



MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

October 16, 2024

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Executive Committee was held at the Greater Nashville Regional Council located at 44 Vantage Way, Nashville, TN 37228, on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. A quorum of the RTA Executive Committee was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Board Chair Randall Hutto.

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Randall Hutto – Wilson County, Chair
Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin
Ed Cole – Davidson County (Gov. Appt.)
Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County
Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)
Mayor Rick Bell – Lebanon County
Nicole Rowan – Sumner County (Gov. Appt.)

Others Present:

Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)
Gerald Herman – City of White House (Alt.)
Ray Render

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Rowan motioned to approve the September 18, 2024, meeting minutes; Mr. Davis 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-24-021):** Mayor Moore presented the Monthly Financials for the month of July 2024, compared to the budget and a balance sheet as of July 31, 2024, with the Executive Committee and was available for questions and there were no questions or further discussions.

- b. **Acquisition Threshold & Manager Approval Increase Recommendations (R-A-24-017):** COSA Vince Malone presented the following item for action:

To accommodate recent cost increases and support future growth, it is recommended that WeGo Public Transit raise the acquisition thresholds and manager approval levels within its procurement policy. This adjustment will align the agency's policies with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) standards and provide several key benefits:

Streamlined Processes: Reduces administrative burden and accelerates decision-making for faster procurement.

Cost Efficiency: Reflects recent cost increases, enabling quicker and more cost-effective purchases.

FTA Compliance: Ensures alignment with federal guidelines for improved regulatory compliance.

Market Responsiveness: Helps WeGo remain competitive by adapting to market changes.

Improved Resource Allocation: Frees up resources to focus on larger, more strategic procurements.

This approach will enhance operational efficiency, reduce delays, and better position the agency for future needs. A comparison of the current and proposed thresholds, along with FTA guidelines, is provided below.

Staff recommended that the Board approve increasing the threshold for micro-procurements to \$10,000, small procurements to \$250,000, and raising the manager's approval authority to \$25,000.

Mayor Moore motioned to approve the Acquisition Threshold & Manager Approval Increase Recommendations action item; Mayor Bell 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-24-022):** Deputy COO of Asset & Infrastructure Patrick Hester reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of July 2024 with the Executive Committee and was available for questions. There were no questions or further discussions.
- b. **2025 WeGo Star Annual Track Maintenance Program (R-A-24-018):** Deputy COO of Asset & Infrastructure Patrick Hester presented the following:

Routine maintenance and rehabilitation are required to ensure the safety and compliance of the WeGo Star service with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) standards. This work, which includes track, ties, ballast, bridges, crossings, and signal improvements along the Nashville and Eastern Railroad (NERR) corridor, is critical to maintaining the corridor in a "state of good repair." The maintenance must be completed by the end of fiscal year 2025.

Under the tri-party agreement between the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority (NERA), and Nashville and Eastern Railroad Corporation (NERC), the railroad is responsible for regular maintenance. RTA reviews and approves the proposed repairs based on the railroad's annual assessments.

The project includes replacing defective wooden ties, adding ballast, improving track stability through undercutting, and rehabilitating a crossing with new rail, ties, and asphalt. Engineering consultant HDR has confirmed the necessity of the work and concluded that the estimated costs and schedule are reasonable. Upon approval, the project is expected to be completed by Spring 2025, with HDR auditing the work to ensure compliance.

The RTA staff requested the Operations Committee recommend to the Board of Directors the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer to release capital funding to address this year's track maintenance and rehabilitation needs, as outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement among RTA, NERA, and NERC. The total budget for the proposed capital project is set at \$1,124,949.00. RTA will cover 90% of the costs, amounting to \$1,012,454.10, sourced from Federal, State, and local funding. RJ Corman will contribute the remaining 10%, totaling \$112,494.90, in accordance with the terms established in the Tri-Party Agreement.

There was a general discussion.

Mayor Billy Vogle motioned to approve the 2025 WeGo Star Annual Track Maintenance Program; Ed Cole seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

- c. **Adoption of RTA FY2025-2029 Capital Investment Plan (R-A-24-019):** Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad presented the following:

The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee's (RTA) Capital Investment Plan outlines priorities, funding sources, and timelines for capital projects over five years. It addresses regulatory needs, state of good repair, and growth/expansion objectives that guide future RTA projects. Projects in the first year of the plan (FY2025) are more defined in scope and budget, while those in later years are more conceptual.

For FY2025-2029, staff recommends a Capital Investment Plan with a total of \$22,752,495 in investments for Year One and a total investment of \$157,353,277 over the life of the plan. Projects in Year One are fully funded.

However, the plan shows significant funding deficits for FYs 2027, 2028, and 2029 due to limited revenue sources (only those reliably available, such as formula funds) and the inclusion of several large projects, particularly WeGo Star enhancements and park-and-ride expansions on the bus network. To proceed with these projects, RTA will need to secure additional supplemental funding sources that have not yet been identified.

Staff recommended that the RTA Executive Committee adopt the FY2025-2029 Capital Investment Plan.

There was a general discussion.

Ed Cole motioned to approve the Adoption of RTA FY2025-2029 Capital Investment Plan; Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

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

1. Following up on the earlier committee reports, the CEO thanked all the RTA Members who participated in the joint committee meetings last week. We were able to cover a lot of ground on several significant subjects.
2. This past Sunday was the first Titans regular season home, and we ran the full complement of passenger cars on the Titans Express. All 650 round-trip tickets sold out, and WeGo carried just over 1,200 passengers in total. In addition to the train, the Titans are sponsoring free fares on all MTA buses in Nashville on home game days, and this service was also well utilized.
3. WeGo has continued to see growing interest in our Nashville SC service. On weekend home game days, we operate our Route 84 – Murfreesboro Express service to the Nashville SC matches, and it has been carrying between 20 and 50 riders per game. In addition, Nashville SC sponsors free fares on two MTA routes serving Geodis Park, and ridership on these has been averaging between 40 and 80 for home matches.
4. The digital security cameras at all of the park-and-ride facilities are installed and fully functional.
5. Following the Board's action, WeGo has executed the purchase agreement with Great Lakes Central Railroad for the purchase of the additional cab car for the Star. Once the railroad has prepared the car for shipment, we will coordinate delivery with CSX.
6. Next week is National Rail Safety Week. It is a focus to heighten the general public's awareness of railroad safety. To kick it off, next Monday, WeGo will have an exhibit at Riverfront Station open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exhibit will include the Tennessee Operation Lifesaver caboose hosted by the Tennessee Central Railway Museum. There will also be representatives there from Tennessee Operation Lifesaver and the RTA. It will be a great public outreach dealing with grade

crossing safety and safety near railroad property. Special thanks to Terry Bebout, RJ Corman, and the Tennessee Central Railway Museum for promoting this important initiative.

7. With respect to the Franklin Park-and-Ride, WeGo has issued requests to firms on the engineering task order contracts and anticipates advancing conceptual design on this project in the coming months.

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

VIII. Other Business: There was no other business.

IX. Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Hutto motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Cole, RTA Secretary & Davidson County
Governor Appointee