



MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MAY 15, 2013

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors was held in the meeting room at Music City Central at 400 Charlotte Avenue on May 15, 2013. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by RTA Chair Karl Dean, Metro Nashville and Davidson County Mayor.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair Dean entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
- IV. **MARKETING REPORT:** Committee Chair Governor Appointee Kelly Dannenfelsler reported that the committee met last week and had a good discussion about activities and upcoming projects. She then presented the following action item for the board's consideration:
- a. **FOURTH OF JULY TRAIN SERVICE:** For the past four years, we have been successful in planning and executing a solid marketing and operational plan for the special Music City Star service to the annual Independence Day (July 4) Fireworks Celebration at Nashville's Riverfront Park.
- The service is popular and the tickets sell out in two to three weeks. There are a total of 900 tickets sold at \$12.00 a piece and most of those sales are transacted online. The Marketing Committee is requesting the Board recommend approval of operating the Music City Star for the annual Independence Day (July 4) Fireworks Celebration at Nashville's Riverfront Park. Proper motion was made and the vote of approval was unanimous.
- V. **OPERATIONS REPORT:** White House City Administrator Gerald Herman reported that overall we continue to see a healthy increase in ridership. In the month to month ridership report from last year we do see a decline but there was one less business day in March 2013 vs. March 2012 and the fuel cost are lower in 2013 than this same time last year. The committee does not feel concern for this small variance in ridership. Mr. Herman then presented the following action item for the board's consideration inviting Mayor Philip Craighead to address the Board:
- a. **WILSON COUNTY FAIR SERVICE:** Mayor Philip Craighead noted that last year's attendance to the fair was over half a million people. The train would

operate on the two Saturdays of the fair and would provide an opportunity for people to ride the train who normally do not have that opportunity.

In discussion it was clarified that this would be cost neutral to RTA. All costs associated with the fair service not recouped through ticket sales would be the responsibility of the City of Lebanon, whether on their own or through public/private partnerships.

Proper motion was made to allow continued discussions and to reach agreement and then brief the Board fully in June as to the arrangements that had been reached. The vote of approval was unanimous with the understanding that this motion only approved further discussion and that final approval from this board would be contingent upon those funds being available for the project.

- VI. FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT:** Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess reported that the committee met and they did not have any items that needed action or approval. The committee discussed the financial condition of the RTA and Mayor Burgess reported that we are still doing excellent with both revenues and expenses and we are on budget. An extended discussion about the proposed FY 2014 budget was had and an official presentation of that budget will occur in August. There was some discussion about the Game Day Express train for the Titan's season home games. Although it has been operating at a bit of a deficit, the Finance Committee would like to see us continue to support that with expectations for a better season this year.
- VII. CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chair Karl Dean reported that the Power of 10 meeting went really well and was one of the most well attended that have been held. He also noted that he had the good fortune of attending the Portland Strawberry Festival. It was an excellent festival and he thanked Mayor Wilber for that.
- VIII. CEO'S REPORT:** CEO Paul Ballard shared the latest edition of the *Star Tracks* newsletter and offered to share extra copies with anyone who would like to have them as well as the Regional Maps that went out last month.
- IX. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** RTA General Manager Lora Baulsir reported that she met recently with the MPO, RTA Director of Planning and Grants Jim McAteer, TMA Group Regional Transportation Director Diane Thorne, and TMA Group Executive Director Debbie Henry to discuss the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects. The purpose of the meeting was to go over their wish list which exceeded available funding and to weed out projects to get them within the funding range available. It was a good meeting and resulted in a balanced TIP. She looks forward to moving ahead with this.

Continuing, Ms. Baulsir noted that in a couple of weeks she and Paul Ballard will be attending the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference in Philadelphia and they hope to bring back a lot of good information about what is going on with rail including one of the biggest issues, Positive Train Control.

Additionally, Ms. Baulsir has been asked by APTA to provide them with some information on the challenges we are having with implementing this unfunded

mandate, Positive Train Control. APTA is preparing another report to the Senate Commerce Committee on challenges transit systems are facing with the hopes of getting the deadline extended for several years. We will continue to work towards that.

X. **OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully,

Paula Mansfield

Governor Appointee
RTA Secretary