



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

East Corridor Oversight Committee
Tuesday, August 9 2005 10:00 a.m.
Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)
130 Nestor Street, Nashville, TN

MINUTES

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Ballard	RTA - Governor Appointee
Tom Brashear	Wilson County
Mike Choate	TDOT
Brenda Wynn	Congressmen Cooper's Office
Susan Gaines	TDOT
Deborah Varallo	RTA – VPR
Jeff Baines	City of Lebanon
John Kennedy	Metro Legal Counsel
Bill Farquhar	RTA
Allyson Shumate	RTA
Hanne Flippen	RTA
Terry Bebout	TSG
Kevin Walker	RTA – NS

Mr. Paul Ballard called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am on Tuesday August 9, 2005. Mr. Ballard introduced Susan Gaines who was attending in place of Jim Ladieu and welcomed her to the committee.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Approval of July 26, 2005 meeting minutes

Mr. Ballard called for the approval of the July 26, 2005 meeting minutes. Jeff Baines made a motion to approve, Tom Brashear seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

a) Revised Business Plan

RTA staff briefed the committee on the August 2005 Update to the Music City Star Business Plan. A revised table 5.2 was presented to the committee. This revised table is more streamlined. Mr. Ballard asked for comments. Jeff Baines motioned to recommend the RTA adopt the Business

Plan at the August 17th Board meeting. Tom Brashear seconded. Mr. Brashear mentioned that a summary of changes should be sent. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Revised Fare Policy

Mr. Bill Farquhar briefed the committee on the recommended changes to the fare policy. A revised fare policy was issued as a hand out at the meeting.

Tickets in the Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) will remain \$5, but a \$20 ticket will get you only four tickets. The 10-trip ticket is based on five round-trip tickets.

Tom Brashear asked if there was the ability for people to get the tickets at Kroger or another outlet, to which staff replied that ticket distribution methods are being reviewed and this suggestion will be considered.

Mr. Farquhar stated that even though the fares were increased, we are still at the national average for fares. Tom Brashear made a motion to approve the revised fare policy. Jeff Baines seconded. Mr. Farquhar mentioned the revised policy for the fare evasion. If you get on the train without a ticket there is a \$75 fee. Mr. Farquhar mentioned that the biggest factor in enforcing the fares is the other commuters. Peer pressure is very effective.

Tom Brashear asked about the potential of homeless people riding the train all day long. The conductor has the right to refuse transportation to people that pose a problem. We do not have an established policy for refusing service, however the RTA does have a complaint policy approved the board. A person with a number of complaints can be banned from the service. Staff stated they would re-visit this policy and include the necessary changes.

Mr. Ballard stated that he believed there two areas which could become issues with this fare policy. The first is the walk-up fare of five dollars. The second issue is the \$75 fine. Mr. Ballard believes that this needs to be discussed more and the rationale behind it explained. Tom Brashear asked if the ECOC could have a meeting dedicated to discussing security and safety.

The motion was revised to change the title of the "on board ticket" to a fare evasion or fee. The motion then passed unanimously to approve the revised fare policy go to the full RTA Board at the August 17th meeting.

c) Recommendation of award for Insurance Brokerage Services

Mr. Bill Farquhar briefed the committee on the selection of the Insurance Broker for the Music City Star Service. This contract is to implement a risk management program, market the rail project and obtain the insurance from the off-shore markets. This is very specialized field and only one proposer had the experience required. Marsh was the most qualified. Tom Brashear made motion to award the insurance brokerage contract to Marsh, Jeff Baines seconded. Tom Brashear asked about budgeted costs of the services. Staff mentioned that this is budgeted in the insurance line item in the operations budget. Tom Brashear mentioned that the Mayor Jennings and the NERA had issues with the fact that we are hiring a firm to do this. It was suggested that the Board briefing be expanded to include more of the scope of service and fees to be charged. Mr. Farquhar stated that he is planning to attend the NERA Executive Committee Meeting next week. The motion then passed unanimously.

Information Items

a) **Funding / Status of Loan**

Allyson Shumate briefed the committee on the status of the loan and commitment for the funds. The bank of America has had positive conversations with a bond insurer and may request a face to face meeting.

b) **Update on Change Orders needed for awards**

Kevin Walker briefed the committee on the status of the change orders and funds needed to award the Riverfront Station. This is an information item. Mr. Farquhar commended Kevin Walker and Allyson Shumate for keeping the project on schedule.

c) **Marketing Update**

Hanne Flippen briefed the committee on the progress of the marketing efforts. Ms. Flippen wanted to address the progress on the Marketing Implementation Plan. We are using the logo and name everywhere we can. The website is under development and will be out for review within a month. Public outreach efforts are on-going. Meetings with key Editorial boards have begun and are on-going. A FAQ sheet has been developed to address the issues and questions that frequently arise. The advertising plan is scheduled to be developed within the next several months.

d) **Review Management Action Plan**

The management action plan was reviewed with the committee. This is the report the project team uses weekly to track the project and keep the committee informed.

e) **Construction Update**

Kevin Walker briefed the committee on the status of the construction program. Rail laying is mostly complete. Signal systems are moving forward. Construction at the Lebanon Station and Mt. Juliet Station is progressing.

Tom Brashear asked Mike Choate about the progress on the TDOT project. Mike stated he is expecting a settlement package from Builder's Source; he does not believe a settlement can be reached. TDOT does not have the appraisal for the property as of yet.

f) **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Locomotive Horn Rule**

Mr. Farquhar briefed the committee on the final rule issued by the FRA. The City of Lebanon has specific requests for this. The rule is several pages. A link to this has been placed in the briefing paper. The Cities must take the lead in the process. Section 130i funds are not available for these activities. RTA staff is willing to assist the Cities interested in this by performing a diagnostic study and determining safety upgrades necessary to implement a quiet zone. Jeff Baines stated that this is a real issue for the City of Lebanon and the Public Works committee.

g) **FTA Quarterly Meeting Report**

Allyson Shumate briefed the committee on the FRA Quarterly meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Ballard updated the committee on a briefing that he and Mr. Farquhar gave to the Aviation Committee of the Metro Council. The Council members seemed to be very pleased with the cooperation of both agencies. Mr. Ballard and Mr. Farquhar also briefed the TDOT Commissioner on Friday. This was a very positive meeting and everyone believed the Commissioner is supportive of the project.

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