



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, August 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

1101 Kermit Drive, First Floor

Nashville, Tennessee

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERSHIP PRESENT

Scott Foster – Chairman	Mayor, City of Hendersonville
Rogers Anderson – Vice-Chairman	Mayor, Williamson County
Howard Bradley	Mayor, Robertson County
Tom Brashear	Alternate, Wilson County
Ernest Burgess	Mayor, Rutherford County
Angie Carrier	Alternate, City of White House
Patrick Conyers	Governor Appointee
Eddie Davidson	Alternate, Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson County
Don Fox	Mayor, City of Lebanon
Debbie Frank	Governor Appointee
Jo Ann Graves	Mayor, City of Gallatin
Rick Gregory	Alternate, City of Goodlettsville
Ragan Hall	Interim County Executive, Sumner County
Gerald Nicely	Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Bob Nugent	Alternate, City of Murfreesboro
Alex Noble	Alternate, City of Brentwood
Bill Orange	Mayor, Cheatham County
Randy Robertson	Alternate, City of Mt. Juliet
Tom Waychoff	Alternate, City of Dickson
Kenneth Wilber	Mayor, City of Portland

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Paul Ballard	Metro Transit Authority
Terry Bebout	Transit Solutions Group
Tauna Blaisdell	Greater Nashville Regional Council
Patty Cavanah	Greater Nashville Regional Council
Felix Castrodad	Metropolitan Planning Organization
Ed Cole	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Erin Collier	RTA Staff
Sam Edwards	
Amanda Evilcizer	Greater Nashville Regional Council
Ron Fults	Greater Nashville Regional Council
Glenda Griggs	RTA Staff
Tanisha Hall	Greater Nashville Regional Council
Jovia King	Greater Nashville Regional Council

Matt Meservy
Todd Presnell
Paula Shaw
Allyson Shumate
Sharon Simmons
Michael Skipper
Diane Thorne
Deborah Varallo

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Miller Martin & Associates
Tennessee Department of Transportation
RTA Staff
RTA Staff
Metropolitan Planning Organization
RTA Staff
Varallo Public Relations

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott Foster called the Board meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, August 20, 2008, at 1101 Kermit Drive, First Floor, Nashville, Tennessee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Foster called for approval of the July 16, 2008, Board meeting minutes. Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves made a motion to approve the minutes. Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ACTION ITEMS

Item 4a was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was Approve Locomotive Repairs. Mrs. Thorne stated that this issue was reported to the Finance and Operations Committee. The Music City Star has been in operation for almost two years and continues to use the equipment initially purchased for the operations. The locomotives are experiencing aggressive wheel wear due to many curves on the track alignment and the speeds that commuter trains run. The excessive wear was not anticipated because the freight trains operate at much lower speeds. Virginia Railway Express trains have not experienced this wheel wear because their alignment is much straighter and does not have the tight curves.

The wheels need to be re-contoured; which can be done by CSX at Radnor Yards in Nashville. The repairs are needed on all the wheels within 90 days. TSG estimates the total amount of the repair will be \$40,045. The repairs are anticipated to extend the life of the wheels by another year to one and one-half years. The consequence of not doing the work is the increased risk of a derailment.

In FY 2010, new wheels will be required for all three locomotives at an estimated cost of \$115,000. New wheels should have an overall usage life of five years with cuts being required approximately every one and one-half years.

Lebanon Mayor Don Fox made a motion to approve the recommended wheel repairs. Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4b was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was New Locomotives Repairs. Mrs. Thorne stated on August 8 prior to the morning commuter trips, the Head End Power (HEP)

alternator failed on Locomotive 122. The cost of a remanufactured alternator is \$20,500 plus additional \$250 for shipping. Labor costs are not included in the estimate.

Item 4c (i) was presented by Scott Foster. The item was Report from Music City Star Funding Task Force – MTA Proposal. Mayor Foster stated that at the recent Task Force meeting, Paul Ballard provided an outline of a RTA-MTA Agreement. The outline is included in the Board packet. Mayor Foster noted that the outline comes from the Task Force with approval. Mr. Ballard proceeded to brief the Board on some of the highlights in the outline.

Mayor Fox made a motion to approve RTA moving forward with contract negotiations with the MTA. Randy Robertson, City of Mt. Juliet, seconded.

During discussion, Mayor Foster thanked the RTA staff for the hard work that they do especially during this transition period.

Cheatham County Mayor Bill Orange commented that he has great respect for all parties. He also noted that he still wants a rail corridor between Clarksville and Nashville to be seriously considered; the preliminary study is almost complete. Michael Skipper, MPO Director, noted that he is aware of the preliminary planning study being conducted by the Clarksville MPO.

Mayor Foster called for vote of the motion to approve the RTA's moving forward with contract negotiations with the MTA. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 4c (ii) was presented by Scott Foster. The item was Report from Music City Star Funding Task Force – MPO Revision to MTA Proposal. Mayor Foster stated that to be more consistent with the required metropolitan planning process of the MPO, TDOT, FHWA, and FTA, the MPO proposes the following language replace the **second paragraph in Section 2** of MTA's Proposal to RTA for management and administrative services:

“MTA will implement the regional transit plan as developed and adopted by the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and endorsed by the Board of the Regional Transportation Authority. Through its planning department and outside consultants, the MTA will develop a short-range master plan to deliver services and bring transit awareness to all nine counties.”

Tom Brashear, Wilson County, made a motion to approve the MPO revision to the MTA proposal. Mayor Fox seconded. The motion was approved.

Item 4c (iii) was presented by Scott Foster. The item was Report from Music City Star Funding Task Force – Revised Timeline. Mrs. Thorne stated that staff has revised the timeline regarding agency operations and funding. She highlighted what changes had occurred such as agenda items that would need further discussion and action during Committee and Board meetings pertaining to budget, RTA/MTA contract, and RTA By-Laws.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 5a was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was Wilson County Fair Update. Mrs. Thorne stated that Music City Star ran service to the Wilson County Fair on August 17. It was a successful run. The event represented a joint effort between the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, the Wilson County Fair Board, and the Wilson County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mrs. Thorne noted that the Fair Board had recommended the event be run on Sunday. The event was fully sponsored.

Mr. Brashear stated that there were rave reviews and very positive. The Fair Board has put the train service on their agenda for next year.

Item 5b was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was Game Day Express. Mrs. Thorne stated that the RTA is planning to run Game Day Express trains for the three home games in September. One train set with five cars will be provided. Depending on ridership, another train may be added or train cars may be removed. The ticket prices are \$15 if purchased in advanced, \$20 on game day. A press release will be sent out later today.

Item 5c was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was On-Line Ticket Sales. Mrs. Thorne stated that the on-line ticket sales have done very well. Included in the Board packet, were pictures of the website ticket sales pages. Monthly and 10-Ride tickets are available for purchase through the RTA website. The net revenue from on-line tickets sales, for the months of April through August 5, is \$7,441.03.

Item 5d was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was Relax and Ride Update. Mrs. Thorne stated that the R&R ridership continues to do well in Murfreesboro. The Murfreesboro #96 was at its highest ridership of 7,898 for the month of July.

The vanpool program is thriving with new vans. As staff receives new vans, they are placed immediately with newly formed vanpools.

Mrs. Thorne noted that RTA is getting close to launching the new Gallatin/Hendersonville express bus service with Gray Line. Staff is currently waiting on the fare boxes to arrive. Staff has been working with Vanderbilt regarding the new service in hopes of developing a partnership to benefit all parties. Vanderbilt continues to express a strong interest in making an assortment of transportation commute benefits available for their employees.

Item 5e was presented by Diane Thorne. The item was Music City Star Update. Mrs. Thorne stated that the APTA Rail Safety Audit began on August 11. The audit reviews the System Safety Program Plans and the implementation. The audit will complete with a final audit report and a letter of potential changes.

Mrs. Thorne stated that the ridership continues to increase on the Music City Star. The daily average riders for the month of July were 896.

OTHER BUSINESS

With there being no further business, Mayor Fox made the motion to adjourn and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Collier
RTA Interim Administrative Assistant