



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
AUGUST 15, 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 August 15, 2012. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by RTA Board Chair Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves.

- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair Graves entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.

- III. **RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS:** Chair Graves recognized General Manager Lora Baulsir who introduced the following new members: Dickson County Mayor Bob Rial and Montgomery County Governor's Appointee Michael Evans. Ms. Baulsir noted that Tim Ellis, City Manager of Goodlettsville, has been attending for quite a while but today they were happy to welcome City of Goodlettsville Mayor John Coombs.

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

- V. **MARKETING REPORT:** Governor's Appointee Kelly Dannenfesler reported that all nine hundred tickets for the Music City Star July 4th Excursion sold within three weeks. Staff worked very hard to promote this event and it was met with great success. Continuing, she reported that the Music City Star Game Day Express marketing plan has been updated for the upcoming season. This includes press releases, e-news blasts, posters, and updates to the web site.

Concerning other coverage within the region's systems, Ms. Dannenfesler noted that the 10,000,000 ridership milestone that was reached was well covered in the media. Additionally, the new Clarksville service marketing plan was prepared and successfully launched. And, in closing, she reported that they drafted a press release for the media on the safety and security plan for the Music City Central transit center in response to the erroneous report of an assault and robbery at the terminal.

- VI. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** Chair Graves noted to the Board that Governor's Appointee James Fenton was now the new Executive Director of the City of Gallatin's Economic Development Agency (EDA). He then presented the operations report.

The June statistics report showed that the ridership at all Music City Star stations remained steady or showed slight increases. The RTA express and shuttle bus services showed double digit increases – a little over 10% when compared to the same time last year. June brought the first numbers for the newest route, the #94 Clarksville, with an average daily ridership of 89 and the monthly ridership 1, 869. The combined public transportation report for all of Nashville – the RTA and the MTA – had a great month with double digit increases and notably breaking the 10,000,000 ridership mark with 10,045,239 riders.

- a. **Proposed Youth Fares on RTA Services (A-12-015):** The Committee recommends that the Board approve a youth fare on all RTA services at the rates provided within this action item. The new fare structure would go into effect no later than January 1, 2013, but every effort will be made to implement this plan in time for the holiday season in December. Proper motion was made and seconded. There were no comments and the vote of approval was unanimous.

VII. FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT: Hendersonville Mayor Scott Foster reported on the following items:

- a. **Adoption of Budget for FY 2013 (A-012-016):** The Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve and adopt the proposed FY 2013 Budgets for the annual region bus operations totaling \$4,059,065 and the annual Music City Star commuter train operations totaling \$5,109,119. Mayor Foster asked CFO Ed Oliphant for comments.

Mr. Oliphant reported that this is a 27% increase over last year's operating budget. This is due in a large part to the increase in services and CMAQ funding received for Williamson County, Rutherford County, and Sumner County services.

Additionally, he reported that there were additional increases on the train side. These increases are related to the cost of fuel and the cost of liability insurance. Insurance costs increased by 6% in direct correlation to the increase in ridership. The new contract for the fuel hedging program has increased diesel fuel costs by fifty cents a gallon for the train. Mr. Oliphant continued with a few more details, hitting the highlights of the budgets.

Chair Graves asked for any questions and recognized Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson. Mayor Anderson asked if there were any way that RTA could offer discount rides for veterans similar to the youth fares or the State's employees. He asked that a review be done to see if something could be offered to men and women on active duty and also retired. CEO Paul Ballard stated that they would look into it and bring a report back to the Board.

Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

- b. **RTA/MTA Contract for State EasyRide Services (A-12-017):** The Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve RTA entering into an agreement with MTA that calls for MTA to reimburse RTA for EasyRide trips

provided to State employees participating in the EasyRide program at a rate of \$2.70 per ride for a period of one year, beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Mayor Foster asked CFO Ed Oliphant for his comments. Mr. Oliphant stated that this is a per ride basis contract with the State. The main contract is with MTA and what is being asked of the Board is the approval of this agreement between MTA and RTA for MTA to reimburse the RTA for the number of rides given state employees on any of the regional bus services or the train.

Proper motion was made and seconded. There were no additions and no corrections. The vote of approval to adopt was unanimous.

- c. **Grant Application Resolution(A-012-018)**: The Finance Committee recommends that the Board adopt a resolution allowing the CEO to:
- Authorize the application for 5307 and 5339 capital dollars and State/local match
 - Authorize the submittal of the applications for State Operating Assistance, JARC/New Freedom, CMAQ and STP Funds for the amounts indicated above.

Mayor Foster asked CFO Ed Oliphant for his comments. Mr. Oliphant stated that this item is in response to an FTA requirement that the Board does an authorization to allow the CEO to sign for grant applications and also draw down the funds when they are available. He then discussed briefly the details of these various funds.

Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the vote of approval to adopt was unanimous.

VIII. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: RTA General Manager Lora Baulsir reported that in planning ahead as funding becomes available they are looking to replace ties, do continuous welding, and purchase new equipment. She stated that she has been working with the Nashville and Eastern Railroad to use some capital money that is available this year to begin replacing some of the ties that will let them speed up operations and smooth out some of the bumps on the Music City Star rail line.

Continuing, she reported that the Barbecue Festival is leasing the downtown train station beginning next week. This is done every year and she has been working closely with them this year to get a bigger path for the train riders to walk to the shuttle buses. The planners for the festival are going to supply a golf cart for those riders who are unable to walk to 2nd Avenue to catch the shuttle bus.

In closing, Ms. Baulsir stated that the City of Lebanon is getting ready to install an electric vehicle charging station at Martha Station.

IX. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: CEO Paul Ballard welcomed the new members to the Board. Continuing, he reported that at the June meeting the Board essentially voted to double the number of bus trips that the RTA operates into the region and they are working very closely with their contractors and all that work is in progress. Schedules are being printed, the website is being updated and all that service will expand October 1st.

The service expansion to Clarksville and Montgomery County is going extremely well to the point that one of the buses is close to filling up, which is a good problem to have. They are already looking at how they can bring about additional service when it will be needed.

X. **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Graves deferred to Mayor Moore, Chair of the Mayors' Caucus, and asked if he would give an update to the group. Mayor Moore noted the following:

- The upcoming Mayors' Caucus meeting would be on August 30th from 10:00 to 1:00 and the exact location has not been determined.
- Commissioner Martin from TDEC and Jean Evans from the Land Trust would be speaking.
- Anyone who has an interest in serving on the Executive Committee for the Mayors' Caucus should contact him or Michael Skipper with the MPO.
- A Regional Transportation Summit will be held on October 11th at the Martin Center. More information will come later from Michael Skipper.
- On September the 12th there will be a Renewable Energy Conference at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception for Jack Turner who is retiring from Leadership Middle Tennessee.
- On October the 3rd there will be a reception for the Transit Alliance graduates in the Mayors' Caucus. It will be at the Hutton Hotel starting at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Graves noted that Michael Skipper would be getting an email out later with these dates for everyone to get on their calendars.

XI. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mayor (Lebanon) invited everyone to come to the Wilson County Fair. They are expecting attendance to exceed 550,000. He noted that next year they are hoping to have the train come out to Lebanon from Nashville bringing people to the fair.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully,

Ed Cole

Governor Appointee
RTA Secretary