



Draft
GRTA BOARD MEETING
Minutes

January 14, 2004

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
Jeff Anderson
Andrella Baylis
Ken Bernard
Steven Bruning
Sharon Gay
Eric Hovdesven
Alton Knight
Lee Morris
Narender Reddy
Shi Shailendra
John Sibley
James Stephenson
Richard Tucker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sam Gude

*A quorum was present.

The Board Chairman, Sonny Deriso, welcomed the Board members and visitors and convened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Knight to approve the amended minutes of the December 11, 2003 meeting to correct the name Mr. Lee Morris as second approval of the December 11, 2003 minutes. The amended meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR January 14, 2004

Chairman Deriso indicated that the agenda needed to be modified to include an Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. Motion was made by Ms. Gay and seconded by Mr. Sibley to approve the modified agenda of the January 14, 2004 meeting. The amended meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Deriso recognized Mr. Mike Byrd. Mr. Byrd expressed his support of the appointment of Steve Stancil as Executive Director for GRTA.

Susan Laccetti Myers, Vice President of Georgians for Better Transportation (GBT) discussed the award of a federal grant to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Ms. Myers discussed the "Steer it and Clear it" law currently in effect. GBT will be introducing radio and television commercials in February to inform the general public of this cost-effective way to help reduce congestion. Ms. Myers extended an invitation to the members of the Board to attend the press conference.

Ross Vickers, private resident of Vinings, Georgia questioned the objective of the Northwest Connectivity Study (NWCS). Mr. Vickers expressed concern for the NWCS promoting redevelopment in the city of Atlanta instead of alleviating severe traffic congestion. Mr. Vickers indicated that Cobb County residents' willingness to participate in a regional transportation solution was dependent upon whether the solutions were designed to meet the residents' needs.

Mary Rose Barnes, resident Oakdale Community stated that for many years Cobb County residents had declined to participate in regional transit because the residents did not believe the region would implement a solution to meet their needs. Ms. Barnes indicated that in order for regional transit to be successful, it needs to be designed to get residents where they need to go. Ms. Barnes expressed her support for Alternative A over the other alternatives.

Ron Sifen, President, Vinings Home Owners Association stated that land-use should not be considered as part of an overall solution for the I-75 corridor. A cost-effective solution that will efficiently integrates other transit projects should be selected.

Bryan Hager, Director, Georgia Chapter of Sierra Club requested that the Board restructure the Northwest Connectivity Study alternatives. Mr. Hager discussed an

alternative alignment focused on arterial roads. He also discussed the impacts of this transportation on land-use and development in the Northwest Corridor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

GRTA Mission, Guiding Principles and Roles

Mr. Stancil discussed the GRTA transition that has occurred within the past year and indicated that the mission and the roles of the Authority should also reflect those changes. At the Board Retreat held in December, the Board and staff redefined and simplified the mission statement to help focus the Authority.

Mr. Stancil requested approval of the revised mission and vision statement.

Formal Action: Motion was made by Mr. Sibley and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the revised GRTA Mission, Guiding Principles and Roles. The motion was approved unanimously.

GRTA Principles for Selecting Transportation Investments

Mr. Ritchey discussed the Principles for Selecting Transportation Investments and requested approval of these documents.

Formal Action: Motion was made by Mr. Shailendra and seconded by Mr. Bruning to approve the GRTA Principles for Selecting Transportation Investments. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Hovesden congratulated the new and old Board members who helped to develop the revised Mission, Guiding Principles and Roles.

2004 Federal Appropriations Legislative Report

Rob Alexander discussed the 2004 Federal Appropriations Legislative Report. Currently, Congress has not taken final action on the transportation appropriations bill for FY '04. The transportation bill was folded into a budget omnibus package and is waiting for the final action. Mr. Alexander stated GRTA was able to secure additional money for the Regional Express Program and the Northwest Project.

Mr. Ritchey highlighted additional projects that will be receiving funds.

Roles and Responsibilities of State Partners

Kirk Fjelstul discussed the Roles and Responsibilities of State Partners. Mr. Fjelstul indicated an invitation is being extended to the state partners to present their roles and responsibilities at future Board meetings. An effort by the Governor's Office to develop agreements with state partners is underway.

DRI Committee Report

Mr. Deriso provided a review of the DRI Committee meeting. The DRI status report was distributed. Mr. Fjelstul discussed the recommendation from the committee.

Committee Motion: Motion was made by Mr. Deriso, Acting Chair of the DRI Committee, to approve the recommended draft land use concepts, revision to the DRI committee name to Land Development Committee, and to revise the committee's purpose to include the following: consider issues regarding land use and development in the region and review Developments of Regional Impact. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Deriso requested Board members who wish to be assigned to the Land Development Committee contact him and expressed that every attempt would be made to honor their requests.

Mr. Fjelstul extended an invitation to the Board to attend the next scheduled Land Development Committee. A presentation by Ed Ellis on land-use and its connection to transportation will be reviewed.

Operations & Finance Committee Report

Mr. Knight briefed the Board on the activities of the Operations and Finance Committee. He discussed the Operations Report and the status of C-TRAN. The financial reports were reviewed and the State is requiring further budget reductions for GRTA. Mr. Knight also reported that the committee discussed a personnel matter in Executive Session.

Project & Planning Committee Report

Mr. Bruning provided an update of the Projects and Planning Committee. A review was made of the Monthly Project and Planning Reports. Mr. Bruning indicated that discussion took place on the Northwest Connectivity Study for the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative. Action is being deferred until next month to allow for a Board Work Session to take place and more understanding of the routes.

Mr. Fjelstul recognized Brian Borden, GRTA's new Land-Use Planner.

Formal Action: Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Shailendra to hold an Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board then went into Executive Session at 2:35 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. and reconvened the meeting.

Formal Action: Motion was made by Mr. Bruning and seconded by Mr. Morris to authorize the acquisition of the Park and Ride lots discussed for no more than the highest appraised value. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Deriso adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

Walter M. Deriso
Chairman

Date

ATTEST:

Deborah Johannes
Recording Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kirk R. Fjelstul
Chief Legal Counsel