



**MINUTES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**February 21, 2024**

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Executive Committee was held at the TN State Library & Archives located at 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N., Nashville, TN 37219, on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. A quorum of the RTA Executive Committee was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mayor Randall Hutto.

**Executive Committee Members in Attendance:**

**Mayor Randall Hutto – Wilson County, Chair**  
**Mayor Paige Brown – City of Gallatin, Vice Chair**  
**Mayor Rick Bell – City of Lebanon**  
**Mayor Ken Moore – City of Franklin**  
**Mayor Freddie O'Connell – Davidson County**  
**Mayor Billy Vogle – Robertson County**  
**Ken Davis – Wilson County (Gov. Appt.)**  
**Kelly Dannenfelser – Williamson County (Gov. Appt.)**

**Others Present:**

**Jim Kerr – City of Murfreesboro (Alt.)**  
**Gerald Herman – City of White House (Alt.)**  
**Mayor Joe Carr – Rutherford County**

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

Mayor Rick Bell motioned to approve the November 15, 2023, meeting minutes; Ken Davis seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

III. **Public Comments:** The following members of the public gave remarks:

- Jessica Dauphin

IV. **Audit Committee Report:**

- a. **FY2023 Annual Audit Report (R-A-24-001):** Committee Chair Mayor Ken Moore presented the FY2023 Annual Audit Report, Chief Financial Officer Ed Oliphant was present and was available for questions, and there were no questions or further discussions.

Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve the FY2023 Annual Audit Report; Mayor Rick Bell seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

V. **Finance Committee Report:** Mayor Ken Moore presented the following for discussion:

- a. **Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget (R-D-24-001):** Committee Chair Mayor Ken Moore presented the Monthly Financials for the month of November 2023 compared to the budget and a balance sheet as of November 30, 2023, with the Executive Committee and was available for questions, and there were no questions or further discussions.

VI. **Operations Committee Report:** Committee Chair Mayor Rick Bell presented the following items for discussion and action:

a. **Monthly Operating Statistics (R-D-24-002)**: COO Andy Burke reviewed the RTA Monthly Dashboard Report through the month of November 2023 with the Executive Committee and was available for questions, and there were no questions or further discussions.

b. **WeGo Star Future Direction Study Update (R-D-24-003)**: Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad and Hatch Group's Project Manager, Dave Genova presented the following:

The Star Future Direction Study kicked off in 2023 to evaluate the most effective use of the line to meet current needs while building a consensus on positioning the Star best to offer future enhanced service. The project will evaluate short, medium, and long-term investment options predicated on a "business case approach" considering funding availability and regional demand. The study's final recommendations will provide flexible strategies that can be applied to regional bus services.

The team has been working on the scenario planning task for the past few months. The team developed different scenarios for evaluation that account for passenger and freight service settings to understand the opportunities and challenges of each of those alternatives. Last month, RTA staff and Hatch consultants met with the RTA East Corridor Committee members to discuss findings from trends analysis and share details from the scenario evaluation.

There was a general discussion regarding the contents of the study, and the Executive Committee expressed support for the direction of the effort moving forward.

c. **Task Order with Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) for Donelson Station Joint Development (R-A-24-002)**: Director of Planning & Grants Felix Castrodad presented the following action for discussion and action.

In October 2022, the Executive Committee of the Regional Transportation Authority authorized the CEO to enter a period of exclusive negotiations with the H.G. Hill and Southeast Venture team for the joint development of the WeGo Star Donelson Station. Since then, RTA staff and the developer team have been in continued coordination to understand the needs of each party to help establish the terms for a formal joint development agreement and design plan for the overall site.

Because of the property's federal interest, all negotiations must be conducted under applicable Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines for joint development projects. Staff asked Jones Long Lasalle (JLL) under the existing Real Property Acquisition Services contract to submit a proposal for assistance during the negotiation process. Under this proposal, JLL will assist RTA by analyzing the project in coordination with the adjacent landowner, H.G. Hill. JLL will assist RTA with defining programmatic and operational objectives, performing financial analysis of the envisioned development, advising on the risks and rewards of deal structure alternatives, assisting with the negotiation of ground lease and development contractual agreements, and assisting RTA with governmental compliance. JLL has experience working with similar transit joint development projects in other cities nationwide. There was a general discussion about the project among the Members, and about JLL's role in advancing this joint development.

Staff recommended the RTA Executive Committee provide the CEO the authority to execute a Task Order with Jones Long Lasalle for assistance with the Donelson Station Joint Development negotiations for a total of \$409,620. This project is funded in the RTA Capital Plan under the WeGo Star Enhancement Program.

Mayor Billy Vogle motioned to approve the Task Order with Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) for Donelson Station Joint Development; Kelly Dannenfelser seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

d. **Safety Plan Amendments (R-A-24-003)**: In the absence of Chief Safety & Security Officer Nick Oldham, Chief Operating Officer Andy Burke presented the following for action.

Under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule, this agency is required to update its Agency Safety Plan that implements our Safety Management System yearly. The plan must include safety performance targets voluntarily shared with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the local Department of Transportation.

Mr. Burke presented the following proposed safety targets to the Executive Committee for consideration:

Safety Performance Targets as Reported to the National Transit Database (NTD)							
The targets listed below are based on reviews of RTA's safety performance data from the previous five years.							
Mode of Transit Service	Fatalities (total)	Fatalities (per 100 thousand VRM)	Injuries (total)	Injuries (per 100 thousand VRM)	Safety Events (total)	Safety Events (per 100 thousand VRM)	System Reliability (VRM / failures)
Commuter Bus – Contracted – Gray	0	0	0	0	1	.32	23,500
Vanpool – Contracted – The TMA Group	0	0	0	0	1	.19	N/A

Staff requested the Board give the Chief Executive Officer the authority to execute the Agency Safety Plan to comply with FTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule and the updated Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements.

Mayor Ken Moore motioned to approve the Safety Plan Amendments; Mayor Paige Brown seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

**VII. Election of 2024 RTA Officers (R-A-24-004):** Chief Executive Officer Steve Bland presented the following for action:

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 or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, acting in the stead of the Board at its first regularly scheduled meeting in each calendar year, whichever meets first. Nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the Board and/or Executive Committee.

The officers of the RTA shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary and must include at least one appointed member and one elected official member. The following currently serve as 2023 officers:

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

Staff requested that the Board place names in nomination to serve as the officers of the RTA through January 2025.

Mayor Billy Vogle motioned to approve the Election of the following slate of officers for 2024:

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

Mayor Ken Moore seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved it.

**VIII. CEO's Report:** CEO Bland provided the following report:

1. Earlier this month, House Bill 1766 and Senate Bill 1623 were signed by the House and Senate Speakers, respectively, after passing each chamber and are now awaiting the Governor's Signature. These bills effectively extend the RTA through June 30, 2032. Mr. Bland thanked the Members of the Board for their support for this action, particularly Mayor Brown for her testimony at our oversight hearing in October and Board Secretary Ed Cole for his testimony at the bill hearing last month.
2. Last week, WeGo finalized an agreement with Nashville SC to continue our service to home weekend games from Murfreesboro and Antioch for the coming season, along with a reduced fare for this service to \$2.00. We look forward to serving this market in the coming season, starting with the home opener this Saturday.
3. WeGo has completed advance work to acquire property in Murfreesboro to construct a permanent park-and-ride adjacent to the City's transit facility, which is currently under construction. All appraisals and regulatory approvals have been obtained. A church owns the property, and we are awaiting the church board's approval of the sale to move into design. In the interim, the property will be used as a staging area for contractors building the Murfreesboro Transit facility.
4. It is time to update the RTA's long-range strategic service plan. This plan was last updated in 2016 jointly with the MTA. Once again, we would like to approach this as a joint project between RTA and MTA since many of the service and project initiatives are interrelated. We just received proposals for this work, which a staff team will evaluate. We anticipate coming back to you with more information and a recommended contract award, probably at the April meeting.

CEO Bland yielded his remaining time to allow Mayor Freddie O'Connell to provide remarks. Mayor Freddie O'Connell announced his intention to pursue funding for public transportation and infrastructure through a November referendum in Davidson County under the authority provided in the IMPROVE Act.

Mayor O'Connell said that he is moving forward with his plan to secure dedicated funding for public transit improvements, which will include sidewalks, optimized traffic signals, and more WeGo transit centers. He said The RTA body has already seen the importance of some of the work done with Connect Downtown for regional purposes. One of the lessons learned from the 2018 referendum was that Nashville was not sufficiently regional in its outlook, but with this referendum, there would be opportunities for RTA service improvements embedded in what we offer Nashville voters. He hopes to have the plan's final version by the end of March. He wants to ensure everyone is fully briefed, discuss opportunities for stronger regional connections for transportation and infrastructure, and make sure that everything is consistent with the goals of this body as well.

**IX. Chair's Report:** Mayor Randall Hutto thanked everyone for attending and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**X. Other Business:** There was no further business to come before this Board.

**XI. Adjournment:** With no further business, Mayor Freddie O'Connell moved to adjourn at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ed Cole, RTA Secretary & Davidson County  
Governor Appointee