



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 14, 2007, 10:00 a.m.
1101 Kermit Drive, 1st Floor
Nashville, Tennessee

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERSHIP PRESENT

Scott Foster - Chairman	Mayor, Hendersonville
Rogers Anderson - Vice-Chairman	Mayor, Williamson County
Paul Ballard - Secretary	Governor Appointee
Howard Bradley	Mayor, Robertson County
Tom Brashear	Alternate, Wilson County
Ernest Burgess	Mayor, Rutherford County
Angie Carrier	Alternate, City of White House
Jim Cotey	Governor Appointee
Betsy Crossley	Alternate, City of Brentwood
Jay Johnson	Alternate, City of Franklin
Diane Giddens	
Paul Nutting	Alternate, City of Springfield
Bill Orange	Mayor, Cheatham County
Randy Robertson	Alternate, City of Mt. Juliet
R.J. 'Hank' Thompson	County Executive, Sumner County
Kenneth Wilber	Mayor, City of Portland

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Terry Bebout	TSG
Tauna Blaisdell	GNRC Staff
Greer Broemel	GNRC Staff
Patty Cavanah	GNRC Staff
Erin Collier	RTA Staff
Sam Edwards	GNRC Staff
Ron Fults	GNRC Staff
Glenda Griggs	RTA Staff
Jovia King	GNRC Staff
Jeff Pancirov	GNRC Staff
Lucreacia Points	RTA Staff
Allyson Shumate	RTA Staff
Diane Thorne	RTA Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott Foster called the Board meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, in Nashville, Tennessee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Foster asked for the approval of the October 17, 2007, Board meeting minutes. Governor Appointee Jim Cotey made a motion to approve the minutes. Sumner County Executive Thompson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Foster called for comments from the public. There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 4, was the Executive Session. The Executive Session included RTA Board Members or their designated alternates, the RTA Executive Director and the Rail Project Manager. The audience was excused and the meeting reconvened following the executive session.

Item 5, Report of Executive Session, was presented by Sam Edwards. Mr. Edwards stated that the Board and their lawyers discussed the Colonial Pipeline Company suit against the Nashville and Eastern Railroad Corporation (NERC) regarding a breach of contract filed on October 4, 2005. In February 2006, the RTA received a letter from the NERC's attorney stating that the Railroad's liability carrier had denied coverage for this claim. In a letter, the NERC attorney also claimed that the contract between the RTA, the Nashville & Eastern Rail Authority (NERA) and the NERC, indicated that any costs associated with the Commuter Rail Project would be reimbursed to the railroad by the RTA.

The previous Commuter Rail Director briefed the East Corridor Oversight Committee on this lawsuit. At the July 26, 2006, ECOC meeting, it was reported that Court had ruled in favor of the NERC.

The case was sent to the Court of Appeals on June 27, 2007. On September 27, 2007 the appellate court reversed the lower court's ruling and remanded the case to the lower court for a determination of damages to Colonial Pipeline Company.

Mr. Edwards stated that in the session there were no deliberations or decision

Item 6 was the possible action on Executive Session Report. City of White House Alternate, Angie Carrier made a motion that the Board authorize the RTA Chairman to take appropriate action including but not limited to initiating litigation necessary to protect RTA's interest in the Colonial Pipeline / NERC litigation. Mayor Bradley seconded. Tom Brashear, Wilson County Alternate; Mayor Bill Orange, Cheatham County; and Randy Robertson, City of Mt. Juliet Alternate, abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Item 7, Request to purchase addition equipment, was presented by Diane Thorne/Terry Bebout. Mrs. Thorne stated that the VRE notified RTA in addition to other rail authorities that the VRE is selling equipment to make room for their new fleet. The equipment being sold is the

same equipment currently being utilized by the Music City Star – and all vehicles are currently in service.

Mr. Terry Bebout and Gene Turnage of Transit Solution Group traveled to VRE on behalf of the RTA to inspect this equipment. All cars are the same style cars currently in use by the Music City Star. They have been well maintained, looked clean, mechanically sound and would incorporate nicely into the existing fleet. The cars do not have any ADA modifications as VRE has only one car out of a six-car train ADA equipped.

The modifications that would be required to use these trailer cars on the MCS trains are minimal:

1. Modify the 27 pin cables to match our modified wiring
2. Replace VRE exterior graphics with MCS graphics as cars are painted the same
3. Add interior signs to meet our approved emergency signage plan
4. Add step extension to one side of car
5. Replace emergency lighting batteries and chargers to match existing fleet
6. Add MCS Fire Life Safety Improvement modifications

The cab cars would require the same modifications as the trailer cars plus modifying them for ADA accessibility. In addition, they would have to be extensively modified as we did our cab cars during mobilization.

VRE is anticipating receiving the new order of VRE equipment beginning in December. Therefore, timing is of the essence. The original VRE asking price was \$30K per car. TSG has been informed that the best offer to date is \$3,250 per car and that VRE would accept \$1 per car for the cars listed with no HVAC. VRE also stated they would make them interchange-ready for moving to Nashville. These cars would be very beneficial for parts and the train set could provide additional service to the east corridor. In addition, MTA can accommodate most of the cars on the tracks on their property.

This would insure our ability, at an extremely economical price, to expand our services to meet the needs of future growth.

Mayor Orange made the motion to authorize staff to make an offer on the above vehicles at \$4,000 to \$5,000 per car for the two cab cars and the five trailer cars. Modifications can be done later when the vehicles are needed to be placed in service. Tom Brashear seconded the motion. Mr. Edwards stated that this reverse bid was proper.

Item 8, Budget Amendment was presented by Diane Thorne. Mrs. Thorne reported that the RTA staff occasionally meets in the RTA offices with representatives and staff from other cities and counties and regional transportation authorities throughout the US, bank officials, insurance executives, and elected officials. These offices should be representative of the professionalism of the Authority. Staff has received three estimates to paint and clean the carpet for the RTA offices. The low estimate is \$7,100. GNRC will contribute \$2,000 toward this project. In addition, RTA may add a reception area (open office) at the entry to the RTA offices. Additional office furniture and equipment will be required for this area.

Due to several position vacancies, RTA staff request approval to move \$9,000 from GNRC salaries, to a new budget line item, Office Improvements. This does not increase the RTA FY 08 budget. Tom Brashear made a motion to approve the move of \$9,000 from GNRC salaries for RTA office improvements, and Mayor Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9, Mt. Juliet Station Property Lease Update was deferred until the next meeting.

Item 10, Ridership Report, was presented by Diane Thorne. Mrs. Thorne stated that express bus service is doing extremely well. Mrs. Thorne also reported that the Music City Star ridership continues to build and tries to accomplish its goal of a higher ridership. Mrs. Thorne states that with the help of the community business leaders, the RTA Board of Directors and staff, the goals and overall ridership will increase not only for the Music City Star but also for all RTA programs and services.

Mr. Brashear questioned that status of the widening of the 109 near Martha station. Mayor Fox requested that the minutes from the Lebanon Planning Commission be reviewed concerning the rail, the site and how far south the rail would be moved. This should be provided to TDOT.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Graves stated that the Martha Station needs better signage. Mrs. Thorne stated that Staff agrees and that the issue is being reviewed.

Mrs. Shumate asked for the Chairman's signature. A film company wants to utilize the Donelson station for a one day taping. In return the RTA will receive 500 dollars.

With no further business, Chairman Foster made a motion to adjourn. County Executive Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paul J. Ballard

Paul J. Ballard
RTA Secretary