

RTA

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

East Corridor Oversight Committee

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

MINUTES

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Ladieu	TDOT
Deb Varallo	NS / BAH / VPR
Jeff Baines	City of Lebanon
John Kennedy	Metro Legal Counsel
Joseph Perry	Private Citizen
Paul Ballard	MTA
Tom Brashear	Wilson County
Allyson Shumate	RTA
Hanne Flippen	RTA
Paul Price	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, August 10, 2004 at the MTA conference room, Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Paul Ballard mentioned to the committee that the Peer Review kicked off this morning. Eric Beyer and Eric Bischoff were not present at the ECOC meeting due to the alignment tour being conducted for the Peer Review panel members. Agendas were provided to the committee members for their information. Paul Price expanded on the attendees and the focus of the review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 27, 2004

Mr. Ballard called for approval of the minutes from the July 27, 2004 meeting. Jim Ladieu made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Baines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW PLAN FOR HIRING OF COMMUTER RAIL DIRECTOR

Mr. Ballard briefed the committee on the plans for hiring the new Commuter Rail Director. The job description in the Music City Star East Corridor Commuter Rail Business Plan was used as a basis for the advertisements. The RTA Board will be requested to approve the position and the recruitment at the August meeting. The Finance Committee will review this position as part of the budget approval process. Advertising is scheduled to run in Passenger Transport and Railway Age on September 6.

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

- Review Management Action Plan - Items on the Action Plan that were from the Business Plan were reviewed. One item was securing the remaining FTA funds. Mayor Fox said that he would contact the congressional delegation and begin organizing the visit. RTA staff will prepare a briefing packet. It was suggested that a TDOT representative attend to show the strength of the coalition. Mayor Fox stated that it is important to show unity. It was suggested that Mayor Jennings attend. Tom Brashear will call him and ask if he is available.
- The status of the NERA local match and RRIF loan was discussed. Val Kelley was not at the meeting and RTA staff stated that they would follow up on these issues.
- Status of track re-bid. An overview of the strategy was given by Paul Price. After canvassing bidders from the first bid of the track work, it was apparent that the risk of steel prices was a major impediment for bidders. The rail has been taken out of the package and is being purchased as a separate procurement. The RTA believes this will increase bidding activity due to the reduction in risks to the contractor with regard to steel prices as well as lower bonding requirements.

Questions were raised regarding the scrap rail. Scrap rail will be used for yard work, and must be used within the ROW.

The committee determined that a special meeting will be held before the August RTA Board meeting to discuss the rail bid prices. This will ensure an official vote of the ECOC and public notice will be issued.

- Motion to recommend approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with MTA for the storage of the vehicles. This agreement was issued to the committee at the July 27, 2004 meeting for their review. There were not comments. Tom Brashear made a motion to recommend the RTA Board approve the MOA with MTA for storage of the vehicles. Rob Shearer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to recommend approval of the Agreement with the Nashville and Eastern Railroad Corporation (NERC) for storage of vehicles. John Kennedy stated to the committee that there was one change regarding the moves. The committee commented that it appeared that the NERC can move the cars without RTA knowledge and then bill the \$220 plus mileage. The committee agreed that the language needed to be clarified that the charge is for moves from one location to another location and that the moves are at the request of the RTA. This must be changed before the agreement is finalized. The committee stated that they would vote on this item at the special meeting to be held before the August RTA Board Meeting.
- Motion to recommend approval of the contracts for employment of the Construction Project Administrator, Construction Contract Administrator and Rail Project Manager. Mr. Paul Ballard briefed the committee on these positions and where they were covered in the budget. Rob Shearer made a motion recommending the RTA Board Approve the contracts for the employment of the Construction Project Administrator, Contract Administrator and the Rail Project Manager. Jim Ladieu seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

RTA briefed the committee on an issue that was raised by the FTA Project Management Oversight Consultants. In the Music City Star East Corridor Commuter Rail Business Plan, in Table 5.3, the total federal share of the project is 81%. The local match needs to be adjusted bring the total federal share to 80%. RTA staff mentioned that TDOT had committed to 10% of the capital project costs, and that the table currently reflects the commitment of TDOT on the previous budget which is \$3.7 million. If TDOT is agreeable to 10%, this would increase their contribution to \$3.9

million and the issue should be resolved. A meeting is scheduled with TDOT on Friday to discuss the operational assistance and this can be discussed at that time.

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