



GRTA/GDC BOARD MEETING

Minutes

March 8, 2000

Georgia State University, Student Center

All notice having been duly given, the regular meeting of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Board/Governor's Development Council Board was held at Georgia State University, Student Center, Gilmer Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joel Cowan, Chair
Shirley Franklin
Walter Deriso
Sharon Gay
Eric Hovdesven
Tom Phillips
Shi Shailendra
John Sibley
Helen Tapp
Richard Tucker
Ken Thigpen
Michael Tyler
John Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Martin King
James Stephenson

- The Chair welcomed Board members and visitors and convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Shirley Franklin read excerpts from *Horses Make the Landscape Look More Beautiful* by Alice Walker and reminded board members and staff that decisions made by GRTA impact the lives of individuals. The Chairman asked for a moment of silent reflection.
- Mr. Cowan expressed his appreciation for the thoughts expressed by the Board during his recent surgery.
- Mr. Cowan introduced Mr. Larry Dreihaupt, Regional Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, who remarked on the positive relationship with GRTA and the other transportation partners in the state of Georgia. As President of ITS Georgia, he expressed appreciation for the opportunity to host the April GRTA Board meeting.

Minutes:

- The minutes of the February 9, 2000 Board meeting and the Special Meeting of February 18, 2000 were adopted unanimously.
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Approval of Agenda:

- The Vice Chair moved to approve the March 8, 2000 agenda with the following amendment: addition of the DRI Committee Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

- Dr. Ross introduced new GRTA staff. Jontyl Brown who will serve as Dr. Ross' Administrative Assistant and Dan Drake who will work as a Transportation Engineer for GRTA.
- The Executive Director briefed the Board on Congressional activities (attached).
- Dr. Ross informed the board that GRTA will be moving its offices to Peachtree Center in late April.
- Dr. Ross encouraged the board members to take copies of brochures describing the purpose and powers of GRTA and to distribute to the public.
- Dr. Ross reported on the Atlantic Steel project and informed the board that the Governor has established a Green Light Team to expedite environmental and transportation improvements to the site. Dr. Ross has been asked to facilitate the Team. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- GRTA, along with Georgia Tech and EPD, has been asked to assist in an initiative to do a "Pre-K" Study for the Metropolitan areas of Augusta, Macon and Columbus to develop procedures to improve air quality and avert designation as non-attainment areas.
- Dr. Ross presented the board members with GRTA caps purchased for an Amtrak meeting in Washington.
- Sharon Gay reported the Amtrak meeting was very productive and GRTA is perceived as a model for the country. Sonny Deriso noted a continuing theme of the Georgia delegation and federal agencies was for GRTA and its transportation partners to return as "one voice" concerning the transportation needs of Georgia.

Financial Report:

- Dr. Ross presented a comparison of the GRTA Request and Conference Appropriations for FY2000 Amended Budget (attached).
- Mr. Tim Grogg briefed the board on budget matters and explained GRTA expenditures through February 29, 2000. He reported that GRTA has spent 44% of its budget and is 65% of the way through the current fiscal year. Due to the move in April and the need for additional staff, Mr. Grogg anticipated having \$350-400,000 available to roll over at the end of the fiscal year.

Committee Reports:

- *Vision/Mission Sub-Committee:* Ms. Franklin, Chair, reported the Committee had met and gave a brief synopsis of the meeting.

Formal Action: It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed Vision and Mission Statements as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- *DRI Committee:* Ms. Tapp, Chair, reported the Committee will have its first meeting the week of March 20, 2000, and requested the members of the Committee, Hovdesven, Shailendra, Sibley, Tucker and Tyler, to meet briefly after the Board meeting to set a time for the meeting. Ms. Tapp noted staff has represented GRTA on a DRI Task Force committee established by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). State law requires DCA to establish regulations for determining which projects qualify as developments of regional impacts. DCA has established the Task Force to review DRI regulations and to address Senate Bill 57. Mr. Tucker thanked staff for the hard work but indicated his desire for the Board to set the policy prior to GRTA making recommendations to the DCA Task Force. Dr. Ross noted GRTA staff is in the early

process of developing a procedure for exercising its authority over state and federal expenditures required to create land transportation services and access to a DRI under OCGA § 50-32-14 and will present information for the DRI committee to consider in the near future.

- *Policy Council Liaison Committee:* Ms. Gay, Chair, briefed the Board on previously discussed issues.
 - Development of a comprehensive framework for public input and involvement with GRTA.
 - The Executive Committee of the Policy Council met to develop an agenda for the Technical Advisory Groups. The Vice Chairs and Chairs of the three Policy Councils worked in small groups to identify narrow issues for the Technical Advisory Groups to research and make recommendations to the GRTA Board. The Policy Council Liaison Committee is planning to meet in the near future to prioritize the work of the Policy Councils.

- *Administration/Finance/Personnel Committee:* Mr. Phillips, Chair, presented a resolution establishing a procedure for the Executive Committee to execute emergency powers (copy attached).

Formal Action: It was moved and seconded to adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Transportation Committee:* Mr. Croy noted the Transportation Committee had met and recommended to the Board adopting a resolution directing staff to negotiate with GDOT for GRTA to review any road projects having a substantial impact on high occupancy vehicles and transit service performance.

Formal Action: It was moved and seconded to adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Williams not present to vote.

- The staff recommended focusing on performance measures designed to accomplish specific goals and objectives. A work session is scheduled for Friday, March 10, 2000 at 10:00 A.M. at the GRTA offices to consider the goals and objectives and types of performance measures.
- Mr. Croy noted the Committee considered the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GDOT concerning the Northern Sub Area and Georgia 400 Studies and voted to recommend adoption of the MOU by the full Board. He explained the next step was to hold a meeting with the planning partners to develop a scope and design for the studies and create a contract with GDOT to perform the studies for the Board's approval. Because of the July, 1999 settlement, time is of the essence, and the MOU authorizes the Executive Director to sign the agreement with the following changes:
 - Page 2, second paragraph after *the GDOT and the Atlanta Regional Commission are required to perform or, delete contract, and insert in lieu thereof have performed*
 - Page 3, B, change *effected* to *affected*
 - Page 3, C, after *The study design will be developed* insert *by the Steering Committee*
 - Page 4, C, after *The investment study design will be developed* insert *by the Steering Committee*
 - Page 4, 3 Role of GRTA, after *with federal and state law, rules and regulations and any* insert *applicable*
- Mr. Hovdesven asked whether the map attached to the MOU controls the boundaries of the studies because the map does not show the Perimeter Center area. Staff, in

concurrence with GDOT, stated the map reflects the language outlining the boundaries of the studies but the language and map could be expanded to include the Perimeter Center area.

Formal Action: After discussion, it was moved and seconded to adopt the Resolution as amended. The motion carried with Mr. Williams not present to vote.

- Mr. Croy noted the Committee had considered and voted to recommend adoption of the resolution granting the Executive Director the authority to execute and file an application for Federal assistance on behalf of GRTA. He explained the resolution is the first step in qualifying as a direct recipient of federal grants.

Formal Action: After discussion, it was moved and seconded to adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Williams not present to vote.

- Mr. Croy noted GRTA and GDOT have reached a verbal agreement concerning CMAQ funding for the development of Smartraq technology. Similar agreements will be negotiated with ARC and other involved agencies. Because of the time sensitive nature of the contract, Mr. Cowan recommended voting to allow the Executive Committee to approve the written contract for the Board.

Formal Action: After discussion, it was moved and seconded to authorize the Executive Committee to act for the Board concerning the contract with GDOT for Smartraq technology. The motion carried with Mr. Williams not present to vote.

- Chuck Walston, Director of Communications, reported on improvements and updates to the GRTA Web Page. He hopes to have the improvements made by May 1, 2000. The improvements include a GRTA forum on transportation and air quality issues in the Atlanta region.

New Business and Board Comments:

- Mr. Phillips reported he received several communications from Senator Bart Ladd and Atlanta Councilman Doug Alexander requesting a meeting with the Board.
- Mr. Phillips noted the importance of cooperating with our transportation planning partners and thanked staff for working to develop a spirit of cooperation among the agencies.
- Mr. Phillips recommended developing a list of immediate actions GRTA could take to support, encourage and advertise transportation alternatives.
- Mr. Hovdesven recommended developing a resolution to encourage religious institutions and malls to allow their parking lots to be utilized as park and ride lots and asking certain employers to offer employees the opportunity to sell their parking spaces for \$50 a month back to the employer to encourage and support public transportation.
- Ms. Tapp noted the smog season will begin soon and suggested staff work with Partnership for a Smogfree Georgia, ARC, Consultants and other agencies to consider what is currently being done to promote public transportation and awareness of the issues.
- Mr. Walston reported on the Clean Air Campaign for the Atlanta region. The members of the Campaign consist of institutions receiving CMAQ funding for public awareness of air quality and transportation issues. The Campaign will begin advertising in May and will address many of the issues raised by the board members. GRTA will be eligible to join the Campaign when it receives CMAQ funding.

Adjournment:

- It was moved, seconded, and approved without opposition to adjourn the meeting.