



MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

August 16, 2023

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board was held at the Tennessee State Library & Archives located at 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Nashville, TN 37219, on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. There was insufficient attendance to meet the quorum requirements for the full RTA Board Meeting. However, a quorum of the Executive Committee was established, and the Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Mayor Randall Hutto.

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Randall Hutto, Wilson County, Chair
Ed Cole – Davidson County (Gov. Appt.)
Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin
Mayor Rick Bell – City of Lebanon
Mayor Rob Rial – Dickson County
Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County
Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)

Others Present:

Diana Alarcon – Davidson County (Alt.)
Darrell James – Dickson County (Gov. Appt.)
Margot Fosnes – Robertson County (Gov. Appt.)
Ed Elam – Rutherford County (Alt.)
Mayor Jamie Clary – City of Hendersonville
Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve the June 21, 2023, meeting minutes; Ken Davis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

Mayor Randall Hutto acknowledged Congressman John Rose for being present. Congressman Rose then gave brief remarks, expressing his pleasure in attending the meeting. Congressman Rose also indicated that he was attempting to obtain Congressionally Directed funding toward the RTA's Donelson Station Improvement Project. He cautioned that it was very early in the Federal Appropriations process. Chairman Hutto expressed his sincere appreciation to Congressman Rose and thanked the Congressman's staff for their consistent support.

- III. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments given at this meeting.

- IV. **Audit Committee Report:** There were no items for the Audit committee this month.

- V. **Finance Committee Report:** Committee Chair Mayor Ken Moore presented the following for discussion and action:

- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-23-014)**: Mayor Ken Moore presented the Monthly Financials for the month of June 2023, compared to the budget and a balance sheet as of June 2023. Ed Oliphant was available for questions, and there were no additional questions or further discussions.
- b. **Debt Obligation Notification (R-D-23-015)**: Mayor Ken Moore presented the Debt Obligation Notification; on July 1, 2023, we entered a Revolving Credit Promissory Note with Fifth Third Bank for \$5.0 million, with an expiration of the note on June 30, 2024. This note is needed to cover our cash flow needs throughout the year. The terms of the loan are as follows:

Term:	1 year
Maturity Date:	June 30, 2024
Interest Rate:	Variable – Prime minus 1.8%
Legal Fees:	\$1,300 paid to Dickenson Wright Law Firm representing Fifth Third Bank
Non-Use Fee:	7.5 basis points on the daily unused principal amount of the note, charged quarterly. The maximum fee will not exceed \$3,750.

Once RTA receives the designated grant funds, any related outstanding loan will be paid down to minimize our interest expense. Ed Oliphant was available for questions, and there were no additional questions or further discussions.

VI. Operations Committee Report: Committee Chair Mayor Rick Bell presented the following items for discussion:

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-23-016)**: Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of June 2023 with the Executive Committee. Andy Burke was available for questions, and there were no additional questions or further discussions.

VII. Federal Transit Administration Triennial Review Update (R-D-23-017): Capital Grants Administrator Billy Higgins reviewed the Triennial Review process along with the Final Report and the corrective actions underway with respect to the Authority’s Drug and Alcohol Program. A copy of the Final Triennial Review Report was attached for the members to review.

On behalf of the board, Ed Cole expressed thanks for an exceptional FTA Triennial Report. Mayor Hutto and CEO Bland also appreciated Billy Higgins and the staff for the great work and the report's outcome. CEO Bland said that there was one finding in the report in the drug and alcohol program, which was mainly due to changes in administrative staff, and those findings are being addressed through corrective action.

There was no further discussion.

VIII. CEO's Report: CEO Bland provided the following report:

1. Last Friday, there was a collision on the Star when an automobile went through the crossing lights on West Main Street in Downtown Lebanon and collided with the side of one of the passenger coaches. The automobile driver sustained non-life-threatening injuries, and the passenger coach suffered some damage. Service was disrupted on Friday afternoon but returned to normal by Monday morning.
2. The RTA is up for legislative renewal in front of the General Assembly again this year. Our Sunset Hearing before the Commerce, Labor, Transportation, and Agriculture Joint Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and will be held in House Hearing Room 1, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tennessee. CEO Bland said he would request the Officers' participation in this hearing again, and any interested member is invited to attend.

3. WeGo operated a special train service for the 4th of July Fireworks and the Big Machine Music City Grand Prix. Ridership for the 4th of July was a sellout at 650 tickets sold, 1,146 total passenger trips, and service for the Grand Prix carried a total of 116 passenger trips.
4. Background work continues on the Donelson Station joint development project. The developer is pursuing a sliver parcel of property along the tracks between our property and Donelson Pike, and our engineers are examining the feasibility of creating a new signalized intersection at that location as part of the development and station improvements.
5. WeGo continues to advance the development of a park-and-ride lot in Murfreesboro. The appraisal process has been completed, and WeGo is working with the Federal Transit Administration to complete the Environmental Review process. WeGo is also working with the City of Murfreesboro to coordinate the park-and-ride design and development with their adjacent transit facility.
6. WeGo is working with Nashville SC to develop a regional bus service for some of their soccer matches. The Club completed a survey of its fan base, identifying the highest potential in the Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Antioch markets. WeGo is working with the team and the city on operational details, intending to pilot one or two games this season in the Murfreesboro/Antioch market, hoping for a more extensive service next season.
7. WeGo participated in an event hosted by the Greater Nashville Chamber of Commerce surrounding the release of a new report, "Point of Departure – Navigating Nashville as a College Commuter." The report highlighted that, while transit was readily available to most post-secondary institutions of higher education in Davidson County, service design elongates many trips and that there is a general lack of access to higher education in the outlying counties served by the RTA. WeGo will consider the information compiled in this report during the upcoming update to our strategic service plan.
8. CEO Bland thanked all the members and other community leaders who participated in various public meetings surrounding the Star Future Vision Study. The attendance was strong and will better inform Hatch's approach to the project as WeGo continues to advance the effort. They are currently developing various potential scenarios to model with respect to operational impacts, capital costs, operating costs, and ridership.

IX. Chair's Report: Mayor Randall Hutto announced that the Marathon Train raised slightly over \$12K this year, and the proceeds generated were donated to St. Jude.

Mayor Hutto announced the Wilson County Fair would begin this weekend, and if anyone wanted to attend, he had tickets, and anyone could come and see him after the meeting.

Mayor Randall Hutto also acknowledged and thanked Gabriel Burgess for his work every year with the Marathon Train.

X. Other Business: Mayor Vogle acknowledged Margot Fosnes and said it was her last day at the RTA Board meeting, as she has pursued other career opportunities. He and the other board members thanked Ms. Fosnes for her work and contributions to the RTA Board.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Ken Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mayor Billy Vogle seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Cole, RTA Secretary &
Davidson County Governor Appointee