

**Georgia Regional Transportation Authority**  
245 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE, Suite 900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1223

***GRTA Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes***

**February 13, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonny Deriso, Chairman  
Brandon Beach  
Mike Byrd  
Caric Martin  
Charlotte Nash  
Narender Reddy  
John Sibley  
J.T. Williams  
Dick Anderson  
Jerry Bowman  
Jeanie Thomas  
Livia Whisenhunt

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Alton Knight  
Bob Voyles  
Jim Stephenson

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 Georgia Regional Transportation Authority office, 245 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 900, Atlanta, Georgia.

\*A quorum was present.

The Board Chairman, Sonny Deriso, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Mr. Deriso postponed the Agenda approval temporarily to introduce Dr. Gena Abraham to the Board of Directors as the newly appointed Department of Transportation Commissioner.

Ms. Abraham spoke briefly, addressing partnership with GDOT and GRTA in solving transportation problems in Georgia. She spoke about GDOT's extensive program, its challenges and developing priorities, as well as the funding issues that need to be resolved. GDOT is looking at developing the right projects within the project prioritization system including various modes of transportation.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2008 MEETING**

The minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2008**

Approve matters coming before the Board and vote on any new matters requiring immediate action. Due to time constraints, the agenda was amended to allow Ms. Gena Abrahams, Commissioner of GDOT, to be introduced.

Mr. Deriso requested a change to the Board agenda to add two additional action items: An addition to the Operations and Finance where two (2) resolutions needed to be adopted, and a vote on the DRI Policy Revisions.

**Formal Action:**

A motion was made by Caric Martin and seconded by Mike Byrd to add two items to the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

### Public Comment

No one registered for public comments.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

### **ARC Committee Reports**

Narender Reddy briefed the Committee on the ELUC in which a total of 71 DRI's out of which 84 were of mixed use. Employment growth for Atlanta in 2005 and 2006 added more than 87,000 jobs, but they were in the low salary range. He believes that Atlanta is not attracting high paying jobs, that development is declining and there will be fewer DRI reviews in 2008. No action items reported.

Dick Anderson reported on the TAQC and briefly reviewed the minutes from that meeting. The Texas Transportation Institute 2007 Urban Mobility Report ranked Atlanta as No. 2 in the amount of total delay for travelers.

### **Employee Recognition Awards**

Mr. Stancil recognized Rob Alexander, Wanda Van Zandt and William Mecke for receiving the Governor's commendation for excellent service. A presentation with photos of the ceremony was shown.

Denise Uzzell was presented with a certificate for completing the State of Georgia Primary Governmental Accounting Series.

Lisa Sharpton, Laura Beall, and Denise Uzzell were presented awards for their completion of the Georgia State Leadership Institute Middle Management course.

### **Faithful Service Awards**

GRTA employees, Denise Uzzell, Gail Franklin and Charles Fleming, were presented with Georgia's Faithful Service awards. April King, Kirk Fjelstul, and Jim Ritchey were given awards for their completion of the Governor's Georgia Institute for Executive Leadership program. Mr. Deriso presented the Governor's Georgia Institute for Executive Leadership award to Mr. Stancil.

### **Legislative Report**

John Keys briefed the Board on the Joint Study Committee and Transportation Funding. GRTA's 2009 appropriation request in Washington would be 20 million dollars in "catch-up" funds for the years GRA did not receive bus appropriations. Mr. Keys also reviewed House and Senate bills relating to transportation issues.

### **Climate Survey**

Mr. Alan King gave a short presentation on the results of the employee survey taken in November, 2007.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Land Development Committee**

Mr. Beach reported on the DRI Monthly Status Report in which Laura Beall gave an update on two appeals and where they stand. The DRI Policy Revision update was given by Brian Borden. The revision was recommended for a 30 day public hearing and the Committee approved to recommend to the Board. The DRI Annual Report revealed that DRI's were up from 66 to 83, with trip reduction at 22.6%. Mr. Beach commented that there is presently no current legislation on DRI.

### **Committee Motion:**

The committee recommended release of the Principle and Procedures and Technical Guide for a 30-day public comment period. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Operations and Finance Committee**

Mr. Deriso summarized reports the monthly operations report. The monthly financial report revealed a strong fund balance. A resolution was adopted by the Committee authorizing investment in the Georgia Fund and adding Jim Ritchey, Deputy Director as a signing party to the resolution. Approval was recommended to the Board.

**Committee Motion:**

The committee recommended approval of the resolution adding Mr. Ritchey to the Georgia Fund accounts. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Park and Ride Lease Agreements**

Positive progress was reported on the Park and Ride Lots. The Lease Agreement resolution was adopted by the Committee approving all listed Park and Ride Agreements.

**Committee Motion:**

The committee recommended approving the Park and Ride Lease Agreements as listed in the spreadsheet. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

**VPSI Vanpool Services Agreement**

Mr. Deriso said that the Agreement had only one increase which had already been approved and the Committee recommended approval to the Board. Mr. Deriso also approved a resolution to be recommended to the Board for authorization which allows Mr. Ritchey to approve contracts and DRI's until a new Executive Director is approved by the Board.

**Committee Motion:**

The committee recommended authorizing the Deputy Director to negotiate and execute an annual Vanpool agreement with VPSI, increasing the rate from \$400.00 to \$600.00 a month at a maximum amount not to exceed \$1,518,000.00. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously

**Committee Motion:**

The committee recommended approving a resolution delegating authority to Mr. Ritchey, Deputy Director, to approve Contracts and DRI's until a new Executive Director is appointed. As a committee recommendation, no second was required. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Projects and Planning Committee Report**

Mr. J.T. Williams, Chair, stated that all reports were normal without significant questions or concerns. The Air Quality Report was good and the TPB is hosting public hearings to discuss their plan for the next 50 years. In the MOU Projects, Kirk Fjelstul reported that senior staff members are working together frequently.

The Committee was alerted to the amendment on the current TIP by Dania Aponte, which is going through the ARC process. Action will be taken at the March Board meeting. Mr. Williams said that this was the first time GDOT was involved in the project prioritization in developing the methodology.

Roger Henze gave a report on the CID Arterial Improvement Programs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Deriso adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Walter M. Deriso, Chairman

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Date

**ATTEST:**

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Recording Secretary

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Kirk R. Fjelstul