



**MINUTES**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**JANUARY 15, 2020**

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board of Directors was held at the Tennessee Bankers Association, 211 Athens Way, Nashville, Tennessee 37228 on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Mayor Randall Hutto, Board Chair.

**In Attendance Were:**

City of Brentwood	Mike Harris (Alt.)
City of Columbia	Thad Jablonski (Alt.)
City of Franklin	Mayor Ken Moore
City of Gallatin	Mayor Paige Brown
City of Goodlettsville	Mayor Jeff Duncan
City of Hendersonville	Mayor Jamie Clary
City of Lebanon	Mayor Bernie Ash
City of Murfreesboro	Jim Kerr, Jr. (Alt.)
City of Portland	Mayor Mike Callis
City of Mt. Juliet	Kenny Martin (Alt.)
City of Spring Hill	Victor Lay (Alt.)
City of Westmoreland	Mayor Jerry Kirkman
City of White House	Gerald Herman
Davidson County	Faye DiMassimo
Dickson County	Mayor Bob Rial
Montgomery County	Kyle Johnson (Alt.)
Robertson County	Mayor Billy Vogle
Rutherford County	Mayor Bill Ketron
Sumner County	Mayor Anthony Holt
Williamson County	Rogers Anderson
Wilson County	Mayor Randall Hutto
Governor Appointees	Ed Cole, Davidson County
	Darrell James, Dickson County
	Margot Fosnes, Robertson County
	Ed Elam, Rutherford County
	Kelly Dannenfelser, Williamson County
	Ken Davis, Wilson County

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Proper motion was made and seconded, and the November 20, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments to come before the Board.

**IV. Finance & Audit Report:** Committee Chair Anthony Holt reported the following:

- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-19-010):** Chair Holt reported and reflected on the statement of operations for the month of November 2019 compared to the budget and balance sheet as of November 30, 2019. Chief Operating Officer Ed Oliphant was present to answer any questions. There were no questions at this time.
  
- b. **Mt. Juliet Park & Ride Parking Lot Expansion Project – Construction (R-A-20-001):** The WeGo Star serves seven stations between downtown Nashville and Lebanon, Tennessee. Daily ridership at Mt. Juliet Station has increased eight percent over the last three years to 186 passengers each day, but the current parking lot only accommodates approximately 163 parking spaces. This has resulted in Star riders often parking in nearby lots. The goal of this project is to address the parking shortage by adding 99 new parking spaces, which will include three accessible spaces. When complete, the parking lot will have 262 total parking spaces, including eight accessible spaces. Service will be maintained during the construction, which will take place in three phases: platform, expansion of southeast parking lot, and expansion of northwest parking lot. The platform work includes adding infrastructure to prepare for future fare collection devices and cameras. The southeastern lot includes 35 additional parking spaces, and the northwestern lot includes 64 additional parking spaces. The project also extends the Mt. Juliet greenway path from Mt. Juliet Road to the platform, continuing to the southeastern parking lot.

WeGo staff, with the assistance of CDM Smith consultants, completed the design, construction plans, and bid documents for the parking lot expansion. This effort included coordination with the City of Mt. Juliet, RJ Corman, and Nashville & Eastern Rail Authority. The plans exemplify the high-quality expectations of WeGo Public Transit and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The expanded parking lot plans include updated service and safety amenities and multi-modal connections to enhance access to transit while facilitating day-to-day operations.

Solicitation of the bid package occurred from September to December 2019 and yielded four qualified bidders. Following the bid opening, WeGo engaged with Mutual Contractors, the apparent winner, to review the bid scope based on the bid price. Mutual Contractor's base bid for the parking lot expansion was \$1,564,000 with an \$168,900 alternate to pave and restripe the existing parking lot. Mutual Contractor's bid outlines a project duration of 360 calendar days from notice-to-proceed. Funding for the expansion of the Mt. Juliet Station parking lot is comprised of federal grants matched with state and local funding.

The Finance Committee recommended the Board provide the Chief Executive Officer the authority to enter into a construction contract with Mutual Contractors for an amount of \$1,732,900 for the base bid and the alternate to pave and restripe the existing lot. Due to the nature of the project, specifically the unknowns associated with underground utilities, we also recommend the Board authorize a project contingency of 25%, resulting in an authorized not-to-exceed project total of \$2,166,125.

Mayor Kirkman asked what was the timeframe of this project. Chief Engineer Trey Walker replied that it would be one year from contractor mobilization.

A proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**V. Operations Committee Report:** Committee Chair Jerry Kirkman reported on the following items:

- a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-20-002):** Mayor Kirkman reported on the monthly operating statistics report through November 30, 2019. Director of Service Quality Dan Freudberg was present to answer any questions. There were no questions at this time.
- b. **WeGo Star Enhancement Feasibility Study (R-D-20-003):** At the end of 2018, the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) eliminated the WeGo Star Friday night train in order to comply with a limited service exception granted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). This exception allows the RTA to defer deployment of Positive Train Control (PTC) but restricts Star commuter operations to no more than 12 daily one-way trips—our current weekday operating schedule. At the time of RTA Board approval of these changes, staff was directed to engage professional support to develop a possible action plan, up to and including the development of a PTC system for enhancements to the Star, with a specific focus on increasing the number of daily trips. Increasing trips is, by far, the most customer-requested service.

The RTA engaged HDR, a transportation and engineering firm with specific expertise in commuter rail operations, to examine alternatives for enhancements. Their conceptual review included the development of a railroad operating model to simulate various capital improvement and scheduling alternatives for impact on overall operations. As part of their scope of work, HDR developed preliminary capital and operating cost estimates for various enhancements.

At the meeting, HDR's James Czarnecky, AICP, provided an overview of their findings and cost projections. Active Board discussion is encouraged to help determine future short-term and long-term paths, particularly as the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) develops its long-range plan update. The Board was not asked to act on a specific recommendation at that time.

**VI. Election of 2020 Officers (R-A-20-002):** Chief Administrative Officer Rita Roberts-Turner reported the following:

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 1(a), of the by-laws for the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA), officers of the RTA shall be elected by the full RTA Board at its first regular meeting in each calendar year. The by-laws further require the Executive Committee to place names in nomination at a full RTA board meeting one month prior to the actual election of officers.

The officers of the RTA shall be Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, must include at least one appointed member and one elected official member, and shall be elected at the first regular meeting of the RTA Board in each calendar year by the entire RTA membership.

At its November 20, 2019 meeting, the Board approved the following slate of candidates as presented by the Executive Committee for consideration at its January 2020 meeting:

Chair – Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor  
Vice Chair – Paige Brown, Gallatin Mayor  
Secretary – Ed Cole, Davidson County Governor Appointee

Staff recommended the Board elect 2020 officers from the approved slate of candidates in accordance with the by-laws.

A proper motion was made and seconded. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**VII. Other Business:**

**VIII. CEO'S Report:** Chief Executive Officer Steve Bland gave the following report:

1. The first of our rehabilitated locomotives is in service and operating well. The second locomotive is on its way to the rebuilder now for scheduled completion next spring.
2. RTA and TSG Staff are on site in Michigan this week to inspect 8 railcars the Board approved for purchase. Although the seller has made significant progress in completing required modifications for transport, there are some remaining issues before we can approve the cars for shipment. We expect these alterations to be completed within the next two weeks, after which time shipment can be arranged. Once the cars have been successfully placed in service later this year, we will initiate scrapping of the old cars.
3. Planning staff are in the process of drafting the 4-year RTA Capital Plan. We anticipate bringing this material before the Board in February.
4. Mayor Kirkman reported on operating results for September. Effective in future months, in addition to the 93 – Star West End Shuttle, we will be reporting on the 64 – Star Downtown Shuttle.
5. Earlier this week, we met with TDOT staff to explore the possibility of establishing a park-and-ride in Smyrna adjacent to the intersection of Sam Ridley Parkway and Industrial Boulevard, where TDOT owns excess property. Operations staff have found the TDOT site to be suitable for operations, and with a capacity for about 30 cars. Planning staff are working with TDOT's Real Estate staff to advance this project.
6. Last meeting, we welcomed Ed Elam, our new Governors appointee from Rutherford County. This month, we welcome Arthur Bing, the Governor's Office appointee from Montgomery County. Besides being a long-time Montgomery County resident, Arthur recently retired as the Director of the Clarksville Transit System. Apart from his many other accomplishments, Arthur's term at CTS included time as the President of our State Transit Association, the Tennessee Public Transportation Association. This would have filled out our Governors Appointees. Unfortunately, long-time Sumner County representative Lee Zoller had to resign from the Board as he changed his primary residence to Davidson County. We have notified the Governor's Office of this vacancy.

**IX. Chair's Report:** Chair Hutto thanked everyone for being present at the board meeting and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**X. Adjournment:** Proper motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ed Cole, RTA Secretary &  
Davidson County Governor Appointee