



**MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**January 21, 2026**

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Middle Tennessee was convened on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Greater Nashville Regional Council, located at 44 Vantage Way, Suite 450, Nashville, TN 37228. As there was no quorum of the full Board present, the Executive Committee meeting was officially called to order by Board Chair, Mayor Randall Hutto, at 9:33 a.m.

**Executive Committee Members in Attendance:**

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

**Others Present:**

**Jason Gage – City of Brentwood**  
**Ed Elam – Rutherford County**  
**Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)**  
**Sabrina Sussman – Davidson County (Alt.)**  
**Gerald Herman – City of White House**  
**Ray Render - Congressman John Rose Office - 6th District, TN**

Mayor Hutto asked the group to join in prayer for Mayor Billy Vogle, who is currently facing health challenges. The prayer focused on comfort, healing, strength for his doctors, and appreciation for his leadership and impact on Middle Tennessee. He expressed gratitude for Mayor Vogle's service, humor, and dedication to improving Middle Tennessee.

Following this moment of prayer, the meeting resumed in accordance with the formal agenda order.

- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Ken Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, Executive Committee meeting. Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the minutes.
- IV. **Public Comments:** NO members of the public requested time to speak.
- V. **Finance Committee Report:** Mayor Ken Moore introduced the following items for discussion and action:
- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-26-001):** Mayor Ken Moore presented the Statement of Operations for November 2025 compared to the approved fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget. In the absence of Ms. Amanda Vandegrift, Director of Finance, Shelly McElhaney was present and available to answer questions; however, the committee had none, and no further discussion followed.

- b. **Annual Risk Assessment (R-D-26-002)**: Mayor Ken Moore provided a summary report for the Annual Risk Assessment as follows:

RTA annually conducts a risk assessment of its internal controls, policies, and procedures using a four-quadrant matrix that ranks risks by likelihood and financial impact, with higher rankings indicating higher priority. The current assessment focuses on key finance and accounting risks.

Major risks include reliance on regional and local partner subsidies, which are essential to sustaining bus and commuter rail services. Federal COVID-19 relief funds were fully expended in FY2025, and some partners are using reserves that are not sustainable long term. RTA must secure increased partner contributions or new funding sources, with corridor funding discussions planned for early 2026. Several corridors are projected to exhaust reserves between 2029 and 2034.

Continued availability of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding is another critical risk. These discretionary federal funds are necessary to operate most regional bus services, but state matching funds are not guaranteed. Without CMAQ or new revenue sources, services may be reduced or discontinued once reserves are depleted.

Slow recovery of commuter ridership post-pandemic, which remains a significant challenge due to remote and hybrid work trends. The WeGo Star Future Direction Study recommends service and capital changes to attract new markets, but implementation will require substantial additional funding. These strategies will be further evaluated through the WeGo Forward regional service planning process.

RTA's heavy reliance on grant funding heightens the importance of strong grant management and compliance. Increased federal oversight and the upcoming FTA triennial review in 2026 require continued focus on controls, reporting, and audit readiness.

Other ongoing risks include reduced fare revenue (now about 8% of total revenue), depletion of COVID-19 relief funds, cash-flow management tied to grant reimbursements, and accounts payable timing. Cash flow is managed closely, supported by a line of credit and coordination with MTA, while accounts payable and procurement controls remain strong and are regularly audited.

There was no further discussion.

- c. **Annual Conflict of Interest (R-D-26-003)**: Mayor Ken Moore provided a summary report of the Annual Conflict of Interest as follows:

The MTA manages the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) under a five-year, fee-based contract that expires June 30, 2026. Under this agreement, MTA provides financial and administrative services to RTA. The two agencies remain separate entities, with distinct boards, finances, and charters, and no board overlap. Management fees are approved annually by both boards as part of their operating budgets.

Both boards have also approved revenue- and cost-sharing agreements governing WeGo Ride, Journey Pass, and the QuickTicket fare system. The arrangement provides RTA with benefits such as improved cash flow management and access to expanded staff expertise. To address potential conflicts of interest, an annual Conflict-of-Interest Review is conducted. The attached 2026 review outlines potential conflicts and the mitigation actions taken. The Deputy CEO of Finance and Administration will be available to address questions.

Ed Cole emphasized that the merger and shared support functions within RTA were a unique and significant decision, initially accompanied by concerns about potential conflicts of interest and organizational challenges. However, those concerns have not materialized. The current report

affirms that the structure is working effectively. He credited the commitment of staff and both boards for making this success possible and encouraged continued appreciation of that achievement.

There was no further discussion.

- d. **Hermitage Station Unsolicited Proposal (R-A-26-001)**: Debbie Frank, DCEO of Growth & Development, presented the following for action:

On September 2, 2025, WeGo received an unsolicited proposal from LDG Multifamily, LLC to develop mixed-income multifamily housing at 4125 Andrew Jackson Parkway in Hermitage, adjacent to the Hermitage WeGo Star Station Park-and-Ride. To support the project, LDG is requesting a long-term easement on approximately 1.03 acres of RTA-owned property for access, egress, and surface parking, with no permanent structures built on RTA land.

LDG would cover all costs related to rezoning RTA's property and would be fully responsible for regrading and improving the land to meet Metro Nashville requirements through a shared parking and development agreement. The proposal would not interfere with RTA operations and could generate income for the Authority based on the easement's fair market value.

After a January 13 presentation to the RTA Finance Committee, the Committee recommended that the RTA Board authorize staff to advertise the proposal competitively in accordance with FTA regulations and RTA policy. If no competing proposals emerge, staff will enter a 12-month exclusive negotiation period with LDG to conduct due diligence and regulatory review. Any final agreement would require separate approval by the RTA Board.

Ed Cole asked how the property was originally purchased. CEO Bland said the property was originally acquired as part of the STAR project using federal, state, and local funds, and the FTA retains a financial interest. The parcel is currently open space and only accessible through adjacent property, limiting alternative development interest.

Kelly Dannenfels asked what the parking capacity was. Ms. Frank responded that the proposed development would temporarily impact a few parking spaces, and the lot is not currently close to capacity. She added that any agreement would ensure long-term transit access and maintain community control of the site. The project was characterized as a win-win opportunity to support transit-oriented development and increase ridership.

Mayor Ken Moore made a motion to approve the Hermitage Station Unsolicited Proposal action item. Kelly Dannenfels seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

- VI. **Operations Committee Report**: Mayor Randall Hutto introduced the following for discussion:

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-26-004)** Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke presented the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report for November 2025 to the Executive Committee. Mr. Burke was present and available to answer questions; however, the committee had none, and no further discussion followed.
- b. **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Update (R-D-26-005)**: DeAntwaine Moye, Business Diversity Manager & DBE Liaison Officer, provided an update on the ongoing compliance efforts with the 2025 Interim Final Rule of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

The U.S. Department of Transportation issued a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Interim Final Rule (IFR) in October 2025 that significantly revises DBE regulations under 49 C.F.R. Part 26 to align the program with constitutional requirements. The rule took effect immediately and eliminates

race- and sex-based presumptions of disadvantage, replacing them with individualized determinations for all DBE applicants and firms.

For agencies such as WeGo, the IFR requires reevaluation of all existing DBE certifications, a temporary pause on new certifications and recertifications until Unified Certification Program (UCP) processes are updated, enhanced Good Faith Effort documentation standards, and the inclusion of IFR compliance language in new solicitations and contracts. Until the UCP completes required reevaluations, DBE participation may not be counted toward DBE goals.

WeGo is actively updating contract templates, issuing internal procurement guidance, coordinating with USDOT, outside counsel, and TDOT, and developing a communication plan for contractors. The agency will continue monitoring federal guidance to support full implementation and the reopening of certification processes.

There was no further discussion.

**VII. Election of 2026 RTA Officers (R-A-26-002):** Vince Malone, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the following for action:

Under the RTA bylaws, officers are elected annually at the first regular meeting of the calendar year by the full Board, or, if the Board meets first, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor. The RTA officers include a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary and must include at least one appointed member and one elected official. The 2025 officers were Chair Randall Hutto (Wilson County Mayor), Vice Chair Paige Brown (Gallatin Mayor), and Secretary Ed Cole (Davidson County Governor Appointee).

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

Ed Elam made a motion to retain the current slate of officers for the 2026 calendar year. Ed Cole seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the slate of officers for 2026 as follows: Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor, as Chair; Paige Brown, City of Gallatin Mayor, as Vice Chair; and Ed Cole, Davidson County Governor's Appointee, as Secretary.

Kelly Dannenfels moved to approve the Approval of the Election of 2026 RTA Officers action item. Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee approved it unanimously.

**VIII. CEO's Report:** CEO Bland presented the following report:

1. City of Murfreesboro Park and Ride Lot: We continue to advance the City of Murfreesboro Park and Ride lot project. We have received approval from the City of Murfreesboro for both our zoning change request and site plan, and we are currently finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City regarding the long-term maintenance and operation of the facility. We anticipate issuing a construction bid package over the next two months and expect to complete construction by the end of 2026.
2. Titans Service Update: The Titans service for the 2025 season concluded successfully. The WeGo Star carried a total of 7,284 passengers over the course of the season. Our new regional bus services from Sumner County and Bellevue carried 1,895 and 1,532 passengers, respectively. We plan to meet with the Titans over the next couple of months to begin planning for the 2026 season.
3. Donelson Station Project: Work on the Donelson Station project has slowed due to delays in closing on the NERA property necessary to complete the project; however, we expect this to occur very soon. We anticipate bringing several actions to the Board next month for consideration, including a utility relocation agreement with NES and a proposed design contract for the transit center building.

4. Originally, the off-street elements of the transit center were intended to be incorporated into a larger development project. As the developer has paused that project for economic reasons, we will instead pursue construction of a small, stand-alone building to serve this purpose. We also anticipate initiating public engagement on the project within the next two months.
5. Lastly, CEO Bland introduced a new addition to our staff. Lindsey Ganson recently joined WeGo as our Chief of Staff. In this role, she will work closely with RTA Board members to coordinate meetings and agenda planning and to support Monica and me. Lindsey joins us from Vanderbilt University and previously worked at Walk Bike Nashville and McNeely Pigott & Fox.

**IX. Chair's Report:** Mayor Hutto asked all board members to indicate their interest in serving on or being removed from RTA committees. The standing committees include the Executive, Audit, Finance, and Operations Committees, along with corridor-specific advisory committees made up of representatives from jurisdictions served by each corridor.

Most committees serve in an advisory role; however, the Executive Committee is authorized by the bylaws to act on behalf of the full Board if a quorum cannot be reached. Board members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee after one year of service, with the expectation that they attend a majority of meetings. Members who attend fewer than 50% of Executive Committee and full Board meetings in the previous year are asked not to continue as voting Executive Committee members, though they remain full voting Board members and may attend all committee meetings.

All Board members receive committee materials and are welcome to attend any committee meeting.

**IX. Other Business:** No other business came before this board.

**X. Adjournment:** With no further business, Mayor Hutto called for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Ken Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Ed Cole, RTA Secretary & Davidson County  
Governor Appointee