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, 400 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN on February 19, 2014. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by RTA Chair Nashville and Davidson County Mayor Karl Dean.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair Dean entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014 meeting. Proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous and the minutes were adopted as presented.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Nashville citizen Margo Chambers asked that the RTA comply with US DOT Section 4F before they allocate any funds to the Amp. She also asked how many open lines of credit did the RTA have with Paul Ballard as the authorizing signature. She also asked, since Mr. Ballard has submitted his resignation, who would be Mr. Ballard’s likely replacement as CEO since the RTA CEO has the authority to draw down federal funds.

There were no other public comments.

IV. **NORTHWEST CORRIDOR REPORT:** Cheatham County Mayor David McCullough reported that the Northwest Corridor Committee met January 31st to discuss the proposed study to evaluate the possibility of commuter rail services between Nashville and Clarksville. Jim McAttee reviewed a draft scope of work for the project, which will build on the Feasibility Study completed in 2008.

With the success of the current express bus service, committee members are excited to move forward with the study. The RTA received funding for the study along with a contribution by the Nashville and Clarksville MPO’s. The local match will be provided by the Cheatham County Rail Authority, Nashville and Western Railroad, the City of Clarksville, and Montgomery County.

There was discussion about “next steps” if the study confirms that this is a viable route for commuter rail. We discussed the importance of pursuing dedicated funding for transit because there will be significant local match requirements with preliminary engineering studies, construction, and the annual operating costs for the commuter rail line.

I also briefed the committee on initial discussions with the Cheatham County Rail Authority about the possible conveyance of the CCRA rail line to the RTA. We believe RTA is better positioned to move the rail line from a somewhat dormant
state to an active rail line serving Nashville, Ashland City, Clarksville, and possibly Fort Campbell.

That concludes my report.

V. **Southeast Corridor Report:** City of Murfreesboro Transportation Director Dana Richardson reported that they had a good meeting. We are about a year and a half into a three year demonstration project where we have significantly increased our public transportation from 16 to 31 trips a day. We are working with budgetary issues related to this and we are glad to now have good ridership information and data in place. With this information, we will be able to develop performance measures to judge our ridership by route and plan to move forward with that.

VI. **Marketing Report:** Davidson County’s Governor Appointee Ed Cole reported that the committee was briefed by Marketing and Communications Director Patricia Harris-Morehead of activities that staff had undertaken. On February 26th, staff will be promoting transit at the State Capitol as a part of the Tennessee Public Transportation Association’s Day on the Hill.

RTA General Manager Lora Bauarsir and Planning Director Jim McAtee recently participated in a thirty minute cable TV public affair show on WPGD in Gallatin. We will share the broadcast schedule of that specific program as soon as it is available to give the Board members an opportunity to view it.

Staff has been working with a number of individuals who have inquired about filming on the Music City Star. Additionally, they have also received requests from college and high school students for a number of transportation projects. Ms. Morehead and her team will be working with those inquiries to try to make what we do here every day accessible to the next generation that we know will be very grateful for what we have left behind.

The marketing team, working with our committee, is also reviewing proposals from our marketing firm and one other firm as we work towards a process of rebranding the RTA in coordination with our other transit providers across the region. We hope to have that proposal on how we are to proceed in the near future. The team is looking at value engineering the proposal to scope the project in a way that keeps the cost as tight as it can be.

VII. **Operations Report:** Committee Chair Portland Mayor Ken Wilber reported that the Operations Committee met last Tuesday, February 11th with Dawn Distler reporting on the operating statistics. December service had 21 operating days with one holiday and four Fridays. The Music City Star ran service on New Year’s Eve which was another special event sell out.

The month to month comparison of numbers for December showed double digit increases for all RTA services. The overall yearly RTA ridership exhibited a 6.7% increase. Our corridor services all displayed outstanding numbers. The Clarksville bus service flaunted a 64% increase for December. The Music City Star and express bus totals were up over 14%.
The combined public transportation numbers for Middle Tennessee indicate a 2.8% increase for December and a 1.4% increase when comparing fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014.

There was a discussion on increasing the marketing for the 89x Springfield service and also the possibility of tweaking the routing and the schedule to entice more riders. Mayor Graves would like to see an increase in marketing on local radio shows as it has helped in her area and Mayor McCullough suggested marketing the service during local sporting events.

VIII. **FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:** Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt reported the committee received another favorable report this month. Our revenue and our expenses are on track. Our cash position is favorable and our payables are current. Our Chief Financial Officer, Ed Oliphant, asked that I remind everyone that our budget process is starting and he will be contacting you.

IX. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT:** Mr. Ballard confirmed that he has submitted his resignation effective March 31st to accept a position to be the President and CEO of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority. Mr. Ballard commented that this would not have come his way had it not been for all the work that we have done collectively here. What is being done in Nashville and Middle Tennessee is being paid attention to by people around the country.

Continuing, he reported that this afternoon the thirty members of the current Transit Citizens’ Leadership Academy will be boarding the Music City Star and coming in to Nashville. They will ride the Music City Downtown Circuit to the meeting room at MCC and hold their meeting. They will then take the circuit back to Riverfront Station and board the train to go home. He stated that he believes this has been one of the most successful projects that we have collectively undertaken through the Transit Alliance and through all of your support.

X. **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Chair Dean gave an update on the Amp’s progress. He reported that the Amp was accepted into Project Development for the FTA Small Starts program last August 2013. When you are accepted into Project Development, he explained, it basically means we are in the FTA funding pipeline as long as we continue to work with the FTA and make progress. The goal will be that we will get funding at some point. Small Starts is a competitive program and cities throughout the year are vying for these federal funds. The President’s Budget will come out sometime in March. We do not know if funding will be available this year, next year, or the year after, it is just a process; but, we are in the funding pipeline because we are in the Small Starts Program and we will just keep plugging ahead.

In closing, Chair Dean stated that Paul Ballard has done an extraordinary job for the city of Nashville and for the region. He has worked for Metro Nashville for about twelve years and under his leadership ridership has increased on Metro Transit up to 10 million passenger trips last year. His service for the RTA has been phenomenal. Chair Dean stated that we are going to miss him and he knows that Mr. Ballard will do very well in Fort Worth.
XI. **General Manager’s Report:** General Manager Lora Baulsir reported that the plan for Greensboro North, which is the park and ride for the Gallatin service, has been approved by the Gallatin Planning Commission. We are presently out for bid for construction of the project and we will bring this to the Board next month for their approval. Completion of the new location is expected by the end of this summer and our plans are to move from the Gallatin Walmart Park and Ride to this new location with the fall service changes.

Concerning the Hamilton Springs Station, Ms. Baulsir reported that we are in the beginning stages with that project. We have funding that will start the design process in the next few months and the construction for that will start probably about this time next year. In another and a half, we should have the Hamilton Springs Station up and running.

Ms. Baulsir commented that last month she reported that the funding for rehab projects on short line railroads has been frozen, which does not affect us directly but affects the railroad upon which we operate. She noted that they have now presented some new legislation which the governor has amended and we are hearing very favorable things on that.

Continuing, Ms. Baulsir stated that this week we are in the process of doing maintenance and operations audit for the Music City Star. We have contracted with an outside firm to come in and review records and give us a report. We want to do all we can to keep our equipment in good shape and to be sure that we are spending our money wisely. The audit will be completed at the end of this week.

The Riverfront Station location has had a couple of activities in progress there, Ms. Baulsir reported. The West River Development project, which is the lawn off to the side of the Riverfront Station, is using our property to do geotechnical drillings and they have painted lines all over the property to make underground utilities. We are also starting the installation of the electric charging station at Riverfront. Both of these activities should be completed in the short term.

Finally, Ms. Baulsir noted that we realize that many of you had issues with parking today. The parking garage is under new management and we have asked them to monitor parking on the dates of our meetings so that there will be enough spaces for you going forward after today.

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

XIII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully,

*Paula Mansfield*

Governor Appointee
RTA Secretary