



**MINUTES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board of Directors was held at the Tennessee Bankers Association, 211 Athens Way, Nashville, TN 37228 on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. A quorum of the full RTA Board was not established, so the RTA Board meeting was adjourned and the RTA Executive meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chair, Mayor Randall Hutto.

**Executive Committee Members in Attendance:**

Mayor Randall Hutto – Wilson County  
Mayor Paige Brown – City of Gallatin  
Mayor Rick Bell – City of Lebanon  
Governor’s Appointee Ed Cole, Secretary – Davidson County  
Mayor Bill Ketron – Rutherford County  
Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County  
Governor’s Appointee Kelly Dannenfelser – Williamson County  
Governor’s Appointee Ken Davis – Wilson County

**Others Present:**

Mayor Jamie Clary – City of Hendersonville  
Jim Kerr (Alt.) – City of Murfreesboro  
Victor Lay – City of Springhill (Alt.)  
Gerald Herman- City of White House (Alt.)  
Mayor Bob Rial – Dickson County  
Ed Elam – Rutherford County (Alt.)

- II. **Approval of the August 18, 2021 Minutes**  
Proper motion was made and the minutes were unanimously approved by the RTA Executive Committee.
- III. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments to come before this. at this time.
- IV. **Finance Committee Report:** Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant reported the following:
- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget Report (R-D-21-011):** Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant reviewed the year-to-date data of the statement of operations for the month of September 2021 compared to the FY2020 budget and the balance sheet as of September 30, 2021. Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant availed himself for questions and there was on none at this time.

V. **Operations Committee Report:** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke reported the following:

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-21-012):** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of September 30, 2021, with the Board. Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke was present to answer any questions and there were none at this time.

There was general discussion regarding missed trips on the Music City Star, due to the sinkhole, and if missed trips on the train will be reflected in the monthly reports. COO Andy Burke said that his team is monitoring these types of scenarios on a weekly basis and it will be reported in the monthly reports going forward.

VI. **2022 RTA Committee & Board Meeting Schedule (R-A-21-014):** Chief Administrative Officer Rita Roberts-Turner presented the following:

Under Article 2, Section 3 of the by-laws of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee ("RTA"), the RTA shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place to be established by the Chair/President of the Board. RTA and may meet more frequently as needed. Additionally, under Article 4, Section 5 of the by-laws, the Executive Committee shall meet monthly except for those months in which the Board shall meet.

In order to effectively satisfy the established meeting requirements, Staff recommended that the schedule of proposed 2022 meetings dates for both the RTA Board and Executive Committee be adopted and approved by the Board.

Secretary Ed Cole made a motion to approve the 2022 RTA Committee & Board Meeting Schedule, the motion was seconded by Mayor Bill Ketron, and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

VII. **CEO's Report:** CEO Bland provided the following report:

1. With the State of Tennessee enacting broad legislation restricting the ability of schools, local governments, and businesses to enforce mask mandates; we're placed in a difficult position. The Transportation Security Administration has extended its requirement that passengers on public transportation continue to wear masks through at least January 22. The State Legislation limiting mask enforcement did create an exception for airports and airlines, which fall under the same requirements of the TSA that we do. The law does include a provision for entities that rely on Federal funding to apply to the Office of State Comptroller for an exception if non-enforcement would result in the loss of Federal funds. We are pursuing this exception through our State Association along with 25 other public transit agencies in Tennessee. So, our mask requirement remains in effect.
2. With respect to the Federal Infrastructure Bill that was recently signed into law by President Biden, we are anticipating approximately a 30% increase in the formula funding that RTA receives, although the final numbers are somewhat dependent on the 2020 census. This will allow us to advance several projects more quickly, particularly focusing on expanded park-and-ride capacity in our various corridors.
3. The supply chain issues that are making worldwide news remain in effect for two specific RTA projects. The rehabilitation of our last locomotive has been delayed due to some parts availability shortages, and the delivery of 10 new commuter buses has similarly been delayed. While we are hopeful both projects will be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2022, this is still a very fluid situation.
4. We are partnering with the City of Nashville, TDOT, and the Nashville Downtown Partnership on a Downtown Nashville Traffic Study to examine the many competing uses

for downtown Nashville streets and rights of way. One of our key objectives will be to try to identify transit priority corridors where we can gain transit priority measures like dedicated lanes and improved infrastructure. This will be essential for RTA commuters as the downtown workforce spreads well beyond the State Capitol complex. A contract has been awarded to the consulting firm of Nelson Nygaard and a kickoff meeting is being scheduled for later this month.

5. Mayor Cooper has announced the hiring of a new Director of Transportation for the City of Nashville. Ms. Diana Alarcon will bring over 30 years of experience, including City DOT Director roles in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Tucson, Arizona. We look forward to working with her and continuing to work with Faye DiMassimo who will return to her full-time role as Mayor Cooper's Senior Advisor for Transportation and Infrastructure.

CEO Bland concluded his remarks and was available for any questions from the floor and there were none at this time.

**VIII. Chair's Report:** Mayor Hutto thanked everyone for attending the Board Meeting and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**IX. Adjournment:** With no further business, Mayor Hutto called for adjournment, a proper motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ed Cole, RTA Secretary &  
Davidson County Governor Appointee