



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 26, 2011

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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More buses, trains possible as Middle Tennessee RTA Board restructures *Action is first step for new regional transportation system*

NASHVILLE – More buses and trains may be on their way to Middle Tennessee as a result of a unanimous decision of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board of Directors last week.

The board voted to restructure or reconstitute the RTA so that it could receive dedicated funds for public transit within the region. This action is a first step toward building the necessary foundation for a new and improved regional transportation system.

On Jan. 19, the board adopted a resolution recommended by the Executive Committee of the board that had been evaluating the pros and cons of restructuring under the provisions of new state legislation. The RTA board passed the resolution after months of research and discussion.

“With the passage of this action, members are urged to go to their respective boards and commissions to ask them to adopt this resolution, and continue to be active and supporting members of the new board so that we can provide more and better transit options for our citizens,” Williamson County Mayor and former RTA Chair Rogers Anderson.

Gallatin Mayor and newly-elected RTA Chair Jo Ann Graves added, “We have a good long-range transportation plan; now we must figure out how we can make significant investments in transit for the benefit of our entire region, and we must do this quickly.”

The 31-member RTA board consists of local elected officials from nine Middle Tennessee counties and several state appointees. The member jurisdictions have until the end of the year to ratify the resolution.

“We are extremely pleased the board voted to restructure and focus on growing mass transit within the region,” RTA CEO Paul J. Ballard said. “We need to develop a regional transit system that goes where people want to go, one that provides frequent and reliable service every single day.”

Transit officials and supporters said all modes of public transit are being considered at this time: bus rapid transit, light rail, street cars, and additional heavy rail lines such as the Music City Star.

Board members also noted the restructuring was an excellent opportunity to recruit other counties and municipalities who currently are not members of the RTA.

Listed on the next page is a copy of the board resolution.

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**Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee Board Resolution
Pertaining to Reconstitution under *Tennessee Code Annotated* Title 64 Chapter 8 Part 2**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE (RTAMT) UNDER PART 2 OF THE TENNESSEE CODE TITLE 64, CHAPTER 8.

WHEREAS, the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopted the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to improve mobility through coordinated regional transportation and land use policies and investment in a multi-modal transportation network, including an expanded public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, there exists a broad base of support for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan amongst the region's citizenry, business community, elected public officials, and civic organizations, including the Mayors' Caucus of Middle Tennessee, local Chambers of Commerce, and the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation creating *Tennessee Code Annotated* Title 64, Chapter 8, Part 2 that allows the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee to reconstitute, and assume and have authority to exercise additional powers, duties, and functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE (RTAMT):

Section 1. By simple majority vote, the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee hereby elects to reconstitute under Part 2 of the *Tennessee Code Annotated* Title 64, Chapter 8.

Section 2. Following reconstitution, the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee will be the same legal entity as the existing Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee as defined by *Tennessee Code Annotated* Title 64, Chapter 8, Part 1, with the additional powers, duties, and functions provided by *Tennessee Code Annotated* Title 64, Chapter 8, Part 2.

Section 3. For continued participation in the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee, each current local-government member must ratify its continued membership in the reconstituted Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee by a vote of its legislative body no later than December 31, 2011.

Section 4. After the legislative body of each current local-government member has voted whether to ratify its continued participation in the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee, or after December 31, 2011, whichever is earlier, Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee membership will consist of those current local-government members whose legislative bodies ratified membership in the reconstituted Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee.

Section 5. Current Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee members that do not ratify continued participation in the reconstituted Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee under *Tennessee Code Annotated* Title 64, Chapter 8, Part 2 by December 31, 2011 will no longer be members of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee.

Sponsored by: Unanimous vote of the Executive Committee members present at the December 12, 2010 meeting.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2011 by the Board of the Regional Transportation Authority.



MEDIA ADVISORY

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RTA Board elects new officers

NASHVILLE – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board of Directors recently elected officers for 2011.

Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves has been elected as the new chair. Nashville-Davidson County Mayor Karl Dean has been elected vice chair. And Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee Executive Director Ed Cole, who is a Governor's Appointee, has been elected secretary.

New officers are elected at the first regular meeting of the RTA Board in each calendar year. The officers must include at least one appointed member and one elected official member.

Created in 1988, RTA offers Middle Tennesseans transportation solutions in a nine-county region. The mission of RTA is to offer the citizens of Middle Tennessee choices and alternatives on how they commute to work each day and to coordinate local regional transportation services. By maximizing federal, state, and local funds with fares, RTA provides and/or manages regional commuter bus service, hundreds of vanpools and carpools, and Tennessee's first regional modern day rail service, the Music City Star.

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