

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

**Operations and Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2010**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alton Knight, Chair
Sonny Deriso
Dwight Evans
Narender Reddy
Mike Byrd
Caric Martin
Charlotte Nash

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dwight Evans

All notice having been duly given, the Operations and Finance Committee of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority was held at the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority office, 245 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 800, Atlanta, Georgia.

Alton Knight called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING

Minutes for the meeting of November 10, 2009 were reviewed and approved as circulated.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2010 MEETING

The agenda for the February 10, 2010 committee meeting has been circulated. The agenda was approved as circulated.

Monthly Operations Report

Jim Ritchey gave the operations report. Mr. Ritchey stated that the report covered through December 2009. It is half of the fiscal year. Ridership is down year over year by 5 to 7%. Considering the economic slowdown it is not unexpected. Expenses are below projections. An extended discussion followed the report.

Monthly Financial Report

Mark Peoples gave the financial report. Mr. Peoples reported that accounts receivable reflected payment of a portion of the McKinsey billing. The income statement reflects GRTA's share of the McKinsey invoice. The expenditure overage is a matter of timing and is offset by a transfer from the fund balance. February rent was pre-paid at the end of January. Any other variances are a matter of timing, and all statements are in balance.

Xpress Construction Status Report

Jim Ritchey began the presentation by explaining the construction summary. Mr. Ritchey stated that the HOV to hot lanes project is being moved back six months due to funding and obtaining building materials. He said that more routes would be established to help with the traffic flow. He reported that there is approximately \$150,000,000 available for the Xpress expansion. Mr. Ritchey introduced Crew Heimer to continue the presentation. Mr. Heimer said there six stations have been completed and twelve more are under production. A unique storm water drainage system is being used at the Town Center construction. Water will flow through porous concrete and be stored in an underground water detention system. The south operating facility is undergoing renovation and approximately one-half of the space will be utilized for bus maintenance, and GDOT will use the other half of the building for their projects. A discussion followed the presentation regarding all the new lot construction.

Converjint Contract For Travel Info and Security Systems

Todd Horsley stated a sixth amendment needed to be added to the Converjint contract to add funds for security equipment at park and ride stations and for bus signage.

COMMITTEE MOTION:

Caric Martin moved that the committee authorize the Board Chair and Executive Director to execute Amendment #6 to GRTA Contract No. 07-010 with Converjint Technologies, LLC to increase the authorized total contract amount by \$310,000 for an amended total of \$2,010,000. The motion was seconded by Mike Byrd. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

C-Tran

Jim Ritchey gave a history of the Clayton County C-Tran service. C-Tran was a GRTA sponsored service. The Clayton County Board made a financial decision to terminate service as of March 31, 2010. Some additional services are needed in Clayton County to aide in relieving overcrowding. Xpress will be overloaded without expansion. The challenge is that new services are needed to accommodate approximately 2,900 trips. There are grant funds left, and if those dollars could be used the services that are needed could be provided. The plan will need to be implemented by April 1, 2010. Three new Xpress routes need to be added. A question and answer session followed the presentation to clarify any information needed by the Committee for a recommendation.

COMMITTEE MOTION:

Caric Martin moved that contingent upon FTA and Clayton County approval, that the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement between Clayton County and GRTA for three new Xpress routes using existing C-Tran appropriations, existing C-Tran grants, or other funds provided by Clayton County. The motion was seconded by Charlotte Nash. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Award of Express Contract

Brooks McAllister presented to the Committee a requested action to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement for the purchase of up to 21 new Xpress coaches from Motor Coach Industries, Inc. (MCI) through an existing state contract between MCI and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The price to be paid for each MCI coach is \$477,877.50. The cost of 21 MCI coaches would be \$10,035,427.50. The coaches will be paid for with a combination of FTA grant and State GO Bond funds.

COMMITTEE MOTION:

Charlotte Nash moved that the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate and execute a purchase agreement with Motor Coach Industries, Inc. for up to 21 new Xpress coaches in an amount not to exceed \$10,035,427.50 utilizing the current GDOT contract with Motor Coach Industries. The motion was seconded by Mike Byrd. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Transfer of Emory Buses

Jim Ritchey presented this agenda item to transfer the federal interest in five electric buses purchased for Emory University to the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA).

These buses were purchased with research funds under the Advanced Transportation Technology Institute (ATTI) cooperative agreement by GRTA for the Emory University shuttle service. Emory University no longer has use for these buses and CARTA and GRTA have requested that the federal interest in the five buses be transferred to CARTA. Because GRTA is the grantee, the transfer requires GRTA Board approval with concurrence from FTA.

If the buses are not transferred to another FTA grantee, GRTA as the grantee is responsible for reimbursing the FTA for eighty percent of the cost of the buses (estimated at \$152,000). The transfer of the buses to CARTA will allow GRTA to avoid payment of the obligation.

Sonny Deriso made the Committee aware that he is a member of the Board of Trustees at Emory.

COMMITTEE MOTION:

Caric Martin moved approve the resolution which authorizes the Executive Director to send a letter to the Federal Transit Administration transferring the five buses to CARTA. The motion was seconded by Mike Byrd. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.