



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
JANUARY 18, 2012

- 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 at 400 Charlotte Avenue on January 18, 2012. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Operations Committee Chair Mayor Howard Bradley.

Acting Chair Bradley recognized RTA Manager Lora Baulsir for the introduction of new members. Ms. Baulsir introduced Lee Zoller, Governor's Appointee for Sumner County. She also reported that Margot Fosnes is the new Governor's Appointee for Robertson County. However, because of scheduling conflicts, Ms. Fosnes was not able to attend today. Acting Chair Bradley extended his welcome on behalf of the Board.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Acting Chair Bradley entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting. Motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.

- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

- IV. SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR REPORT:** Committee member Murfreesboro Transportation Director Dana Richardson reported that the committee continued discussions relative to the service in the southeast corridor but no conclusions were reached. Service trips and potential schedules for those trips were discussed as well as funding and the need for performance measures. Additionally, a redirection of some of the originally proposed trips between the Southeast Corridor and Nashville that would pick up some trips between Rutherford County and Williamson County was also discussed.

Continuing, Mr. Richardson stated that since time is short for the local budgets, effort is being made to reach an agreed upon plan for expansion of service as this will affect the local budgets of each participating member in the corridor. The committee plans to meet again on February 1st.

- V. MARKETING REPORT:** Committee Chair Lebanon County Mayor Philip Craighead reported that Patricia Harris-Morehead and her team gave the committee a tour of the new RTA web site. He encouraged any member who has not yet had a chance to visit the site to please do so. Chair Craighead noted that it was easily accessible and informative. He sees it is a good addition for the RTA.

This site is also linked to the Music City Star and the Relax and Ride web links as well. Chair Craighead thanked Ms. Harris-Morehead and her staff for doing a great job with the development of this web site.

- VI. OPERATIONS REPORT:** General Manager of Operations and Maintenance Dawn Distler reported that November was another good month even though it had only 19 service days including Thanksgiving Friday. She then noted the following:
- *The Music City Star* reported a monthly increase of 4,000 rides when compared to November 2010.
 - The #93 - *Music City Star West End Shuttle* continued to do well in November with an average daily ridership of 324.
 - The #89X - *Springfield/Joelton Express* has more than doubled its monthly ridership since its inception in February 2011.
 - The # 91X - *Franklin/Brentwood Express*, the #92X *Gallatin/Hendersonville Express*, and the #95X - *Spring Hill Express* all showed increases in ridership when compared to November 2010.
 - The # 96X - *Nashville/Murfreesboro Relax and Ride* was above 8,000 rides for the month of November.

The Nashville retail gas prices dropped slightly again in November, but the ridership remained steady. The yearly comparison for RTA and MTA services combined is still showing double digit increases. The RTA regional bus service increase by 75%. All services (RTA & MTA) are trending toward exceeding 10 million rides for this fiscal year.

- VII. FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT:** Committee Vice-Chair Brentwood Mayor Paul Webb reported that at the end of November the finances are favorable as far as actual to budget; bills are being paid on time; and, in January finance are still current. The line of credit has not yet been accessed.

- VIII. PRESENTATION ON INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM MATURITY MODEL STUDY (I-12-001):** Transit Alliance Director Ed Cole introduced Melissa Kmiecik Tennessee Chief Executive for Public Service for IBM. Melissa then introduced her two guests: John Roland and Mike Nobit, both with IBM. Together they make the team that will be conducting the *Intelligent Transportation System Maturity Model Study* for the middle Tennessee region. Mr. Nobit addressed the Board and explained how the region will benefit from this study.

- IX. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Baulsir presented the following action item:

- a. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (A-12-001):** In accordance with the RTA by-laws, this is the month in which officers are elected. In December the nominating committee made a recommendation to keep the current officers for the upcoming year. Proper motion was made, there was no discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Continuing with her report, Ms. Baulsir introduced Governor's Appointee, Margot Fosnes, who had been able to join the meeting. Additionally, Ms. Baulsir noted that all RTA members had paid their 2011 dues. She will now begin sending

notices for the 2012 dues in order to accommodate those members who are beginning to work on their budgets. In conclusion, Ms. Baulsir mentioned that she will be making a trip to Jacksonville, Florida to speak on a panel. A commission has been formed to study regional transit in Jacksonville and the six surrounding counties. She will be discussing how the RTA is structured in Nashville and the surrounding areas and governance issues. Acting Chair Bradley looks forward to hearing about this upon her return.

- X. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** CEO Paul Ballard mentioned the upcoming Mayors' Caucus and encouraged all members to attend if at all possible. Continuing, he reported that next week invitations will be sent to Clarksville and Montgomery County to join the RTA. At the same time, he reported, an initial meeting was held last week with Clarksville to establish service to Clarksville with some of the federal funds that had been acquired for service in the corridors. The targeted start-up date is June 1st. The service will start with two trips in the morning and two trips in the afternoon with 90% federal and state dollars and the balance will be provided by Clarksville and Montgomery County.

In concluding his report, Mr. Ballard recognized Ed Cole who distributed a flyer that the Transit Alliance had generated, *Ever wondered...what does that stand for?*, a booklet that will serve as a guide to the most commonly used acronyms in the transportation, transit, and planning and implementation business. Ed credited this publication to Tom Trent. Mr. Ballard thanked both of them for this very helpful tool.

- XI. **OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business at this time.

- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully,

Kathy Owen

Kathy Owen
Acting RTA Secretary