



DRAFT
GRTA BOARD MEETING
Minutes
January 9, 2002

All notice having been duly given, the regular meeting of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Board/Governor's Development Council Board was held at 245 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 900, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1223.

MEMBERS PRESENT*:

Walter Deriso, Chair
Andrella Baylis
Steven Bruning
Tim Connolly
Sharon Gay
Eric Hovdesven
Ken Thigpen
Richard Tucker
Michael Tyler
Shi Shailendra
John Sibley
James Stephenson
Carolyn Williams
John Williams

*A quorum was present.

The Board Chairman Sonny Deriso welcomed the Board members and visitors and convened the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Stephenson and seconded by Mr. Tyler to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2001. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR January 9, 2002

Mr. Deriso modified the agenda to include an addendum to the memo in the Chairman's report to allow the Chairman to appoint six (6) members instead of five (5) to the Executive Committee. Motion was made by Mr. Thigpen and seconded by Mr. Shailendra to approve the amended agenda of the January 9, 2002 meeting. The meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Deriso recognized Yvonne Williams, Perimeter CID. Ms. Williams expressed on behalf of the CID Boards of DeKalb and Fulton, their desire to recognize the GRTA staff. Ms. Williams stated that GRTA has acknowledged the definite need for transportation improvements in the Perimeter area and in the next three years committed 20 million dollars from GRTA on the Governor's behalf.

These funds are for pedestrian and transit improvements to be implemented within three years. Additionally, there is 90 million dollars committed in the RTP for road improvements. These improvements will help to create jobs, enhance economic development and enhance the capital investment potential from investors in that area. Presented to Dr. Ross and staff was the “Over and Beyond” award with the commitment to be a partner in the future and fulfill the GRTA and Governor’s program to enhance economic vitality.

Chairman Deriso recognized Cheryle DeDios, Hartfield Area TMA for public comment. Ms. DeDios expressed concern over the proposed MARTA reduction of bus and rail services. Ms. DeDios also mentioned the reduction in the ceiling for available discounts for businesses and partners in the Partnership program. The MARTA Board is scheduled to meet at the end of the month to vote whether to proceed with the proposed reductions. There is speculation that MARTA will proceed with these proposed changes and Ms. DeDios questioned whether there was a possibility of looking at some type of state funding for the future.

Ms. DeDios had no immediate expectation, but urged some support to help MARTA to not take these drastic measures. Ms. DeDios would like the GRTA Board to give some serious consideration to possible future solutions.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Deriso discussed the memorandum provided to the Board members with actions resulting from the GRTA Board Retreat. The memorandum discusses recommendations for committee structure, bylaws and oversight changes. Mr. Deriso stated that if the actions are taken at this meeting, the GRTA Board would begin operating with the new structure. The committee appointments were based on the preferences of the members of the board and have been assigned by the Chair.

Formal Action: Resolution by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Shailendra to amend the Bylaws Section I.C.1.c relating to Committee Structure: in order to expand the Executive Committee from five (5) members to six (6) members. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Deriso discussed the change to the Georgia Rail Passenger Program Liaison Committee. Two people are assigned to the committee and a request has been made to the Governor to relieve Mr. Deriso of the assignment as Chair of the Program Management Team Committee as a result of his appointment as GRTA Chair. Ms. Gay will be appointed Chair of the PMT and Mr. Deriso will appoint Steven Bruning as the second member of the PMT.

Formal Action: Resolution by Mr. Shailendra and seconded by Mr. Williams to amend the Bylaws to include the following actions to revise contract authority:

- a. Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute all agreements in an amount up to \$100,000.
- b. Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute all agreements in excess of \$100,000, up to \$1,000,000, with the co-signature of the GRTA Chair.
- c. The Executive Director may execute agreements in excess of \$1,000,000 after approval by the Executive Committee.
- d. Executive Committee approval in the event the Executive Director determines a personal conflict.
- e. The Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute intergovernmental agreements.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Deriso discussed the need to establish process, as discussed at the retreat, for assignment of board member matters to agendas and committees. This change would include policy matters or matters that will require a Board action. The item should be discussed at the committee level before it is presented to the full Board.

Formal Action: Resolution by Mr. Thigpen and seconded by Ms. Gay to revise bylaws as such that the Board Chair shall have the authority to assign GRTA Board agenda items or Board agenda requests to a committee for review and recommendation prior to consideration by the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - Dr. Catherine Ross

Employee Personnel Policy Update

Dr. Ross discussed the Employee Personnel Resource Manual included in the Board materials. The document as completed is fairly comprehensive and will be distributed to the staff after this meeting. The document includes the employment process, management process and all other personnel related matters. Dr. Ross stated that this document will be revised in future. It will be the responsibility of the Operations and Finance to develop a process for updating the Board on personnel matters.

GRTA Project Update

Mr. Haddad mentioned several projects where progress has been made such as the Northern Sub Area, Smartraq, Perimeter Connectivity Study, Northwest Fixed Guideway, and the Regional Transit Action Plan (RTAP).

Mr. Hovdesven raised a query as to the progress of the Smartraq presentation. Dr. Ross stated that a conversation with Dr. Larry Frank has taken place and she will revisit his availability to present to the Board. The Projects and Planning Committee will hear the presentation.

Mr. Fjelstul made note in the Chairman's report that staff would prepare for the February meeting of the Projects and Planning committee several report format options.

Northern Sub Area Study Steering Committee Update

Dr. Ross indicated that the request at the last Board meeting to have the Evaluation Criteria of the Northern Sub Area Study provided to the members of the Board has been done.

Mr. Henze indicated that a more detailed presentation on the Northern Sub Area Study is expected at the February Board meeting. Also, at the request of the Board an assignment has been given to the Consultant to provide relative weighting significance based on the Steering Committee members organization's perspectives. A survey was distributed with a request to each of the Steering Committee members to assign relative weight between 1-10 for each of the themes. The first theme was determined to be striving for improving mobility within the study corridor, which included three sub themes of addressing congestion relief, enhancing reliability of the transportation system and to promoting transportation choices. A report is expected within the week from the Consultant, which will compile the scoring from the different committee members.

Approval of 2002 Board & Committee Meeting Schedule

Dr. Ross discussed the document which lists the schedule of the Board and Committee Schedules for 2002 noting that the time previously allocated for the Board Work Session will go to committee work and will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Formal Action: Resolution by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Gay to approve the amended 2002 Board and Committee schedule to reflect the February Board Meeting to be held at the Joint Retreat, with all other dates as assigned. The motion was approved unanimously.

Joint Board Retreat

Dr. Ross discussed the effort between ARC and GRTA to convene a Joint Retreat. The retreat will be held February 6, 7 & 8th, 2002. Chick Krautler, Executive Director, ARC has developed an agenda with independent sessions and joint sessions. It was suggested that to take advantage of the individual time, that GRTA have the February Board meeting during the retreat at the GRTA individual time.

Formal Action: Motion was made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Williams to allow the GRTA Board to convene at the Joint Retreat with ARC in the place of the February Board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update on traffic meeting with school board/Chambers of Commerce

Dr. Ross discussed the progress with the Chambers of Commerce, School Administrators and GRTA staff. A Task Force was established to look at how schools can influence the number of children that are riding buses and the kind of accessibility that the schools provide to teenage drivers. Dr. Ross stated that a number of attempts have been made to solicit responses from the Task Force due to the low attendance at the meeting in December. Notes have been e-mailed to each of the task members with a request to include student participation on the Task Force. An attempt is being made by Ms. Aponte to make contact to set up another meeting.

Mr. Tucker made notice to the reference to Chambers of Commerce and suggested that contact be made to the Regional Chambers of Commerce, since Transportation issue involves regional schools.

GRTA Financial Update

Dr. Ross announced that the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts is currently onsite in the GRTA offices. Mr. McHugh indicated that even though the audit of the prior fiscal year is not yet complete, it is anticipated that the financial information being provided to the Board for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 will not change materially. To keep the Board current, we are also providing a snapshot of our operations for FY 2002 through the month of December. The timing between the operating budget cycle and the actual operations results in significant variances that should be expected and are not a cause for alarm.

Mr. Deriso indicated that the Operations and Finance committee should look at the information provided determine whether GRTA is on or off-track financially.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DRI Review Committee – Update

Mr. Thigpen, Chairman for the DRI Committee, presented an update of the Committee. Mr. Thigpen informed the Board that the policy is scheduled to go into effect January 14. There was speculation that there might be a few DRI's presented under the old policy. The March committee meeting is determined to be the date for all DRI's to operate under the new policy.

Mr. Thigpen indicated that it was decided that Consultants are needed to provide support to review the DRI's.

Committee Motions: Motion was brought to the floor by the DRI Chair, Mr. Thigpen, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts for support of DRI services for reviewing the DRI. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

Four (4) of the five (5) interim DRI's were approved by the DRI Committee and did not require vote by the Board because they had positive findings from the RDC. The Walker Concrete Plant Facility DRI was found by the RDC to be not in the best interest and it was recommended by the DRI Committee to not have the board prohibit funds for this DRI with additional language of:

Whereas GRTA has concerns about the potential conflict of the DRI with the proposed Atlanta to Macon rail line and encourages staff and the various governments to make every effort to resolve the conflicts; and

Mr. Deriso discussed Mr. Shailendra's appeal to the Board to allow him to remove his vote on the decision for the Walker Concrete Plant Facility DRI.

Formal Action: Motion was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Gay to allow Mr. Shailendra to remove his vote from the Walker Concrete Plant Facility DRI. The motion was approved unanimously.

As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The committee's action was sustained to not have the board prohibit funds for this DRI with one abstention.

Transportation Committee – Update

Mr. Deriso discussed the need for approval from the Board to authorize Dr. Ross to contract for general engineering services. There is a need for various engineering services and this approval will give some flexibility. The RFP is prepared and will be ready to go once the Board approves.

Committee Motions: Motion was brought to the floor by Mr. Deriso to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute contract for general engineering services. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Ross provided a summary of the Transportation Committee activities. The SR 316 presentation

is a clear example of the kinds of projects GRTA would like to bring to the Board. Attempt is being made to fast track it, they are adding HOV capability and this is a clear example where staff will continue to present important projects.

The second kick off meeting is scheduled for later this month for the Regional Transit Action Plan.

The consultant is being used to assist in the development of the arterial improvements. The contract has been executed and is moving ahead.

Regarding remote sensing devices, a letter has been submitted requesting the Environmental Protection Division to make a presentation to the Board at a later date.

Georgia Rail Passenger Program Liaison Committee – Update

Mr. Heimer presented a brief update of GRPP activities. The PMT meeting for January did not take place due to inclement weather. The Program Management Team held a conference call in late December and the decision was made on the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Athens-Atlanta line. All parties are in agreement with Concept 6 and when the PMT meeting convenes again, there will be a presentation on the details of the concept.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned, without opposition 2:40pm.

APPROVED:

Walter M. Deriso
Chairman

Date

ATTEST:

Deborah Johannes
Recording Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kirk R. Fjelstul
Chief Legal Counsel