



MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
September 21, 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board of Directors was held at the Tennessee State Archives & Library, located at 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Nashville, TN 37219 on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. A quorum of the full Board was not established so the RTA Executive meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair, Mayor Randall Hutto.

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Randall Hutto – Wilson County
Mayor Paige Brown – City of Gallatin
Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin
Mayor Rick Bell – City of Lebanon
Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County
Ed Cole – Davidson County (Gov. Appt.)
Kelly Dannenfelser – Williamson County (Gov. Appt.)
Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)

Others Present:

Mayor Jamie Clary – City of Hendersonville
Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)
Gerald Herman – White House (Alt.)
Mayor Mike Callis – City of Portland
Diana Alarcon – Davidson County (Alt.)
Mayor Bob Rial – Dickson County
Lee Harrell – Montgomery County
Ray Render - Congressman John Rose Office - 6th District, TN

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**
Mayor Ken Moore made a motion to approve the August 17, 2022, RTA Board minutes; the motion was seconded by Mayor Paige Brown and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.
- III. **Public Comments:**
There were no public comments given at this meeting.
- IV. **Finance Committee Report:** Committee Chair Mayor Ken Moore presented the following:
- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-22-027):** The Monthly Financial Report Compared to the Budget for the month of August 2022 was included in the board packet for review purposes but was not verbally discussed at the board meeting. If any board members have questions with respect to the statements, they were asked to reach out to Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant for clarification and additional information. No one raised any questions during the meeting.

- b. **Resolution of FY2023 Annual Grant Applications (R-A-22-020)**: Capital Grant Administrator Billy Higgins presented the following:

The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) has the authority to receive federal, state, and local financial assistance for transportation projects.

In order for the RTA to apply for and receive federal funds, RTA must comply with Federal Certifications and Assurances and annually submit compliance in accordance with these terms.

Reoccurring Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highway Administration, and State of Tennessee funding sources are as follows:

5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds - When the apportionment is made available, RTA is eligible to use FTA 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funds, along with the 10% State and 10% Local match.

5337 State of Good Repair Formula Funds - RTA is eligible to use FTA State of Good Repair Funds. State of Good Repair Formula funds is for the maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing fixed guideway systems to maintain a state of good repair. The FY2022 apportionment for the Nashville Urbanized Area combined with the State and Local match is \$5,157,034 (80% Federal/10% State/10% Local).

State Operating Assistance - RTA is eligible for operating assistance from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The amount for FY2023 is \$660,200 and an additional \$400,000 for commuter bus service.

IMPROVE Act Assistance - RTA can request up to \$5 million in assistance (requires a 20% match) for capital projects that support public transportation services.

The resolution comprises the annual submittal of Certifications and Assurances for FTA funds and authorization to submit applications for grants with the FTA, the TDOT, and other grant funding entities.

Staff requested the Board:

- Adopt the attached resolution
- Authorize the applications for 5307 & 5337 funding and State/Local match
- Authorize the submittal of the applications for State Operating Assistance funding; and,
- Authorize the submittal of applications and execution of contracts for any other federal, state, or local grant funding that may become available during the fiscal year 2023 for the benefit of RTA.

Board Secretary Ed Cole made a motion to approve the Resolution of the FY2023 Annual Grant Applications action item; the motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Vogle and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

- c. **Adoption of FY2023-2027 Capital Investment Plan (R-A-22-021)**: Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad presented the following:

Staff presented a recommended Capital Investment Plan for the period of FY2023-2027. Overall, investments totaling \$8,085,000 are recommended in Year One of the plan

(FY2023), with a total project investment recommendation of \$150,293,467 over the life of the plan. Projects identified in Year One have access to full funding.

The plan shows significant deficits in FYs 2026 and 2027. This is due to the fact that (1) with respect to revenue, we only show those sources that we are reasonably certain of receiving year after year (i.e.: formula funds, basic match, etc.), and (2) we are programming several significant enhancement projects, particularly with respect to the WeGo Star enhancements and park-and-ride expansion on the RTA bus network. To advance, these projects the RTA will need to secure supplemental funding sources not yet identified. If supplemental funding cannot be secured, these projects would need to be deferred in order to keep the capital investment plan in balance.

Staff recommended the RTA Executive Committee adopt the attached FY2023-2027 Capital Investment Plan.

Board Secretary Ed Cole asked Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad if he could speak more on the ability to work with FTA on projecting long-term funding from these federal sources. How do we work with FTA to anticipate what we'll likely be receiving in the five years ahead?

Felix said that we look back at some of the sources and we look at what some of those apportionments have been. The assumptions are fairly conservative and stable. We look at the urban areas, but we won't know the impact of those areas until the census is released, and we don't expect it to have a huge impact. We also look at some of the discretionary programs, the new transportation reduction, and S.M.A.R.T. programs that may have an impact on transit as well. We have quarterly meetings with the FTA and these are the types of things that we discuss with them.

CEO Bland said when the Infrastructure Bill was first passed the FTA was pretty quick to come out with apportionment tables for major formula programs. There was a huge bump upfront and then from there, there are smaller incremental increases over the next four years of the bill, so those sources are pretty easy to project, other than what Felix talked about with the impact of the census. As with this census, CEO Bland said that Greater Nashville will go over the million in population market mark. The way it works is FTA is funded in population tiers, which means in the past, Nashville was broken down with cities like Birmingham and El Paso, but now we're going to be with cities like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. It will be interesting to see how congress might change the allocations to adjust to that. If things stay where they are and no additional money is moved up into that over the million-dollar tier, there may be a reduction. It's not a major concern at this time because we got a huge bump with the increased funds under the Infrastructure Bill. In all likelihood, we will not fall below what we were seeing before, but it might dampen the impact somewhat and slow our growth.

CEO Bland concluded by saying, we're in pretty good shape from the State of Good Repair, Safety, and Regulatory standpoint, but it's just how we're going to be able to execute some of the bigger projects that may be an issue in the future.

Mayor Ken Moore made a motion to approve the Adoption of the FY2023-2027 Capital Investment Plan action item; the motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Vogle and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

V. Operations Committee Report: Committee Chair Mayor Rick Bell reported the following for discussion:

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-22-028)**: Chair Bell asked Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke to review the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of August 2022 with the Executive Committee. Mr. Burke provided a brief overview and availed himself of questions and there were none at this time.

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

1. In prior months, we've reported on a Request for Proposals we issued to examine possible future directions for the WeGo Star in light of the limitations posed by Positive Train Control requirements and the changing commuter market. We are pleased to say that the RFP got widespread attention, and we received 7 proposals from some very qualified consulting teams. Interviews are scheduled with 5 firms starting today and extending through October 3. While we would hope to bring you a recommendation to your October meeting, November seems more likely given the volume and depth of the proposals.
2. Our capital plan includes the installation of video surveillance cameras at our Star park-and-ride lots. We have conducted site work to identify camera locations and are currently soliciting bids for the installation of conduit to connect the cameras and central communications. The cameras have been ordered from our vendor.
3. In June, we received an unsolicited proposal in accordance with the RTA Board's adopted policy for such things. The proposal was from a joint venture comprised of HG Hill and Southeast Venture to undertake joint development of the Donelson Station with RTA. Following an internal review, we found the proposal to have significant merit. Last month, we published an intent to award a period of exclusive negotiation and invited other interested parties to submit their expressions of interest. As of the closing date yesterday, no expressions of interest were received. Staff anticipates that we will bring forward a recommendation to enter into a period of exclusive negotiation with the HG Hill/Southeast Venture development team at the Board's October meeting.
4. CEO Bland said, following the RTA meeting, the Transportation Policy Board of the GNRC will be meeting. At that meeting, Metro Nashville will be doing a presentation on the Vision Plan for the East Bank. This area encompasses the land between the Interstate and the River below Jefferson Street. Possible transportation and mobility enhancements included in the draft vision plan could have significant impacts on RTA operations in the long run, and these will be reviewed in the presentation. Many of you are members of the Transportation Policy Board, but we would encourage those RTA members who are not to stay for this portion of the meeting.

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

VII. Chair's Report: Chair Hutto thanked everyone for attending the meeting today.

VIII. Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Hutto called for a motion to adjourn, Mayor Paige Brown made a motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Cole, RTA Secretary &
Davidson County Governor Appointee