I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors was held in the meeting room at Music City Central at 400 Charlotte Avenue on April 18, 2012. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by RTA Board Vice-Chair Nashville and Davidson County Mayor Karl Dean.

Vice-Chair Dean asked RTA General Manager Lora Baulsir to introduce the new members to the Board. Ms. Baulsir introduced and welcomed Phil Harpel, alternate for Mayor Bowers of Montgomery County and Gerald Herman, alternate for White House, the City Administrator who replaced Angie Carrier.

II. **Approval of Minutes:** Vice-Chair Dean entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.

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

IV. **Marketing Report:** Committee Chair Governor Appointee Ed Cole reported on the highlights of the marketing report. The redesigned *Music City Star Ride Guide* was distributed at the meeting and he noted that the RTA system map will soon be ready. A site visit was made to Springfield to meet with Governor’s Appointee Margot Fosness to discuss marketing for the Springfield Express. Additionally, he reported that the plan for the 4th of July Music City Star train to the Riverfront Celebration is being updated as is the plan for this year’s *Music City Star Game Day Express*.

Reporting on community projects, Chair Cole noted that this is *Transit Week* which was kicked off with Metro’s *Mayor on Board* bus ride. He also reported that a “Transit Means Business” event is scheduled for noon today at the AT&T building. Sponsored by the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, a capacity crowd is expected. Additionally, he commented on other activities happening in celebration of *Transit Week* including an excursion ride to Wilson County on the Music City Star.

Concerning the Nashville MTA activities, Chair Cole reported that the biannual system changes with new schedules went into effect April 1. MTA collaborated with the Metro Arts Commission on a joint promotion to bring the Poetry Society of America’s *Poetry in Motion* program to MTA buses which is underway now.
Also, MTA agreed to co-sponsor Adventure Science Center’s Transit Adventures Camp in June.

V. OPERATIONS REPORT: Chair Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley reported on the operation statistics for February. He noted that there continues to be a strong relationship between gasoline prices and ridership. All stations displayed strong numbers with the Lebanon station showing the largest increase with over 1700 monthly riders, an increase of 132.

The RTA bus express and shuttle services also showed increases of 37% when comparing ridership for February 2011 with February 2012. Many routes had record breaking numbers for February.
- The #96 (LaVergne-Smyrna-Murfreesboro) again increased its monthly numbers in February with close to 8600 rides.
- The #92 (Gallatin-Hendersonville) posted the highest numbers of the past 12 months with a ridership of almost 3700.
- The #95 (Spring Hill-Thompson Station) and the #89 (Springfield-Joelton) monthly ridership numbers were both significantly up in February.

The combined public transportation report for all Nashville MTA and RTA services showed double digit increases again for the fiscal year with a near 17% increase for all services combined. The total area ridership is now over the 6.6 million mark and is still following a path to reach 10 million riders by the end of this fiscal year.

VI. FINANCE AND AUDIT REPORT: Chair Brentwood Mayor Paul Webb reported that in the operations compared to actuals report both the revenue as well as expenses are favorable in balance. The balance sheet is positive. There is a positive working capital of almost $210,000 at the end of February and the line of credit has not been touched. Chair Webb asked CFO Ed Oliphant to speak to the Board concerning the 2013 budget.

Mr. Oliphant reported that the proposed budget for RTA was discussed at committee. The part of the budget concerning the train will go up about 8% due in most part to the increase in fuel cost and general expenses. The part of the budget concerning the Relax and Ride services is increasing by 61% due to awards received from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program which is a little over 1.1 million dollars for various services to the southeast, the southwest, and the northeast. We are in a holding pattern waiting to hear from the State as far as their level of support for that regional service. With the new funding, we have asked for an increase in the support from the State on the operating side for these services. Once we hear from them, we will be able to move forward and have more meaningful conversations. This is an aggressive budget but it is based on the funding we have.

Chair Webb asked Mr. Oliphant to speak to the Board concerning fuel hedging in this budget. Mr. Oliphant replied that they have a hedging program for about 67% of the fuel usage for the train which is currently at $2.31 and will go up to about
$2.95 for the new fiscal year and the balance he has budgeted at $4.25 without taxes. Chair Webb stated this was a good example of conservative budgeting.

Chair Webb presented the following action item:

a. **Vanpool Administration Contract (A-012-004):** The Finance and Audit Committee recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate a contract with The TMA Group for Vanpool Administrative Services. The contract will be for a five year term, effective July 1, 2012. Proper motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

VII. **RTA ATTORNEY TODD PRESNELL:** Counsel Presnell stated that he was pleased to report that the legislation introduced last month has passed both the House and the Senate and the bill is now on its way to the Governor for signature. This legislation clarifies the Board’s structure, clarifies eminent domain authority, and also eliminates the increase of TORT exposure limits for individual contractors running our rail lines scheduled to happen in 2013. This will cap the TORT exposure liability limits at $2 million per person and $30 million per accident and this will not expire under the new legislation. He then presented the following action item:

a. **Adoption of Resolution Amending By-Laws (A-012-005):** Counsel Presnell reviewed the summary of amendments to the by-laws as presented. Move for approval was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

VIII. **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:** RTA General Manager Lora Baulsir reported that in response to questions presented at last month’s meeting from Mayor Anderson and Mayor Webb concerning the liability of Board members when they are acting in official capacity of Board service, she wanted to verify that RTA does have a directors and officers’ insurance policy. This policy has a $1 million annual aggregate.

Continuing, Ms. Baulsir reported that a group would be visiting from North Carolina in May who has asked to meet because they are in the planning stages for a commuter rail system between Durham and Wake Counties. The group’s focus is on issues with start up and operations.

IX. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT:** CEO Paul Ballard reported that Transit Week is going very well and he commended Transit Now for their work that has been done to organize this week. Concerning the May 10th visit of the North Carolina Railroad group, he noted that will be a day-long event and would be happy to make arrangements for any board members who might be interested to participate in the briefings. Mr. Ballard commented that more and more transit systems around the country are recognizing the work being done by this board and the successes it has been able to achieve. As mentioned, they have been contacted by North Carolina but also, Lynchburg, Virginia. Additionally, earlier this year Lora was asked to speak on a panel discussing regional development in Jacksonville, Florida.
In closing, Mr. Ballard acknowledged the work of Todd Presnell and his staff. He stated that it was a testament to them that they were able to take a piece of common sense legislation and start at the beginning and take it through all the way to the Governor’s desk achieving what we want to do. He feels we are fortunate to have them as our counsel and noted that this is a good example of how our counsel takes care of us.

X. **Vice-Chair’s Report:** Vice-Chair Dean reported that since the last meeting the Mayors’ Caucus held their regional transit retreat and discussed how to move forward with transit solutions for the middle Tennessee region. The meeting was productive with substantive discussion. There were no votes or any call for action. Progress was made but there is still work to be done.

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

XII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully,

_Ed Cole_
Governor Appointee
RTA Secretary