



## ***GRTA/GDC BOARD MEETING***

### ***Minutes***

June 14, 2000

245 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 900, Atlanta, Georgia

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.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joel Cowan, Chair  
Walter Deriso, Vice Chair  
Andrella Baylis  
Sharon Gay  
Eric Hovdesven  
Tom Phillips  
Shi Shailendra  
John Sibley  
James Stephenson  
Helen Tapp  
Richard Tucker  
Ken Thigpen  
Michael Tyler  
Carolyn Williams  
John Williams

\*A quorum was present.

- The Chair welcomed Board members and visitors and convened the meeting at 1.05 p.m.
- Board Member Eric Hovdesven gave an opening meditation regarding the theory of the Tragedy of the Common, an issue relative to how we account for the cost of the many for the benefits of the few. The Chairman then asked for a moment of silent reflection.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

- The minutes of the May 10, 2000 meeting were approved.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

- The Chair suggested modifying agenda items to consider discussions regarding the ARC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at the beginning of the agenda. There being no objection, the agenda for June 14, 2000 was approved.

Consistent with GRTA's policy of public input, Chairman Cowan offered anyone desiring speak to the board regarding the TIP, could do so before the general discussion.

- Bobby Vickory and Mark Brian from Paulding County spoke to the issues of jurisdiction rights and land use.

Chairman Cowan announced that the Board had intended to establish jurisdiction based on the regulation adopted at the October 14, 1999 meeting and the accompanying resolution passed at the May 10, 2000 meeting. However, since Coweta, Paulding and Forsyth Counties haven't been included in deliberations, staff recommended the notifications be postponed. There was no objection from the Board.

#### **Approval of Resolutions, etc.:**

- Dr. Ross addressed the Board on issues relating to the TIP:
  - Staff recommends GRTA, EPD, GDOT and ARC perform a comprehensive speed study for peak and non-peak traffic to address air quality considerations in support of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).
  - Transit Share includes fiscal, land use and Environmental Justice. ARC will perform a Benefits and Burdens analysis relating to Environmental Justice.
  - Staff recommends approval of the TIP.
- Mr. Tucker presented a resolution relative to approval of the Transportation Improvement Program for FY2001-FY2003.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution and after discussion the motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Cowan presented a Joint Land Use Strategy between the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority and the Atlanta Regional Commission. The Chairman and the Executive Director concurred in the adoption of the Joint Land Use Strategy concurrent with the approval of the TIP.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the Joint Land Use Strategy and after discussion the motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Croy presented a resolution stating that GRTA supports the advancement of Intelligent Transportation Systems Technology and to pledge the Board's commitment to provide leadership in the development of Georgia's Information Highway and to work with other planning partners in developing a statewide plan.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution and after discussion, the motion passed with Messrs. Tucker and John Williams not present to vote.

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

- Dr. Ross reported on staffing changes. Three positions will be replaced (Systems Network Administrator, Land Use Planner, Air Quality Specialist) and creating two additional positions (Transportation Engineer and Contract/Grant Manager/Budget Analyst). Kirk Fjelstul, Chief Legal Counsel, was introduced.
- Dr. Ross recommended a quarterly reporting of budget and legislative updates (except during the legislative session requiring more up-to-the-minute reporting).
- Dr. Ross reported as a result of concerns of some Board Members, the staff had prepared a new agenda structure.
- Dr. Ross indicated she has been appointed to the MARTA Board and that she will attend the general meetings.
- A recent staff orientation was presented for the two new Board Members, Andrella Baylis and Carolyn Williams.
  - Dr. Ross requested the Administration/Finance/Personnel Committee to develop a process from the Board's perspective for new members.
- The Board has indicated its commitment to open processes/open meetings. It is anticipated the GRTA Board meetings will be videocast at the next meeting.
  - Perhaps investigate ability to email questions during videocast.

### **Georgia Rail Passenger Team Report:**

- Mr. Croy reported the PMT had met in Athens at the Classic Center and presented an update as follows:
  1. Nine public meetings have been completed regarding the Athens and Macon corridors, with Forsyth on the Macon line having the greatest attendance, and downtown Atlanta having the smallest participation.
  2. The field inventory has been completed on rail/highway crossing safety.
  3. The PMT toured the Atlanta rail facilities noting many freight trains were standing in wait to move through the Atlanta “gulch”.
  4. The Newtown Macon and Union Station development is being considered by the consultants as it regards to possible rail service in Macon.
  5. Railroad negotiations are underway.
  6. Steve Roberts, Crew Heimer, and two possible positions from GRPA are participating in key Georgia Rail Consultant (GRC) and PMT meetings.
  7. GRPP passed a resolution endorsing the passage of the High Speed Rail Investment Act, and encouraging the Georgia delegation to the United States Congress to provide their considerable influence in support of said Act.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to endorse the resolution passed by the GRPP. The motion passed with Messrs. Tucker and John Williams not present to vote.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Mr. Croy noted the *Recommendations for Transportation Alternatives and Clean Air Concerns* will be an ongoing process wherein the Board can provide input to staff through Mr. Croy, who will then present the short-term recommendations and possible solutions to the Transportation Committee for consideration. Members were encouraged to present suggestions.

### **Committee Reports:**

- *DRI Committee:* Helen Tapp, Chair, reported the Committee had met and gave a brief synopsis of the meeting. Ms. Tapp presented a Purpose of DRI Review Process and explained an interim procedure for DRI approval resolution will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

**Formal Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the Purpose of the DRI Review Process with the following changes: after *efficiently allocating limited state and federal resources*, delete *assuring* and inserting in lieu thereof *promoting* compliance. After discussion, and a concern from Mr. Shailendra that the process is not agreed upon by way of a resolution before the scope is considered, the motion passed with Mr. Shailendra voting against and with Messrs. Tucker and John Williams not present to vote.

### **Staff Reports:**

- *Policy Council Activities:* Ms. Cochran presented an update of the activities of the Policy Councils (Attached). Ms. Cochran was asked by the Board that each Policy Council include in their agendas the Recommendations for Transportation Alternatives and Clean Air Concerns. That input would be valuable for the Board. Additionally, she was asked to report on the attendance at each of the Policy Council meetings.
  - The Chairman welcomed DeKalb CEO, Liane Levitan, Chair of the Elected Officials Policy Council, who made a few remarks.

**New Business and Board Comments:**

- Chairman Cowan noted the committee structure had been updated to include participation by the two new Board Members. He also indicated the DRI Committee was in the process of developing a specific set meeting date.
- Several elected officials were introduced (Ms. Lempke, Cherokee County Commissioner, Mr. Carl Rhodenizer, Clayton County Commissioner, and Chair of the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority, and Ms. Judy Gates, DeKalb County Commissioner, who made a few remarks).

**Adjournment:**

- It was moved, seconded, and approved without opposition to adjourn the meeting.