



**MINUTES**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**MARCH 19, 2014**

- 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 March 19, 2014. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by RTA Chair Nashville and Davidson County Mayor Karl Dean.
  
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair Dean entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.
  
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Nashville citizen Margo Chambers asked for more information concerning the RTA dues – percent increase or decrease from last year, and whether the dues assessment is based on the latest population census or MPO population figures. She asked for understanding as to why member cities Belle Meade and Goodlettsville were assessed a fee when other (non-member) cities were not. Ms. Chambers mentioned to the Board of financial transactions concerning 5307 funds that the MTA Board had approved at their last meeting.  
  
There were no other public comments.
  
- IV. **MARKETING REPORT:** Williamson County’s Governor Appointee Kelly Dannenfelser reported that the committee was briefed by Marketing and Communications Director Patricia Harris-Morehead provided an update of the marketing initiatives as well as a comprehensive list of the upcoming marketing projects. One of these is the rebranding effort that we are pleased to announce we are kicking off in April and Sullivan Branding will facilitate the process.
  
- V. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** Committee Chair Portland Mayor Ken Wilber reported that the Operations Committee met last Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. January service had 21 operating days with two holidays and five Fridays. This was one less operating day than January 2013, but our numbers do remain strong.

The month to month and fiscal year comparison of numbers for January both came in with a 6.7% increase. All corridors displayed outstanding numbers. The Clarksville and Murfreesboro express bus services both had increases over 56%. The Music City Star and express bus totals were up over 7%. Total RTA services are averaging 33 passengers per trip.

The combined public transportation numbers for Middle Tennessee indicate a slight increase when comparing fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014.

The park and ride in Clarksville has been so successful they have outgrown the parking spaces available at this time and are considering an additional bus trip to service the demand and need to look at the parking lot as well.

- a. **Greensboro North Park and Ride Construction (A-014-003):** An evaluation committee reviewed the bids for this project and recommended the award of contract to Hardcastle. The initial contract total would be for \$474,194 with an additional contingency of \$47,419 for a total contract price not to exceed \$521,613. The committee reviewed and discussed the proposed plan and voted to recommend this action item to the Board for approval. Proper motion was made and approved and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- VI. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ballard thanked the Board for their leadership and friendship over the last several years and noted that it has been a great honor. He referred to the ridership chart on page six that covered the span of years from 2006 to 2013 and stated that we can all be collectively very proud of this because we won't find another transit system in the county that has done this type of increase over the years. Each and every improvement that has been made has resulted in increased ridership.

In closing, CEO Ballard noted that as a team, RTA, MTA, the Mayors' Caucus, the Transit Alliance, has institutionalized and made transit a part of the fabric of Middle Tennessee and that is one of the things of which he is most proud.

Starting April 1, there will be an interim director selected by the MTA Board and is someone with whom this Board is very comfortable but he is not at liberty to announce today.

- VII. **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Dean gave an update on the Amp's progress. He reported that \$27 million for the Amp was in President Obama's budget for 2015. From conversations with the Department of Transportation and with the FTA, the way this works is that the remaining portion of the \$75 million we requested from the federal government will be appropriated in multiple, consecutive fiscal years. This is the normal practice followed.

This is a vote of confidence in Nashville from the President, from the Department of Transportation, and the experts at the Federal Transit Administration. MTA will continue their work and we will continue to work with the State Legislature to help them understand the decisions about Nashville's transit system. He thanked the many members of the Board for their support over the past few weeks as we worked to protect our ability to make local transit decisions at the local level. He also wanted to publicly thank the Governor for making the statement he did. We have a governor who understands what it is to be a mayor. We have a lot of work to do and we will continue to do it.

In closing, Chair Dean stated that Paul Ballard has had two roles here as both the CEO of the RTA and the MTA. He became head of the RTA in 2008 and has

done an outstanding job. The growth of Middle Tennessee has us on target to be the size of the Denver region now in twenty years. This area is growing probably faster than we know and so is transit. Under Paul Ballard's leadership MTA's ridership has gone up to 10 million rides a year and that number will only increase. The RTA in 2007 was at 215,000 and we are at 614,000 now. The demand is there and we need to meet it.

Paul has been a pleasure with which to work. He has overseen BRT in the light form on Murfreesboro Road and Gallatin Road where we have seen a huge increase in ridership. He has been instrumental in the work that the Department of Transportation and the FTA recognized earlier this month. He has been a great public servant. He thanked him for his contributions and service. Chair Dean then presented him with a parting award from the RTA Board recognizing his years of service and great leadership.

**VIII. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** General Manager Lora Baulsir, on behalf of staff, thanked Paul for his leadership

Ms. Baulsir then referred to the list included in the board packet of the 2014 dues that have been included for the convenience of the members in planning their upcoming budgets. She noted that according to the by-laws the dues are based on the U.S. Census.

Ms. Baulsir reported that they are working to start a Dickson demonstration express bus trip in the next month. In connection with that, there was a multi-modal access grant that was awarded this week for a Park and Ride to be built in Dickson and she is working with Mayor Rial on this to get this in place just as soon as possible.

April 14<sup>th</sup> there is going to be an FRA mandatory meeting of all commuter rail operators. This is related to the Metro North accidents. They have had four different accidents in the last year. The FRA went in and did an inspection of their safety procedures and now they are looking to all of the commuter rail operators to see what kind of safety procedures we have in place. This is the first of probably more than one meeting to talk about these issues with commuter rail operators.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully,

*Paula Mansfield*

Governor Appointee  
RTA Secretary