

RTA

501 Union Street, 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1705

East Corridor Oversight Committee

Tuesday, July 27, 2004, 10:00 a.m.
MTA Conference Room, Nestor Street
Nashville, Tennessee

MINUTES

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Ladieu	TDOT
Deb Varallo	NS / BAH / VPR
Diane Thorne	Metro Davidson County
Randall Dunn	MDHA
Jeff Baines	City of Lebanon
Gene Turnage	NERC
John Kennedy	Metro Legal Counsel
Joseph Perry	Private Citizen
Paul Ballard	MTA
Tom Brashear	Wilson County
Allyson Shumate	RTA
Hanne Flippen	RTA
Eric Beyer	RTA
Betty Laurs	RTA – NS/BAH
Kevin Walker	RTA – NS/BAH
Eric Bischoff	RTA – NS/BAH

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Paul Ballard called the East Corridor Oversight Committee meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2004 at the MTA conference room, Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Ballard informed the committee of two phone calls he received the morning of the meeting. The first call was from Val Kelley stating that he would not make the meeting because he is meeting with bankers to secure the funding for the NERA share of the local match. The second call was from Tom McCormick and Don Alford of FTA who wanted to know how Mr. Ballard perceived the recent news articles. They also wanted to know the status of the title to properties in Mt. Juliet and the update of the Project Management Plan. Mr. Ballard informed the committee that it was a positive phone call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ballard called for public comment. Mr. Joseph Perry of Lebanon was in attendance. He declined to comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 13, 2004

Mr. Ballard called for approval of the minutes from the July 13, 2004 meeting. Diane Thorne made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Ladieu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW PLAN FOR HIRING OF COMMUTER RAIL DIRECTOR

Mr. Ballard stated that the Commuter Rail Director position description is included in Business Plan Appendix 1. Several committee members stated that the RTA Board should approve the position before it is advertised. There were also concerns that the source of funding for the position should be identified. Mr. Ballard stated that the Business Plan states that the initial approach would be to reduce the contract scope for Project Management Services. Mr. Ballard stated that the position needs to be filled very quickly in order to maintain the confidence TDOT has placed in the committee.

The committee asked how much the market will bear for this type of position. Mr. Ballard replied that there is a salary survey published by American Public Transportation Association (APTA) that will have this information. Eric Beyer informed the committee that by going through GNRC like current RTA Staff, the overhead on the position will double the cost. It was asked if there was a way that this position be hired by MTA and be reimbursed by RTA. Paul Ballard stated that this is a good idea and should be looked into as well as other options to keep overhead costs down. The committee agreed this needs to be a competitive compensation package to attract the right individual. John Kennedy suggested that the committee structure this position the best way and then the legalities will follow.

The committee agreed that the funding, budget and administrative issues be worked out with in conjunction with preparing materials to advertise for the position. The ECOC will review this information at the August 10, 2004 meeting and recommend the RTA Board approve the position and the new organization structure at the August 18, 2004 Board meeting. After the approval of the RTA Board is received, the advertisements may be issued.

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

- Design Change Orders for station design, Riverfront and Lebanon excavations and changes at Mt. Juliet. RTA staff stated that the details of the change order were issued at the last meeting for the committee to review. The change order summary was discussed and the contract details explained. Mr. Ballard asked for a motion to recommend the RTA Board approve the change orders. Jim Ladieu made the motion and Jeff Baines seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Review the Management Action Plan – Action added from the Business Plan. RTA staff issued the revised Management Action Plan and explained the added items, which are taken from the Business Plan. The committee decided to review the items and discuss and update at the August 10, 2004 meeting.
- Status of track re-bid. Kevin Walker briefed the committee on the status of the re-bid. The approach is to implement more value engineering ideas to bring the costs down. One item is the bridges. Based on the previous bids, it was apparent that the contractors felt that there were certain bridges that could not be completed within the work window. Calls were made to discuss this with the Railroad and the work windows will be increased. The rail will be broken out and procured separately as stand-alone procurement. Because of this, the contract time can be reduced to 11 months. Kevin Walker reviewed the schedule for the ITB and pre-bid conference. He also mentioned that the 115# rail will be added as a bid alternate.

OTHER BUSINESS

A draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the MTA and the RTA for the storage of vehicles was distributed for the ECOC to review. Mr. Eric Beyer stated that the MOA needs to be reviewed by the RTA Board in August. The committee will review and vote at the August 10, 2004 meeting to recommend RTA Board approval.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.