



## ***GRTA/GDC BOARD MEETING***

### ***Minutes***

April 12, 2000

Wayne Shackelford Building, Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta, Georgia

All notice having been duly given, the regular meeting of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Board/Governor's Development Council Board was held at the Wayne Shackelford Building, Georgia Department of Transportation, East Confederate Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Martin King

- The Chair welcomed Board members and visitors and convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Board Member Richard Tucker gave an opening meditation regarding managing priorities. The Chairman asked for a moment of silent reflection.

#### **Minutes:**

- The minutes of the March 8, 2000 Board meeting were adopted. Mr. Tyler was not present to vote.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

- It was moved to approve the April 12, 2000 agenda with the following amendment: addition of the DRI Committee Report. The motion passed. Mr. Tyler was not present to vote.

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

- Rob Alexander presented an update of the Georgia 2000 legislative issues.
  - Highway Funding Allocation Bill awaiting the Governor's signature
  - Vehicle Inspections Bill did not pass. The current annual inspections will continue.
  - Georgia Rail Passenger Service Corridors Bill awaiting the Governor's signature

- Local legislation regarding a bus referendum in Clayton County awaiting the Governor's signature
  - Penny sales tax extension for MARTA awaiting the Governor's signature
  - Study Committee for urban road design of which GRTA is represented with one appointment
- The Executive Director presented an overview of the 2000 Supplemental and 2001 General Budget.
  - Budget requests have not been coordinated regionally with our planning partners; however, GRTA will initiate dialog with our planning partners in this regard.
  - Board members could be proactive by participating with legislators, both locally and nationally. The board was urged to notify staff of possible meetings related to state or congressional travel. Staff will develop possibilities of participation.
- Dr. Ross stated Jamie Cochran has been hired as the Chief Program Officer / GDC and Director of Planning / GDC. Ms. Cochran will begin May 8, 2000.
- Dr. Ross reported the Atlantic Steel project Green Light Team will meet every two weeks in the GRTA offices. Public meetings will begin April 18 and the TCM is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.
- Dr. Ross informed the board that the GRTA move is on schedule with the exception that the audio visual equipment might not be available at the May meeting.
- Mr. Deriso reported on the Georgia Rail Passenger Team. Several meetings are planned outside Atlanta as well as visiting rail systems in other parts of the country. Several consultant reports will be completed by September.
  - The Team was asked to look at alternatives of freight bypasses outside Atlanta, perhaps along the northern arc or to the south.
  - Initial Plan was approved before the creation of the GRPP. The legislation passed during this Session of the General Assembly indicated 18 corridors to be included in the plan, but not necessarily in the order presented. The funding is underway for the Athens/Atlanta Corridor to be the first in the series.
  - The GRTA Board will have an opportunity to share ideas and concerns with the PMT. The Board will be given a map of the existing rail lines.

**Financial Report:**

- Mr. Tim Grogg briefed the board on budget matters and explained GRTA expenditures through March 31, 2000.
- Mr. Grogg presented information regarding establishing a procedure for check signature authority.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to reinstate Joel Cowan as a signatory authority secondary to Dr. Ross for the purpose of check signing. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

- *Administration/Finance/Personnel Committee:* Tom Phillips, 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 GRTA organizational structure as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Transportation Committee:* Ms. Franklin, Chair, reported the Committee met and asked Mr. Croy to report. Regarding performance measures, staff has requested the Board to refer comments by April 19, so that by the May meeting, staff would be in a position to go forward to the next categories. Also, staff requests any comments regarding the final report from the transportation consultants. Mr. Croy stated ITS Georgia (Intelligent Transportation Society) had made a presentation and thanked the participants. Staff was

asked to prepare a resolution supporting ITS technology. Chairman Cowan suggested the Board consider approval of a resolution in support of ITS.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution related to support of ITS technology. The motion passed unanimously.

- *DRI Committee:* Ms. Tapp, Chair, reported the first meeting of the Committee was on March 13, 2000, and a scheduled meeting was immediately following the board meeting. The focus will be to clarify the purpose and intent of GRTA's involvement in the DRI process.
- Dr. Ross distributed copies of the RTP/TIP which had been approved by the Atlanta Regional Commission. GRTA is required to assess the Transportation Improvement Plan and requires a 2/3-majority vote, to approve the TIP; reject the TIP; or remand it back to ARC for further deliberation. After discussion, the Board agreed to meet May 1 and 2, 2000. The May 1, 2000 meeting is to include opportunities for public comment. ARC and others will be invited for purposes of providing input to the Board and other discussions. The TIP will be voted on by the Board at the May meeting.

#### **New Business and Board Comments:**

- Mr. Cowan announced Shirley Franklin was resigning from the GRTA board effective at the close of the meeting. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Cowan presented her with a resolution and plaque.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution honoring Ms. Franklin. The motion passed by acclamation.

- Mr. Phillips reiterated comments made at the March meeting regarding the development of a list of immediate actions GRTA could take to support, encourage and advertise transportation alternatives as well as addressing clean air concerns. The Board was encouraged to present recommendations to staff (Eric Meyer). Some recommendations included:
  - During peak traffic hours, encourage trucks not be allowed to travel on expressway system.
  - 4-day workweek, working 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., May through September, making it compulsory for state employees.
  - Embrace already established programs by other agencies and organizations.
  - Organize goals based on GRTA's Mission and Vision Statements for the smog season May 1 through September.
- Mr. Cowan announced the ARC has appointed a committee as liaison to GRTA, with John Williams as a member.
  - Mr. Cowan requested the Policy Council Liaison Committee be the counterpart committee (Gay, Hovdesven, Sibley, Tapp, Tucker and Williams).

#### **Adjournment:**

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