



MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

January 15, 2025

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Executive Committee took place at the Nashville Downtown Library, located at 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219, on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. a quorum of the Full Board was not reached, so the Executive Committee was convened at 9:35 a.m. by Board Chair, Mayor Randall Hutto.

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Randall Hutto – Wilson County, Chair
Mayor Paige Brown – City of Gallatin, Vice Chair
Mayor Freddie O'Connell – Davidson County
Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin
Mayor Rick Bell – Lebanon County
Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County
Ed Cole – Davidson County – Davidson County (Gov. Appt.)
Kelly Dannenfelser – Williamson County (Gov. Appt.)
Nicole Rowan – Sumner County (Gov. Appt.)
Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)

Others Present:

Mayor Mike Callis – City of Portland
Matthew White – City of Mt. Juliet (Alt)
Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)
Gerald Herman – City of White House (Alt.)
Thad Jablonski – City of Columbia (Alt).
Ray Render – Office of Congressman John Rose

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Ken Moore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 16th and November 20th. Mr. Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee approved it unanimously
- III. **Public Comments:** The following members of the public provided comments:
- Jessica Dauphin
- IV. **Audit Committee Report:** Mayor Ken Moore presented the following for discussion and action:
- a. **FY2024 Annual Audit Report (R-A-25-01):** Deputy CEO of Finance & Administration Amanda Vandegrift introduced Ms. Erica Saeger, a partner from Crosslin responsible for the RTA audit. Ms. Saeger presented the Annual Report and the required auditor communications, remaining available to answer any questions, though none were raised. The board members then participated in a general discussion regarding the positive outcome of the clean audit report.
- b. **Annual Risk Assessment Budget (R-D-25-002):** Deputy CEO of Finance & Administration Amanda Vandegrift provided an update on the Annual Risk Assessment, emphasizing the key focus areas within Finance and Accounting and outlining mitigation strategies. Ms. Vandegrift was available to answer any questions; however, none were raised.

- c. **Annual Conflict of Interest Discussion (R-D-25-003):** Deputy CEO of Finance & Administration Amanda Vandegrift provided the following update:

Each year, staff documents potential decisions or recommendations that might appear to present a conflict of interest between the Management Contract MTA holds with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for managing the RTA. A past performance audit of the RTA highlighted the importance of reviewing any areas that could be perceived as a conflict of interest, given that the MTA manages the RTA. Management will continue to conduct an annual review of actions that may appear to raise a conflict of interest and will discuss mitigating factors with the Board.

The report outlined areas where management identified decisions or recommendations that could be seen as potential conflicts of interest between the two agencies and the actions taken to address these conflicts. Ms. Vandegrift was available to answer any questions; however, none were raised.

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

- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-25-004):** Deputy CEO of Finance & Administration, Amanda Vandegrift, presented a summary of the statement of operations for the first five months of fiscal year FY2025 (July - November 2024), comparing it to the approved FY2025 budget. Ms. Vandegrift was available to address any questions, but there were none, and no further discussion followed
- b. **RTA Local Funding Issues (R-D-25-005):** Deputy CEO for Finance and Administration Amanda Vandegrift provided an update on the status of partner funding (local, state, and federal) and facilitated a discussion among committee members on potential follow-up strategies. A general discussion followed.

- VI. **Operations Committee Report:** In the absence of Committee Chair Mayor Rick Bell, Mayor Hutto asked Steve Bland to begin the committee report. Mr. Bland introduced Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke.

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-25-006):** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke presented the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report for November 2024 to the Executive Committee and was available to address any questions. No questions were raised, and no further discussion took place.

- VII. **Approval of the 2025 Committee & Board Meeting Schedule (R-A-25-002):** Chief of Staff and Administration Vince Malone provided the following item for action:

- a. 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, a schedule of proposed 2025 meeting dates for both the RTA Board and Executive Committee is herein attached.

Staff recommended that the proposed 2025 meeting dates be adopted and approved by the Board.

Mr. Ed Cole motioned to approve the 2025 RTA Committee & Board Meeting Schedule. Mayor Paige Brown seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- VIII. **Election of 2025 RTA Officers (R-A-25-003):** Chief of Staff and Administration Vince Malone provided the following item for action:

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 1(a), of the by-laws for the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA), officers of the RTA shall be elected by the full RTA Board at its ***first regular meeting in each calendar year*** or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, acting in the stead of the Board at its first regularly scheduled meeting in each calendar year, whichever meets first. Nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the Board and/or Executive Committee.

The officers of the RTA shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary and must include at least one appointed member and one elected official member. The following served as 2024 officers:

- Chair – Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor
- Vice Chair – Paige Brown, Gallatin Mayor
- Secretary – Ed Cole, Davidson County Governor Appointee

Staff requested that the Board nominate candidates to serve as the RTA's officers through January 2026.

Mayor Moore proposed keeping the current slate of officers for the 2025 calendar year. Mayor Billy Vogle made a motion to approve the retention of the current officers for the 2025 calendar year. Mayor Freddie O'Connell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the Officers for 2025 will be Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto as Chair; City of Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown as Vice Chair; and Davidson County Governors Appointee Ed Cole as Secretary

IX. CEO's Report: CEO Bland presented the following report:

1. WeGo finished out the Titans Express Season with the final home game this past month. In total, about 3,600 people rode the Star to the eight home games.
2. In that same vein, WeGo had strong ridership on the Star on New Year's Eve, although the train did not sell out. We carried a total of just over 600 riders to and from the event.
3. WeGo has received an additional cab car from Great Lakes Central Railroad to be placed in service and one to utilize for spare parts. We have identified several issues that need to be addressed by Great Lakes before we enter it into service, but we anticipate that it will be available by the Spring.
4. Consultants from Kimley Horn and Nelson Nygaard are currently working on the update to the RTA Strategic Service Plan. They are finalizing the system evaluation report, which includes an analysis of current service, market demand, and performance comparisons with other peers. This will help identify service gaps and opportunities. WeGo plans to engage the public across RTA counties over the next 6-8 months.
5. As part of the strategic service plan, WeGo has been in discussions with TDOT regarding the implementation of choice lanes in the I-24 South corridor. TDOT has engaged CDM Smith to examine opportunities for leveraging the choice lane asset for improved transit system performance.
6. Concerning the Murfreesboro Park and Ride project, in December, WeGo's attorney finalized the necessary documents for the property acquisition to assist the church's attorney in filing with the Tennessee Secretary of State. As of this week, the church's attorney has confirmed that all items are complete and will send them to the Attorney General's office by the end of the week.
7. For the Franklin Park-and-Ride project, WeGo has engaged CDM Smith to develop three preliminary concepts for stakeholders to review in the coming months. Our project team has met with Franklin stakeholders to discuss issues such as zoning, access, and runoff concerns. WeGo will meet with the design consultant and City of Franklin representatives in the first week of December to kick off the project.

X. Chair's Report: Mayor Hutto thanked everyone for attending the board meeting.

XI. Other Business: There was no other business to come before this board.

XII. Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Paige Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mayor Billy Vogle seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Cole, RTA Secretary & Davidson County
Governor Appointee