and for the first time since inception, every county is represented. She encouraged the members to have anyone interested in upcoming classes to get on the list because the classes fill quickly.

There were no other public comments at this time.

**IV. FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT:** Committee Chair Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt reported on the following items:

**a. Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (I-17-003):** Chair Holt called upon Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant to give this report. Mr. Oliphant reviewed the year-to-date data of the Statement of Operations Compared to Budget for the month of December 2016 and there were no questions. He reviewed the Comparative Balance Sheets for month ended December 31, 2016 and there were no questions. This ended his report. (Both reports can be found in the RTA February Board book.)

- b. Community Education Consultant (A-17-004):** The RTA solicited for a qualified consultant to assist with community education and engagement efforts in RTA's 10-county region. The primary efforts of this consultant would be to actively engage the public, the business community, and regional transportation stakeholders to raise awareness about existing and future commuter options while also providing educational opportunities regarding the importance of transit and shared mobility options to the region's air quality.

Two proposals were received and reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, and it was determined that the proposal submitted by Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee in partnership with Cumberland Region Tomorrow exhibited the most qualified experience and a complete understanding of the needs detailed in the scope.

Funding for the first two years of this project in the amount of \$300,000 has been identified through a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant awarded to RTA for the purposes of regional commuter marketing and education as approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Funding for the two optional two-year awards will be contingent on the application and award of future CMAQ dollars. RTA intends to use the additional available CMAQ funding to increase outreach efforts associated with emerging regional transportation issues as identified.

The Committee recommends to the Board that they authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into an initial two-year contract with the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee for \$202,400 with a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 with two, two-year options for \$208,242 and \$214,490, respectively, each not to exceed \$300,000 for a total potential project award not to exceed \$900,000 over six years. The vote of approval was unanimous with Portland Mayor Ken Wilber abstaining because he sits on the Transit Alliance Board.

- V. MONTHLY OPERATING STATISTICS (I-17-004):** Chief Operating Officer India Birdsong briefly reviewed the monthly operating statistics report for the Board.

- VI. CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Steve Bland reported the following:

- Hamilton Springs – Earlier today, the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved the TIP amendment to include the new round of CMAQ funding for Hamilton Springs. Last month, the Board approved the construction contract for Hamilton Springs contingent upon the TIP amendment and the grant award that would follow that, as well as coming up with a satisfactory contingency agreement with the developer. That agreement has also been reached, so it is just that matter of timing to get that grant placed. We do expect groundbreaking on the Hamilton Springs facility this summer with about a 12-month or 15-month construction period. We will open the facility sometime in 2018.
- The Northwest Corridor Report – The report from Parsons Brinkerhoff is being finalized, and we expect to report it at the March meeting with its final

recommendations. Related to that, at the direction of the Northwest Corridor's Mayors Committee of Montgomery, Clarksville, Ashland City, Cheatham County, & Nashville, we are working with our attorneys and the attorneys of the Cheatham County Rail Authority (CCRA) on doing the due diligence of potentially the transfer of the right-of-way from CCRA to RTA to support future activities in that corridor.

- Mt. Juliet Station – We continue to work with the development team that we have in place for the Mt. Juliet Station joint development. They are looking at a couple of alternate deal structures and they have reached out to the city of Mt. Juliet and are going to reach out to Mayor Hutto to chat with the county. We are hopeful that we will be able to put forward a development agreement in the next few months.
- Donelson Station – Similarly, we issued a Request For Qualifications last month to do a similar development around Donelson Station in Davidson County. So far, we have had very good interest at that location.
- I-24 Smart Corridor Initiative – We are pleased to have been invited by TDOT to participate in the start-up of an I-24 Smart Corridor Initiative to look at opportunities for transportation and transit improvements. That initiative kicked off this week.
- Patricia Harris-Morehead – After 14 years, Patricia Harris-Morehead has decided to leave the MTA and RTA. We want to acknowledge her for 14 years of service to the MTA. Essentially, she has been directing the marketing and communication efforts for the RTA. Among a number of accomplishments for the RTA, she was responsible for getting the full sponsorship of the Titans Game-Day Express. We wish her the best of luck in the future.

**VII. CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair McMillan thanked Ms. Harris-Morehead for all of her hard work and everything that she has done to assist the RTA.

Continuing, Chair McMillan discussed the Governor's proposal for transportation improvement and that there could be potential to the RTA with respect to the outcome of legislation that may pass at the general assembly. She encouraged the Board's participation and support as the legislation continues to move forward. She added that all citizens in Middle Tennessee are suffering because there is not dedicated money being put towards increasing the transportation options in all of our corridors and all of our communities.

Chair McMillan recognized Robertson County Mayor Bradley, who noted that he recently wrote an essay in support of the Improve Act and found it published in the *Robertson County Times*, the *Robertson County Connection*, and on *The Tennessean's* website. He urged his fellow Board members to consider doing the same thing because he believes their constituents need to hear from them. He added that they have the advantage of information that their constituents don't have, and in order to get the positive message out, it is incumbent upon them to take the lead on this.

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully,

*Paula Mansfield*

Governor's Appointee  
RTA Secretary