MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 16, 2011

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 February 16, 2011. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Jo Ann Graves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair Graves entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2011 meeting. Motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were accepted.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

IV. MARKETING REPORT: Chair Ed Cole reviewed the details of the grand re-opening of the Martha Station scheduled for Friday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. Continuing, Chair Cole reported that the trial period for the Robertson County Express service ended Friday, February 11 and had been extremely successful. The daily passenger count averaged 82 making the bus almost at capacity every day of the service.

For the record, Chair Cole added a personal comment commending the work of Patricia Harris-Morehead and her staff. He recognizes the importance in having the right people have the right opportunity to talk with reporters when the stories are being written, and believes Ms. Harris-Morehead and her staff do that well. The committee appreciates their efforts and excellent achievements. This concluded the report.

Before continuing, Board Chair Jo Ann Graves reported that the Metro Council voted to appoint Mr. Cole to the Cheatham County Railroad Authority as their Metro appointee. She congratulated him and they are looking forward to great things.

V. OPERATIONS REPORT: Mt. Juliet City Manager Randy Robertson reported the ridership numbers in the year to year for December saw a phenomenal increase of approximately 18% compared to December 2009. The Gallatin/Hendersonville service was the only express service
that experienced slightly lower ridership. Murfreesboro increased 13% and is starting to have capacity issues. Having just started in December 2009, the Franklin/Brentwood and Spring Hill/Thompson Station routes showed dramatic increases in ridership from December to December.

There were a few additional comments referencing the demand and need for additional routes in the Gallatin/Hendersonville area as well as the success and demand for the Springfield/Robertson County service.

VI. **Finance and Audit Report:** Chair John Schroer reported the committee last week received the annual audit report from Carr, Riggs, and Ingram LLC. It was a good opinion, a good audit. There were a few small findings that came out of the audit that have already been addressed by Mr. Oliphant and his staff.

Continuing, Chair Schroer reported that the monthly financial report was good for mid-year and it appears that the fiscal year will end as expected and this was a tough budget year. He added that they had worked hard to make sure income and expenses were relatively equal and he is pleased with that. He noted his appreciation to Paul Ballard and his team for making sure that operational costs were kept to a minimum. He then noted that the RTA is in the middle of an FTA Triennial Review.

In referencing the fuel-hedging program in which the RTA participated along with MTA, Metro Nashville, and the City of Franklin, Chair Schroer reported that in the 19 months the program has been in place, over $1.9 million has been saved by these agencies collectively. Concluding, he added that an additional benefit of this program is to have predictable expenses which we can budget for the year.

a. **Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Audit Report (A-11-004):** Chair Schroer moved that the audit be adopted as presented by Carr, Riggs, and Ingram. The vote to adopt the report as presented was unanimous.

VII. **Chair’s Report:** The Chair deferred her report.

VIII. **Chief Administrative Officer’s Report:** Ms. Lora Baulsir reported that she attended a meeting last night (February 15) in Springfield where they were to vote on the Springfield/Robertson County Express Service. It was a very positive meeting that began with Mayor Carneal reporting that the demonstration project was very successful. Some of the passengers were at the meeting to show their support. Ms. Baulsir received surveys and emails from about 60 people, and she has now corresponded with them to let them know that the permanent service will begin March 1st.
Continuing, Ms. Baulsir reported that everybody is now current on their dues and just in time to start over again. She will be sending invoices for 2012 dues soon so everyone will know the annual amount to include in their budget.

Ms. Baulsir stated that staff is available to assist all members as they present to their governing boards the resolution for continuing membership under the reconstituted RTA. She asked that everyone let her know the date they plan to go before their board so she can keep a scheduling calendar. Ms. Baulsir closed by telling members that the draft resolution and talking points would be mailed to them shortly.

IX. **Chief Executive Officer’s Report:** Paul Ballard noted that the Martha Station rededication on Friday should be really nice with the warmer weather. It will be a 45 minute ceremony and should be fun.

He then reported on services during the recent snow storm. There were no accidents the night of the storm, but six articulated buses did get stuck. All of the regional services ran without exception though some were considerably late. Of course, that little bit of snow had no impact on the train. When the train went over Briley Parkway, the Parkway was a parking lot; the passengers on the train broke out in a round of applause. People on the train were moving at 50 mph and virtually everyone else was at a standstill.

In closing, Mr. Ballard stated that he had recently met with Commissioner Schroer. Mr. Ballard serves as the Vice President of the Tennessee Public Transit Association (TPTA) and they held their Board meeting at Music City Central. Following their meeting, the TPTA Executive Committee, with representatives from across the state, met with the Commissioner. Mr. Ballard reported that the meeting was very positive. Mr. Ballard concluded by publicly thanking the Commissioner for his hospitality.

X. **Chair’s Report:** Due to inclement weather, there was low attendance at the last meeting of the Mayor’s Caucus. However, it was very productive, with a discussion on coming up with an agenda for the year so members can know what the discussion topics will be for each meeting. We would like to invite speakers to come in and talk about relevant topics. There was a discussion related to the flood and working with the Corp of Engineers. Mayor Dean suggested that we invite Senator Alexander to meet with the Caucus, as he is over the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee working with the Corp of Engineers. The President’s budget calls for a reduction in funding for the Corp, but we need to ensure that they are adequately funded since many of us are impacted by the waterways controlled by them. We continue to talk about mass transit and the relationship with affordable housing. We would like to invite Ted Fellman from THDA to speak at one of our
meetings. She asked that members let her know if they have other topics they would like discussed.

Concluding, Mayor Graves noted that she was caught in town during the recent snow storm and it took her much longer to get home than usual. This brings home the importance of mass transit in our region.

XII. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Chair Graves asked Paul Ballard to update everyone on the timeline for the reconstitution. Mr. Ballard reported that approximately 30 days ago the Board unanimously voted to reconstitute. In another month, you can begin asking your boards to vote to become members of the reconstituted RTA. We are putting the finishing touches on drafting the resolution, which we will then provide to all of you. We are also compiling a master list of individual councils and commissions to help us track what everyone is planning. This process must be completed by the end of the year.

Mayor Graves noted that some had expressed to her that they may have more difficulty than others with their governing boards and suggested that in a future meeting time be set aside to discuss strategies. She pointed out that it will become easier for others to pass the resolution once some have already completed the process.

Mr. Ballard stated that Ms. Baulsir would be checking with each member to get a feel for what they expect their timeline to be. He reported that we have a committee that has been working on reviewing materials to provide you, and we are making great progress. We plan to share this information with you soon.

There was no further discussion.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Attested:

[Signature]

Ed Cole
Secretary