



MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

March 15, 2023

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Executive Committee was held at the Tennessee State Archives & Library, located at 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Nashville, TN 37219 on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. A quorum of the Executive Committee was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. by Chair, Mayor Randall Hutto.

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Mayor Randall Hutto – Wilson County
Vice-Chair Mayor Paige Brown – City of Gallatin
Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin
Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County
Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)

Others Present:

Mayor Jamie Clary – City of Hendersonville
Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)
Mayor Mike Callis – City of Portland
Gerald Herman – White House (Alt.)
Diana Alarcon – Davidson County (Alt.)

Mayor Hutto introduced and welcomed Mayor Lisa Anderson, the new Mayor of Fairview to the RTA Executive Committee meeting.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**
Ken Davis made a motion to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Vogle and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.
- III. **Public Comments:**
There were no public comments given at this meeting.
- IV. **Operations Committee Report:** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke presented the following items for discussion and action:
- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-23-005):** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of January 30, 2023, with the Executive Committee. Andy Burke was available for any questions and there were no additional questions or further discussion.
- b. **2023 WeGo Star Track Maintenance Program (R-A-23-006):** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke provided the following report.

To ensure the safety and quality of the WeGo Star service and compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requirements for commuter rail operations, annual routine maintenance and rehabilitation work is required for all railroad track and supporting infrastructure. The labor and materials routinely include track, switches, ties, ballast, bridges, overall upkeep of at-grade crossings, and signal improvements on the Nashville & Eastern Railroad (NERR) corridor. The railroad has identified key areas along the corridor on which the Star operates daily. In order to maintain the corridor in a “state of good repair,” repair efforts need to be completed within the 2023 calendar year. As a requirement of the tri-party agreement between the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA), Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority (NERA), and Nashville and Eastern Railroad Corporation (NERC), the railroad is to perform regular maintenance and repair of the track and infrastructure associated with the rail passenger corridor. Based on the railroad’s annual assessment of conditions, the RTA reviews and evaluates the request for repairs and associated capital costs prior to issuing approval of the work. RTA staff validate the railroad’s assessment of annual track condition and recommended investments through third party contracts with outside engineering firms with expertise in these matters. In this instance, HDR was used to validate the railroad’s recommendations, and field inspections were included in this analysis.

RTA staff requested that the Executive Committee authorize the Chief Executive Officer to release capital funding to support this year’s track maintenance and rehabilitation program, as defined within the tri-party agreement between RTA, NERA, and NERC. The proposed capital project is to be managed with a total amount not to exceed \$845,262.00 which includes a 10% contingency. RTA will fund its portion of \$760,735.80 (90%) from Federal, State, and local sources. RJ Corman will fund the remaining \$84,526.20 (10%) as agreed to in the Tri-Party Agreement.

Mayor Billy Vogle made a motion to approve the 2023 WeGo Star Track Maintenance Program, the motion was seconded by Mayor Ken Moore and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

- 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:
 - a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-23-006):** Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant presented the Monthly Financials for the month of January 2023 compared to the budget and a balance sheet as of January 30, 2023. CFO Oliphant was available for questions from the floor and there were none.
- VI. **CEO’s Report:** CEO Bland provided the following report:
 - a. With respect to the Park & Ride projects, we’re working with the city of Murfreesboro on a location that’s adjacent to their transit center. We have identified a piece of property and we are currently going through the appraisal process to work with the current property owner on an acquisition there.
 - b. We have issued a task order with our real estate advisors to look at Williamson County sites, so they should be in contact with Mayor Moore and Kelly in the next couple of weeks. Also, Mayor Rial in Dickson made us aware of a piece of property that TDOT owns that may be a good opportunity for us right along the route. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we’ll be chugging along with some better Park & Ride opportunities.

- c. The Federal Transit Administration and their consultants are currently engaged in their triennial review of the RTA to verify regulatory program compliance. Once they complete the review, they will issue a final report which will be shared with the Board of Directors.
- d. We continue to prepare for the mock disaster drill on the WeGo Star with local first responders. The drill is scheduled for April 12.
- e. With respect to activities surrounding the joint development at Donelson Station, appraisals are ongoing, and we have engaged our real estate advisors to support our preparation of documents for the Federal Transit Administration, and our engineers to examine various access issues associated with station redesign.
- f. A WeGo Star Future Study update will be presented as a part of the Operations Committee report at the next RTA meeting in April.

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

VII. Chair's Report: Chair Hutto thanked CEO Bland and the staff for all the work that they do behind the scenes and the operations that are happening every day. He knows what a challenge it has been to keep the ridership numbers back up and wanted the staff to know that he appreciates the work being done. He also thanked Diana Alcorn for the work that she does in the region.

VIII. Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Hutto called for a motion to adjourn, Mayor Ken Moore made a motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Cole, RTA Secretary &
Davidson County Governor Appointee