

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2005 MEETING

Board Members Present: Thomas Deller, Chairperson, William Kennedy, Sharon Wells, Robert Batting and James Capaldi.

Also Present: Alfred J. Moscola (General Manager), Lori Caron Silveira (Outside General Counsel), Deborah Dawson, Maureen Neira, Mark Therrien, Ellen Farrell, other members of RIPTA's senior staff and the public whose names are listed on the meeting sign-in sheet.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2005 Meeting

Mr. Deller requested comments regarding the minutes of the October 28, 2005 meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made for the approval of the minutes of the October 28, 2005 meeting by William Kennedy, which was seconded by Robert Batting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

Agenda Item 2: General Managers Report

Mr. Deller asked Mr. Moscola for his report for September. Mr.

Moscola reported that all the new Gillig buses have arrived and are in service. Additionally, 14 new Ride vehicles have been received and are currently being registered and readied for service. The new vehicles are expected to be on the road within the week, at which point some of the 1997 & 1999 vehicles will be retired. While the current cost of fuel is still high at \$2.30 a gallon, up from a low in July of \$1.96 and a high in September of \$2.90, Mr. Moscola noted that the cost of fuel is dropping.

Mr. Moscola then discussed the maintenance of RIDOT vehicles and passed out a detailed fleet maintenance assignment schedule to the Board. RIPTA has serviced 38 RIDOT vehicles and has 16 remaining.

Mr. Moscola invited the Board members to attend the RIDOT I-Way Media Tour on November 29th. RIPTA will be transporting the participants for RIDOT. RIPTA also provided a bus today for police officers from Dallas, TX to attend the funeral of the Rhode Island native Dallas officer who was killed in the line of duty.

Agenda Item 3: Board Meeting Dates for 2006

Mr. Deller moved on to the next agenda item, proposed dates for Board meetings for the 2006 calendar year. Ellen Farrell addressed the Board and stated that the January date would be changed from the 16th to the 23rd to accommodate the Martin Luther King Holiday and she asked if the members wished to continue meeting on Monday, or if another day would be more convenient. The Directors

decided to continue meeting on Monday. Mr. Batting asked that in the coming year every effort be made to not change the scheduled meeting dates. Mr. Kennedy moved that the 2006 Board meeting dates be approved with the change noted, and Mr. Batting seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Demolition of McKendall Property Presentation By David DeQuattro, Robinson Green Beretta Corporation (RGB) Regarding the Proposed New RIPTA Paratransit Storage/Operation/Maintenance Center

Mr. Deller asked those presenting to address the Board. Mr. Moscola began by giving a history of the purchase of the property, the price of \$2.2 million and the funding source and the proposed use of the building and grounds. Mr. Moscola informed the Board that he had developed the proposed plan with staff and David DeQuattro of Robinson Green Beretta (RGB) and the purpose of the presentation was to obtain opinions and input from the Board.

Currently, all paratransit vehicles are fueled, maintained and cleaned on the existing RIPTA property, which is overburdened. In addition, there are over 200 vehicles that are stored outdoors leading to problems with long-term upkeep and difficulty in starting the engines during the cold weather months. At present RIPTA's entire fleet is serviced by one fuel station, which is a precarious situation. A second, above ground fuel station is needed to meet the needs of

fueling the fleet in a timely manner and to provide a backup if the current antiquated fueling station should fail. The building at the new site would house Ride operations and administration, and also offer handicapped accessible 'one stop shopping' for the public to access customer service, lost & found, obtain photo identification cards and complete employment applications. The current administration building on Melrose Street, which is very old and in need of substantial renovation, is a part of the old bus garage and often becomes filled with bus fumes, especially during the winter months.

David DeQuattro and his associate then presented their slide show (a hard copy of which was disseminated to the Board) showing the new building and grounds from every angle. Mr. DeQuattro discussed each slide/view in detail. He discussed the existing conditions and the methodology considered when developing the proposed plan. The proposed plan would address the inadequate conditions as well as provide for RIPTA's future needs. Throughout the presentation Mr. Moscola explained the reasons for certain aspects of the design, especially those relating to operations and maintenance. Such aspects would improve overall job efficiency while anticipating future changes to vehicle specifications, and would provide space necessary to conduct business.

Following the presentation, the Board raised questions regarding square footage, cost, funding and timing. Mr. Batting noted that staff would be wise to review the timeline and cost of the recently

completely Chaffee Maintenance Building, both of which were overrun, to determine how best to avoid the same before this project moves forward. Mr. Batting requested that the Board be provided with a side-by-side analysis of the two construction projects. Mr. DeQuattro who served as the principle architect on the Chaffee Building, stated that much of the overrun resulted from a change in RIPTA management midway through the project. The change in management resulted in change orders costing \$3 million dollars. He also informed the Board that once the project was started some major environmental issues with the project site were identified, resulting in delays and approximately \$2 million dollars in cleanup costs. Ann Marie McMahon then addressed the Board to answer questions regarding the application for federal funding, funds received, mandates on spending and the timeline of current and future funding to complete the project.

Agenda Item 5: RIPTA's new Proposed Paratransit Storage/Operation/Maintenance Center

After the presentation and lengthy discussion it was agreed that the vote would be tabled. James Capaldi made the motion to table the vote and Robert Batting seconded the motion. The motion to table the vote on the Proposed New Paratransit Storage/Operation/Maintenance Center passed unanimously.

Chairman Deller instructed the General Manager to compile answers

to the questions and concerns raised by the Board, and to report back at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Genuine International Truck Parts

Mr. Mencarini addressed the Board and discussed the recommendation of the award of a contract to Pascale Service Corporation for the supply and delivery of parts for RIDOT's International Trucks. Funding will be from RIPTA operating funds, and will be reimbursed by RIDOT. Jim Capaldi made a motion to award the contract as recommended by staff. Bill Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Genuine Ford Heavy Duty Truck parts

Mr. Mencarini gave the specifics of the next agenda item, the purchase of Genuine Ford Heavy Duty Truck parts. Staff recommends the contract be awarded to Colony Ford Truck Center the sole bidder on this contract, which relies heavily on a quick turnaround time for supply and delivery of Genuine Ford Truck parts for RIDOT vehicles. RIPTA will purchase the parts and be reimbursed by RIDOT. Bob Batting made a motion to award the contract as recommended by staff. Jim Capaldi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Genuine Sterling Truck Parts

Mr. Mencarini reported on the final procurement, the purchase of Genuine Sterling Truck Parts. Again, staff recommends the contract be awarded to Colony Ford Truck Center the sole bidder on this contract, for supply and delivery of Genuine Sterling Truck Parts for RIDOT vehicles. RIPTA will purchase the parts and be reimbursed by RIDOT. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to award the contract as recommended by staff. Mr. Capaldi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Ridership Presentation

Mark Therrien addressed the Board regarding ridership and handed out a report with maps and details of the most overcrowded routes. Mr. Therrien stated in September due to high gas prices, ridership increased substantially, and it is now being monitored on a week-to-week basis. Mr. Therrien discussed each of the overcrowded routes outlined in the report. In some instances, a second bus was added to a route to handle the high volume. The ridership has since declined somewhat, so the route is being monitored to ensure the second bus is still needed. Adding an additional bus costs approximately \$150,000 annually. Mr. Therrien and Mr. Moscola want the buses full, but not overcrowded. It is their hope that these new riders become permanent and they plan to track the ridership and make permanent changes if the ridership stays high.

Recently gas prices have declined somewhat, but ridership will continue to be closely monitored. Mr. Moscola will confer with the Board prior to making any decision to add service. The Directors then asked questions regarding the presentation, ridership, park and ride lots and gas prices.

Finally, Mr. Therrien discussed revenue from ridership. Overall, ridership is up 17%, although cash flow is down. Mr. Therrien believes the new riders are purchasing monthly passes, which are more cost effective. Chairman Deller asked that the Board be informed monthly of the heaviest routes and ridership percentage. He also reported that two new community health centers will be opening in 6 months and RIPTA should be proactive in anticipating the increase associated with patients who will need to ride the bus to utilize the centers. He raised the possibility of adding a cross-town bus, to which Mr. Therrien responded that historically cross-town bus lines have failed, but they would look in it again.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment Period

Mr. Deller requested public comments and recognized Tom Cute representing Steve Farrell President of Amalgamated Transit Union. Mr. Cute who stated he was 100% supportive of the ridership presentation by Mr. Therrien. He stated that the RIPTA drivers take pride in being on time and the overcrowding has made that difficult. The overcrowding has also been difficult on the drivers, who

sometimes are unable to take a break. He stressed the importance of timing the headways correctly.

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. Batting made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Farrell

Secretary to the Board