

**Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
245 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE, Suite 800
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1223**

**GRTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2010**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sonny Deriso, Chairman
Alton Knight
J. T. Williams
Al Nash
John Sibley
Narender Reddy
Caric Martin
Charlotte Nash
Bob Voyles
Jerry Bowman
Mike Byrd

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lara Hodgson
James Stephenson
Dwight Evans

All notice having been duly given, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Board/Governor's Development Council Board was held at the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority office, 245 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 800, Atlanta, Georgia.

CHAIR CALLS MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Sonny Deriso called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He noted that no committee meetings were held due to the Governor's State of the State address.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2009 MEETING

Minutes for the meeting of December 9, 2009 were reviewed and approved as circulated.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2010 MEETING

The agenda for the January 13, 2010 meeting agenda was reviewed and approved as circulated.

Public Comment

There was no request for public comment.

Executive Director's Report

Faithful Service Award

Dick Anderson, Executive Director, presented a ten year service award to Rob Alexander. Mr. Anderson spoke regarding Mr. Alexander's dedication to Xpress customer service and congratulated Mr. Alexander for his service.

Mr. Anderson praised the Xpress service, and stated he had toured new routes and park and ride lots as well as the Frontage Road property. Mr. Anderson said the purchase of the Frontage Road closed and the facility will be a showcase and enhance the ability to provide service.

Monthly Operations Report

Jim Ritchey reported that two unfortunate incidents occurred within the last week. A passenger on the Newnan route suffered a heart attack. A nurse on the bus and the bus driver administered CPR, but the passenger expired at Grady Hospital. All of the passengers on the bus were complimentary on the actions of the nurse and bus driver. Rob Alexander related that call agent Laverne Goodwin expired. Her home caught on fire and she perished in the fire. Ms. Goodwin was a 25 year state employee. Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 15 in Decatur.

Mr. Ritchey reported that ridership was lower than the estimate he provided in July. With gas prices rising there is a slight rise in ridership. Operating expenses are lower than predicted. Approximately 34% of costs are being recovered.

A new route started in Stone Mountain and Mr. Ritchey reported that it help ease overcrowding on the Snellville route and draw new customers. Changes have been made in staging the coaches. Buses lay over under the Spring Street bridge. Gwinnett buses are now staging south on Central Avenue rather than on Courtland Street. Cooperation among all the parties involved was excellent. Mr. Ritchey also reported that the bus maintenance facility had been purchased for \$6.3 million and an additional \$5 million in renovations were scheduled.

The new Xpress station in Jonesboro is near completion. Service will begin on February 15, 2010. Three other park and ride facilities are still under construction: Town Center, Douglasville and Sigmund Road.

Monthly Financial Report

Mark Peoples gave the monthly financial report. Mr. Peoples stated that income and expenses are tracking a little less than projected and are in line with the targeted amounts. There is an overage in contractual services. Those expenses are offset by transfers from reserves and the expenses relate to the McKinsey invoices. Reporting has been completed for the stimulus funds for the quarter ending January 31, and the State Accounting Office has launched a website on stimulus fund spending.

Transfer of 5 Clayton County Buses

Jim Ritchey reported that Clayton County has decided to terminate C-Tran as of March 31, 2010. GRTA is the grantee for many of the assets of Clayton County. At the present time without the transfer of federal assets to other grantees Clayton County will owe GRTA a little over \$3 million and GRTA will owe that amount to the federal government. There are five buses that have been delivered and not been place in service. MARTA ordered these buses for Clayton before Clayton decided to cancel service. MARTA has indicated they are willing to accept the buses and pay the 20% local share if GRTA and Clayton County would agree to transfer the federal interest, which is approximately \$1.6 million to MARTA. The resolution describes the grants that are involved and GRTA's attempt to comply with federal regulations. The Board is being asked to approve the resolution.

Formal Action

Resolution number 10-01-01 for the transfer of five buses from Clayton County was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Narendra Reddy and seconded by Mike Byrd to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update

Dick Anderson introduced Todd Long to give an update on the State Strategic Plan. Mr. Long stated that there has been a positive response to the strategic plan, and it was a team effort. The document before the Board is a draft. The final document is due April 10, 2010. Comment from the legislature is due February 15, 2010. As a State transit has not been embraced because the funding has not been there. Guidance and input is being sought from various partners. This is a business plan being presented, and comments are welcome from all involved. Ultimately a long range plan will be developed to go along with the business plan.

New Business

There was no new business

Sonny Deriso adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

Walter Deriso, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kirk R Fjelstul, Chief Counsel

ATTEST:

Donna Canterbury, Recording Secretary