MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MAY 18, 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 May 18, 2011. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by Chair Jo Ann Graves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair Graves entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 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. NORTHEAST CORRIDOR REPORT: Chair Anthony Holt reported that the committee had good discussions and the challenge will lie in the logistics and in particular, the funding.

V. MARKETING REPORT: Chair Ed Cole began by thanking Chair Graves, Mayor Bradley, Paul Ballard and the rest of those present who were willing to assist with the media inquiries received as a result of the Brookings Institution transit report the previous week. He appreciated the team effort and thought it was handled well.

Continuing, Mr. Cole noted the comprehensive media coverage received in April and May on recent ridership increases and also the Music City Star’s mock disaster drill. Additionally, he added, marketing plans are underway for the Music City Star’s July 4th Celebration Train to Riverfront Station and these will start next month.

In closing, Chair Cole commended the marketing team and their staff members for participating in all of the community events and meetings in April. Included in these were the numerous Earth Day celebrations. He appreciated their efforts to participate in as many events as possible to promote transit.

VI. OPERATIONS REPORT: Chair Howard Bradley reported that once again it was a record month (March). The Music City Star had record ridership with 25,321 trips and a daily average of 1,101. The trend continues of increased ridership in parallel with higher gas prices. The
improvements at Martha Station are being enjoyed by passengers as boardings for this station increased by more than 250 from February’s numbers. Route #93, the train shuttle to Vanderbilt, also continues to increase with 6,937 rides in March. The oldest express route, #96 LaVergne, Smyrna, Murfreesboro, had its highest monthly ridership numbers on record with 9,032 riders. Route #91 Franklin continues to show a good trend and is performing well beating February’s highest ridership numbers with 3,001. Route #92 Gallatin/ Hendersonville ridership has almost doubled since December of 2010. Route #95 Spring Hill’s trend of increasing ridership continues. The newest route, #89 Springfield/ Joelton, shows good numbers for the first full month of service with an average of 111 trips per day. This puts Route #89 at more than 50% capacity in its first month.

The overall RTA ridership for March shows a 20% increase over March 2010. The Star increased over 30% in March and 12.82% for 2011. The combined services in March 2011 are up more than 25% over the March numbers for 2010.

Discussions continued over increasing demands for the services and ways to meet those demands.

VII. **Finance and Audit Report:** Vice Chair Paul Webb reviewed the financial reports through March noting that there was a favorable balanced budget. He then presented the following action item:

a. **SunTrust Revolving Line of Credit Renewal (A-11-007):** Vice Chair Webb asked CFO Ed Oliphant to present the details. Mr. Oliphant reviewed the information included in the briefing paper and there were no questions. The Committee recommended that the Board authorize the CEO to sign a one-year extension of the SunTrust Bank revolving credit agreements for $1.5 million and $140,000 respectively. Proper motion was made and seconded and the vote of approval was unanimous.

VIII. **Southeast Corridor Report:** Chair Burgess reported that the committee reviewed the actual study that was done on the Southeast Corridor study in 2007. Director of Planning Jim McAteer was there and led the discussion. He will be preparing a proposal for some CMAQ funds that will help build service in this corridor.

IX. **Vice-Chair’s Report:** Vice-Chair Dean reminded the Board of the upcoming Regional Summit meeting on May 25th at 1:00 p.m. with excellent speakers including John Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, who was very involved in the development of the transit system in that region.
X. **General Manager’s Report:** Lora Baulsir updated the list of municipalities who had passed the reconstitution vote. Currently, thirteen out of twenty-five have passed the vote.

Continuing, Ms. Baulsir reported that the mock emergency drill went well even in the pouring rain. She noted that this gave a good opportunity to check out procedures and communications for these types of events.

The American Public Transit Association (APTA) is in town this week conducting a safety audit on the train, Ms. Baulsir reported. This is a non-regulatory audit that APTA does to give their recommendations on best practices in the industry. Because the last audit was conducted with the prior management team, this was a very helpful process for MTA.

In conclusion, Ms. Baulsir mentioned the Hamilton Springs project in Wilson County. She has asked the developer to come to the June meeting and make a presentation to the Board. The developer wants to add a stop in between the Martha Station and the Lebanon Station and will be seeking approval from the Board.

XI. **Chief Executive Officer’s Report:** Paul Ballard reported that RTA is experiencing the highest ridership in the history of the organization. Continuing, he encouraged others to submit nominees for the Andrews Institute’s Citizen leadership Academies which will develop citizens to lead the public conversation on community issues and public policy. The first Academy will focus on transit in Middle Tennessee, with the inaugural class convening June 2011.

XII. **Chair’s Report:** Chair Graves suggested that the Board begin to look at how they will prioritize expansion in the future as ridership grows with having limited resources. It was agreed that next month during the Mayors Caucus meeting there will be further conversations about the exact costs of specific routes. It was suggested that this information, if presented simply, could help the regional boards better understand what is needed to grow their mass transit capabilities.

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

XIV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully,

Attested:

Ed Cole
Secretary