



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

**September 20, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board was held at the City Winery located at 609 Lafayette Street, Nashville, TN 37203, on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. A quorum of the RTA Executive Committee was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Mayor Randall Hutto.

**Executive Committee Members in Attendance:**

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

**Others Present:**

Diana Alarcon – Davidson County (Alt.)  
Gerald Herman – City of White House

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**  
Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve the August 16, 2023, meeting minutes; Mayor Rick Bell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.
- III. **Public Comments:** The following members of the public gave remarks:
- Jessica Dauphin
  - Manean Hall
- 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 and action:
- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-23-018):** Mayor Ken Moore presented the Monthly Financials for the month of July 2023, compared to the budget and a balance sheet as of July 2023. CEO Bland was available for questions, and there were no questions or further discussions.
- b. **Resolution of FY2024 Annual Grant Applications (R-A-23-014):** Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad presented the following:
- The resolution comprised the annual submittal of Certifications and Assurances for FTA funds and authorization to submit grant applications with the FTA, the TDOT, and other grant funding entities.
- Staff requested that 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 2024 for the benefit of RTA.

Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve the Adoption of the Resolution of FY2024 Annual Grant Applications; Ed Cole seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- c. **Adoption of the RTA FY2024 Capital Investment Plan (R-A-23-015):** Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad presented the following:

The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee's (RTA) Capital Investment Plan prioritizes needs, identifies funding sources, and sets timelines for RTA's capital projects over a five-year period. The plan outlines regulatory, State of good repair, and growth and expansion need that guide the RTA's future project development activity. Generally, projects identified in the plan's first year are relatively firm in scope and budget, while out-year projects are likely more conceptual.

Staff is presenting a recommended Capital Investment Plan for the period of FY2024-2028. Overall, investments totaling \$13,045,126 are recommended in Year One of the plan (FY2024), with a total project investment recommendation of \$149,798,990 over the life of the plan. Projects identified in year one has access to full funding.

The plan shows significant deficits in FYs 2027 and 2028. This is due to (1) with respect to revenue, we only show those sources that we are reasonably confident 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. The RTA will need to secure supplemental funding sources not yet identified to advance these projects.

Staff recommended that the RTA Executive Committee adopt the attached FY2024-2028 Capital Investment Plan.

Ed Cole asked if the 2027 and 2028 outlier years, where there is significant deficit was a function of where we have an extensive increase in capital needs, or is it the unreliability of projecting the revenue? Felix said it is basically due to big projects that we don't have the funds for like development of park and rides and expansion of WeGo Star service requiring additional investments and infrastructure like Positive Train Control, passing sidings, and others. Those will require significant funding investment but are also longer-term projects that if we don't have the funding, they will not be implemented. We can also pursue other discretionary funding sources for those projects.

Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve adopting the RTA FY2024 Capital Investment Plan; ED Cole seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

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

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-23-019):** CEO Steve Bland reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of July 2023 with the Executive Committee and was available for questions, and there were no questions or further discussions.

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

1. The RTA is up for legislative renewal in front of the General Assembly again this year. Our Sunset Hearing before the Commerce, Labor, Transportation, and Agriculture Joint Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and will be held in House Hearing Room 1, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tennessee. CEO Bland will be requesting our Officers' participation in this hearing again, and any interested

Member is invited to attend. CEO Bland said that he, along with Vince Malone, and Eric Beyer, were currently working on responses to questions from the Office of State Comptroller that will frame the hearing.

2. This past Sunday, both the Titans and the WeGo Star performed well. The Titans won in overtime, and the Star carried 926 riders. Let's hope both streaks continue!!! The next Titans Express will be on October 1 for the Bengals game, and tickets for the train are on sale now.
3. Background work continues on the Donelson Station joint development project. This month's work examined the potential realignment of station access points to maximize developable land and improve traffic flow to the Station and transit center functions.
4. WeGo continues to advance the development of a park-and-ride lot in Murfreesboro. The appraisal process has been completed, and we are working with the Federal Transit Administration to complete the Environmental Review process. We are also working with the City of Murfreesboro to coordinate the park-and-ride design and development with their adjacent transit facility. Staff and our real estate advisors also met with Mayor Moore and his team in Franklin to discuss potential sites for a park-and-ride location there, with some promising possibilities.
5. WeGo will pilot express bus service to Murfreesboro and Antioch's last 4 Nashville SC Home Games of the season. Regular RTA fares are in effect for this service, and information is available now on our website.
6. With the election of Freddie O'Connell as Nashville's next Mayor, WeGo has been preparing various briefing materials for the incoming Administration and the new Metro Nashville Council. CEO Bland thanked outgoing Mayor Cooper for his strong advocacy and support for public transportation during his 4-year term.
7. CEO Bland said he was pleased to be selected to participate in Leadership Tennessee this year, joining some stellar individuals from across the State, including RTA Board Member and Montgomery County Mayor Wes Golden.
8. The Star Future Vision Study continues advancing, with various financial and operational modeling activities underway. We anticipate a Board briefing in October or November.
9. Lastly, WeGo was pleased to welcome Region 4 Federal Transit Administrator Dr. Yvette Taylor and her staff to Middle Tennessee this month to discuss various projects and other initiatives, including the Donelson Station Project, Park-and-Ride project initiatives, and Star Future Vision Study among RTA efforts. While she was in Nashville, Dr. Taylor presented the MTA with a ceremonial check for \$5 million to advance a new regional transit center in Antioch. This facility will also use RTA services in the future in the Rutherford County Corridor.

**VIII. Chair's Report:** Mayor Randall Hutto thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**IX. Other Business:** There was no further business to come before this Board.

**X. Adjournment:** With no further business, Mayor Ken Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mayor Billy Vogle 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