



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency
Nashville, Tennessee

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERSHIP PRESENT

Bill Orange – Chairman	Mayor, Cheatham County
Paul Ballard – Secretary	Governor Appointee
Rogers Anderson	Mayor, Williamson County
Howard Bradley	Mayor, Robertson County
Ernest Burgess	Mayor, Rutherford County
Jim Cotey	Governor Appointee
Diane Davidson	Alternate, TDOT
Roger Farley	Governor Appointee
Don Fox	Mayor, City of Lebanon
Bob Franklin	Alternate, City of Mt. Juliet
Rick Gregory	Alternate, City of Goodlettsville
Jay Johnson	Alternate, City of Franklin
Don Long	Alternate, City of Hendersonville
Addam McCormick	Alternate, City of White House
Bob Nugent	Alternate, City of Murfreesboro
Bill Orange	Mayor, Cheatham County
R.J. 'Hank' Thompson	County Executive, Sumner County

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Terry Bebout	TSG
Erin Collier	RTA Staff
W.T. 'Bill' Farquhar	RTA Staff
Glenda Griggs	RTS Staff
Tanisha Hall	GNRC
Era Hogan	RTA Staff
Danny Leveretie	Mayor of Spring Hill
Teresa McKissick	RTA Staff
Todd Presnell	Miller & Martin
Pamela Sharp	TDOT
Allyson Shumate	RTA Staff
Andrew Slemp	IHS Student
Diane Thorne	TMA
Kevin Walker	Neel-Schaffer, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Orange called the Board meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, at Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency, Nashville, Tennessee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Orange called for approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2006 Board meeting. Lebanon Mayor Don Fox made a motion to approve the minutes. Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Orange called for any comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Chairman Orange introduced Todd Presnell with Miller & Martin. Mr. Presnell is the on-call legal counsel. Chairman Orange thanked Mr. Presnell for his service.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 4a was presented by Allyson Shumate and Tanisha Hall. The item was Permanent Funding Options. Mrs. Shumate stated that sometime around 2002/2003 the RTA had a Finance Committee that did some research on long-term funding strategies. Some of the information used came from a consultant to the MPO that looked at regional transit funding strategies. The firm was ICF. They had prepared a report for RTA. Staff had asked the MPO and Tanisha Hall to update that report with current information. The RTA is going to have to have a dedicated funding stream to move further. Ultimately, staff needs to be directed to develop a long-term regional transportation plan in concurrence with a strategy.

Mrs. Shumate introduced Tanisha Hall to go over some different funding options and their potential challenges. The options were some highlights taken from a draft report that will be finalized in the next month, and then brought to the Board for review.

Some of the options Mrs. Hall spoke about were: extending sales tax to fuel, increase gasoline tax, regional option gas tax, sales and use tax, local option sales tax, vehicle emission fee, hotel/motel tax, and rental car fee. She also talked about some new taxes and fees: emissions adder fee, transit district tax, privilege tax, and flex transportation planning funds. Other transit agencies use flex transportation planning funds. However, the MPO must consult with TDOT on flexible funding decisions. The flex process is very long and burdensome, in turn delaying the availability of funds.

During lengthy discussion, it was noted that it may be better to use a method that does not require public voting. Multiple funding sources should be looked at, not to concentrate on just one possible funding source. People will be more likely to fund if they know how they or their community will benefit. Also discussed was the participation of the MPO and other regional agencies such as Cumberland Region Tomorrow. The regional agencies may need to get together and coordinate.

Another note was that the plan needs to be clear as to what is the money going to be used for and how much money is needed. Then, figure out what revenue sources should it come from.

Mayor Fox made a motion to direct staff to develop a comprehensive, long-term transportation plan for the nine-county region to include permanent long range funding and that this be an item on the monthly Board Meeting Agendas to help view the progress. Paul Ballard seconded.

In further discussion, it was noted that staff had planned to conduct a report, and then give to the Task Force for them to work on. Also commented was that there should be a detailed scope and schedule of cost.

Sumner County Executive Hank Thompson made a motion to defer for 30 days. Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson seconded. The motion passed with one opposed.

Item 4b was presented by Bill Farquhar. The item was Special Event Train Schedule. Mr. Farquhar stated that the Board requested staff at last month's meeting to do a special event train. Football fans suggested that November 12 would be a good date. Staff developed a plan to test the market for Special Event Trains. Three dates were chosen: November 12, December 17, and December 31, 2006. The operation of the first Special Event train will determine the operation of the second and third Special Event train.

There is no money in the budget to run this train. Staff anticipates that the ticket sales will cover the cost of operating the trains. The Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, and Donelson/Hermitage Chamber of Commerce's are willing to sell tickets.

As the Board approved the Special Event/Charter train policies, the normal fare will not be accepted. There will be a special single price ticket. Staff decided to go with the doubled platform fare equaling \$20 roundtrip. There will be two trains running. One will arrive 90 minutes before game time. One train will leave approximately 45 minutes after the game. The second train will leave approximately two hours after the game. Restrooms at Riverfront Station will be open. After review of the fare structure and costs provided by TSG and Nashville & Eastern Railroad, \$5,000 to \$6,000 will need to be generated.

Jay Johnson made a motion to approve the special trains as presented with the possibility that the second and third dates might not operate. Mayor Bradley seconded.

Bob Franklin, City of Mt. Juliet, made a motion to amend that motion, to charge the regular fare price on the first date of the special event trains, even if it has to be taken out of the marketing budget.

Mr. Farquhar responded that there is no money in the budget for this train and the limited marketing budget that is already inadequate for regular advertising. He also noted that the ECOOC approved the special fare and the Board had approved the policy to charge a special fare and to not accept the standard fare.

Chairman Orange reminded the Board that there was a motion on the floor with a second and also an amendment to the motion without a second. Mayor Fox seconded the amendment.

During discussion, it was noted that if \$5 is regular fare and \$20 is to make a profit, breaking even may be enough. Mr. Farquhar explained that the platform fare was doubled to cover the unbudgeted costs of operating a special event train. A Board member asked if there could be corporate sponsorship or chamber sponsorship on naming rights to the event. Roger Farley

commented that the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce is going to have two areas for those riding the train can tailgate and get free food. Mrs. Shumate stated that staff does not think ticket sells will be the problem, but funding all the costs involved.

Chairman Orange called for vote on the amendment which is to charge the standard fare for the first Special Event train. A pass or fail could not be determined by a verbal vote. Therefore, a roll call vote was conducted; actual votes ending with seven ayes and seven nays. The ruling was that the amendment failed by roll call vote.

Chairman Orange called for vote on the original motion to approve the Special Event train dates and the special fare. The motion was approved by majority with no opposes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Orange stated that a Nominating Committee for 2007 RTA Officers would be appointed at next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paul J. Ballard

Paul J. Ballard
RTA Secretary