



**MINUTES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**June 26, 2024**

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Executive Committee was held at the Tennessee State Library & Archives located at 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Nashville, TN 37219, on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. A quorum of the RTA Executive Committee was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown.

**Executive Committee Members in Attendance:**

**Mayor Paige Brown – City of Gallatin, Vice Chair**

**Mayor Freddie O'Connell – Davidson County**

**Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin**

**Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County**

**Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)**

**Kelly Dannenfelser – Williamson County (Gov. Appt.)**

**Others Present:**

**Matthew White – City of Mt. Juliet (Alt.)**

**Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)**

**Mayor Mike Callis – City of Portland**

**Gerald Herman – City of White House (Alt.)**

**Nicole Rowan – Sumner County (Gov. Appt.)**

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve the May 15, 2024, meeting minutes; Mayor Billy Vogle seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

III. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

IV. **Finance Committee Report:** Mayor Moore presented the following for discussion:

- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-24-010):** Mayor Moore presented the Monthly Financials for the month of April 2024, compared to the budget and a balance sheet as of April 30, 2024, with the Executive Committee and was available for questions and there were no questions or further discussions.
- b. **Revolving Line of Credit (R-A-24-008):** The Finance Committee recommended to the Board to authorize the CEO to enter into the fourth year of a five-year revolving line of credit agreement for up to \$5 million with Fifth Third Bank based upon the terms explained above for the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

Mayor Moore motioned to approve the Revolving Line of Credit; Nicole Rowan seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- c. **RTA-MTA WeGo Ride Program Revenue Sharing Agreement (R-A-24-009):** The Finance Committee recommended the Board approve the renewal of the WeGo Ride Program Revenue Sharing Agreement with the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Nashville MTA will remain the Master Contractor for the program and

will share revenues with RTA based on the calculated formula. An annual review of the agreement was also recommended to assess if any changes should be made to the calculation or agreement.

Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the RTA/MTA WeGo Ride Program Revenue Sharing Agreement; Mayor Freddie O'Connell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- d. **RTA-MTA Regional Bus and Shuttle Contract FY2025 Renewals (R-A-24-010)**: The Finance Committee recommended the Board approve the renewal of the following two contracts with Nashville MTA for the operation of regional bus services and connecting bus services supporting commuter rail. Both contracts are for a period of one year, beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the following base amounts:

Contract 1 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,836,771 for regional bus service, and Contract 2 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$313,870 for connecting buses supporting commuter rail.

Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the RTA/MTA Bus and Shuttle Contract FY2025 Renewals; Mayor Freddie O'Connell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- e. **RTA-MTA Management Oversight Contract Renewal FY2025 (R-A-24-011)**: The Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the new contract value of \$904,200 for Nashville MTA to manage and oversee all operations of the RTA and to be effective July 1, 2024, and terminate on June 30, 2026.

Mayor Moore motioned to approve the RTA/MTA Bus and Shuttle Contract FY2025 Renewals; Mayor O'Connell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- f. **WeGo Star Liability Insurance Renewal (R-A-24-012)**: The Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the insurance policy for \$29 million of train liability insurance coverage (with a \$58 million aggregate) for the policy year from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, to be awarded to Aspen Specialty Insurance and Liberty Surplus Insurance Corporation for a total base annual premium of \$297,177 with the caveat that if the annual ridership exceeds the benchmark of 180,600 rides, RTA will pay additional premium at a rate of \$1.65 per ride given over the benchmark. RTA will continue to maintain the supplemental insurance reserve of \$1 million, making our total liability insurance coverage \$30 million.

Mayor Moore motioned to approve the WeGo Star Liability Insurance Renewal. Ms. Rowan seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- g. **FY2024 Proposed Operating Budget (R-A-23-013)**: The Finance Committee recommended that the Board adopt the proposed FY2024 budget as presented at the board meeting.

Mayor Moore said the Finance Committee had an extensive discussion regarding the proposed operating budget at the Committee's meeting. He made a motion to approve the FY2024 Proposed Operating Budget; Mayor O'Connell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- V. **Operations Committee Report**: Committee Chair Mayor Rick Bell presented the following items for discussion and action:

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-24-011)**: Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of April 2024 with the Executive Committee and was available for questions. There were no questions or further discussions.

- b. **Gray Line Express Bus Service Contract Amendment (R-A-24-014)**: COO Burke presented the following:

On November 19, 2014, the RTA Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a five-year contract (with five additional one-year options) with Gray Line of Tennessee to provide regional bus services for Davidson County and several surrounding counties. This contract has successfully facilitated the provision of essential transit services, contributing significantly to the mobility and connectivity of residents in these regions.

As we approach the fifth and final extension year, the budget projection for this extension is \$2,990,915. This projection reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality regional bus services while ensuring fiscal responsibility. It is important to note that while the ceiling amount will not be exceeded, service levels can be adjusted up or down without penalty, allowing for reductions in service levels based on actual service requirements. Furthermore, we will be evaluating the potential discontinuation of the Route 87 Gallatin/Hendersonville service.

Looking ahead, the Agency intends to conduct a formal procurement process with full and open competition starting in October 2024. This process aims to secure the next/new contract for regional bus services for Davidson County and the surrounding areas. The objective is to identify the most qualified service provider to continue and enhance our transit services, ensuring they meet the evolving needs of our communities.

RTA staff requested the Board to provide the CEO the authority to amend the current contract with Gray Line of Tennessee for 12 months, expiring on July 1, 2025. The new contract value will be \$25,355,210.37 for supplying these commuter bus services. This total contract value encompasses the full term of the contract, dating back to 2015. The anticipated ceiling amount for FY2024-25 is \$2,990,915.

Vice Chair Mayor Brown motioned to approve the Gray Line Express Bus Service Contract Amendment; Mayor O'Connell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

VI. **CEO's Report**: CEO Bland presented the following item for discussion and action:

- a. **Resolution of Support for the Choose How You Move Program (R-A-24-015)**: CEO Bland presented the following:

On February 15, 2024, Mayor O'Connell announced his intention to pursue a transportation referendum to take place in November of this year. The effort called *Choose How You Move, An All-Access Pass to Sidewalks, Signals, Service, and Safety*, takes advantage of the 2017 Tennessee's Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy (IMPROVE Act) legislation allowing local governments in the state's largest counties and its cities to seek dedicated funding for transportation projects through a local referendum.

The *Choose How You Move* Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was built on more than 70 community and neighborhood plans during the past 10 years, including the nMotion Strategic Transit Plan recommendations. The TIP outlines a program of investments to address Nashville's transportation needs, focusing on four key areas: sidewalks, signals, service, and safety. It provides a wide range of improvements for different users regardless of the mode used for travel and places a major emphasis on transit service and infrastructure. The program also creates partnership opportunities for improving and expanding regional transit connections through service and infrastructure with surrounding counties in Middle Tennessee.

At the May 15, 2024, RTA Executive Committee Meeting, Michael Briggs, Director of Transportation Planning for Mayor O'Connell's office, provided an update on the program details, discussed current

efforts, and answered questions from the RTA members. At the meeting, the RTA Executive Committee agreed to adopt an official action recognizing and endorsing the *Choose How You Move* program to show support for the program's responsiveness toward the current and future regional travel needs.

Mayor O'Connell emphasized the value of the collaborative efforts between the Board and various organizations, including their involvement with Connect Downtown. He highlighted several key initiatives: modernizing traffic signals, coordinating regionally with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and neighboring areas, and implementing park and ride facilities and express services. These steps are crucial for managing regional growth effectively. Mayor O'Connell also stressed the importance of supporting the WeGo Star future vision scenarios to prepare for future needs, including workforce development, quality of life, and cost of living concerns that are embedded in this program. He expressed his deep appreciation for the Board's consideration and his excitement about garnering their support.

Mayor Moore motioned to approve the Resolution of Support for the *Choose How You Move* program; Williamson County Governor Appointee Kelly Dannenfeler seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

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

- CEO Bland drew everyone's attention to Page 30 and proposed action item R-A-24-014. At last month's RTA Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Briggs of Mayor O'Connell's Office provided the Executive Committee with an overview of Davidson County's *Choose How You Move* Transit Improvement Program. This program is currently under consideration by the Metro Council for possible inclusion on the November ballot. In addition to a broad array of multi-modal improvements for Davidson County, Mr. Briggs highlighted specific elements of the program that would enhance regional connectivity and lay a foundation for much stronger regional connections in the future. Some of these elements include developing park-and-ride facilities at the outer fringes of Davidson County that are accessible to regional commuters, creating robust all day service along these corridors with express connections into Downtown Nashville and other major trip generators such as the Vanderbilt/West End Corridor, funding for Davidson County and shared infrastructure initiatives for the emerging recommendations in the Star Future Vision Study, Downtown Transit Priority investments to improve access and reliability for regional services traveling to and through the downtown core, and initiatives to leverage future TDOT investments in Choice Lane Projects in our most congested corridors.
- As a result of the discussion at the Executive Committee, there was broad support for the *Choose How You Move* program as an important step in improving regional mobility, and staff was requested to develop a formal statement of the RTA's support for the initiative. On page 31, you will find that statement in the form of a resolution expressing the RTA Board's recognition and support for the *Choose How You Move Transportation Investment Program*.
- Nashville SC Service: Route 84 Murfreesboro is seeing increased ridership on game days, averaging 60 trips.
- Fireworks Express Service: Tickets are on sale for the 4th of July Celebration in Downtown Nashville. This service is popular, so early purchase is recommended.
- Video Surveillance: Installation of surveillance cameras at WeGo Star stations is complete, with live monitoring capabilities.
- Cab Car Purchase: The purchase agreement with Great Lakes Central Railroad for an additional cab car has been executed. Once the railroad has prepared the car for shipment, we will coordinate delivery with CSX.

- Track Maintenance: The FY2024-25 track maintenance program has begun.
- Murfreesboro Park & Ride: The property purchase has been approved by the church board; awaiting Secretary of State approval to finalize the transaction.
- Franklin Park & Ride: WeGo is working with the City of Franklin on a potential park-and-ride site near Rolling Hills Hospital. Engineering concepts are being developed to assess feasibility.
- Upcoming Meetings: WeGo will plan Corridor Committee meetings for the Wilson and Sumner County corridors over the next month.

**VII. Chair's Report:** Mayor Brown thanked everyone for attending the board meeting.

**VIII. Other Business:** There was no other business.

**IX. Adjournment:** With no further business, Mayor Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ed Cole, RTA Secretary & Davidson County  
Governor Appointee