

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CHAIRMAN'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The Chairman's Coordinating Committee of the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met in public session on **Thursday, February 21, 2008** at 8:50 a.m., in Suite 1550, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Committee Chairman Jim Reilly presided.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee Members:	Patrick J. Durante Dwight A. Magalis Fred T.L. Norris Michael Rosenberg Douglas M. Troiani Chairman Jim Reilly
Other Board Members:	Carole L. Brown James Buchanan William R. Coulson Armando Gomez, Sr. Patrick V. Riley, Jr. Judy Baar Topinka
Staff Participants:	----- Stephen Schlickman, Executive Director Andrew Gruber, SDED, Legal & Governmental Affairs

**Reading and approval of minutes from the meeting held on April 5, 2007**

Director Norris moved, and Director Rosenberg seconded approval of the minutes from the meeting held on April 5, 2007 as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

6 Yeas                      Directors Durante, Magalis, Norris, Rosenberg, Troiani, and Chairman Reilly

**Ordinance authorizing contracts for federal government consulting services**

Mr. Gruber explained that this will be an important year for the federal surface transportation program primarily because the current program expires in 2009 and a new program must be authorized. The framework of the current federal transportation program was established back in 1983. Since then, the proportion of funding going to transit as compared to roads has shrunk while, at the same time, the share of transit moneys going to older urban cities has eroded. The impact of this erosion is magnified in regions like ours where transit use is intensive and the existing transit infrastructure is in dire need of reinvestment.

**APPROVED BY THE CHAIRMAN'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The authorization process takes on a special urgency this year because of the impending fiscal insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund, which is a primary source of funding for the federal surface transportation program. In fact, a federal commission was established by Congress to evaluate the entire federal transportation program. That commission recommended a 40-cent increase in the gas tax and also recommended a complete restructuring of the federal program. It is in that environment that the RTA organized a group of ten of the largest transit agencies in the nation, which we have called the Metropolitan Rail Discussion Group. To ensure that the region's interests on all of these issues are addressed, the RTA needs to be well represented in Washington with strategic and legislative counsel.

Last year, the RTA contracted with Blank Rome, LLC, for federal consulting services. Their primary responsibility is staffing and providing strategic expertise for this discussion group. Blank Rome has many years of experience representing the interests of public transit agencies from across the country similar to the RTA. They have a national reputation and expertise with transit issues, and they offer the RTA and the whole discussion group a strategic legislative perspective, as well as an institutional understanding of our federal needs and objectives. Ed Heffernan complements Blank Rome by bringing extensive experience working with the members of the Illinois congressional delegation. Mr. Heffernan previously served as Director of the State of Illinois office in Washington, and he has represented the RTA for numerous years. Mr. Heffernan also helps us to coordinate our efforts with the Service Boards in Washington on all of our interests. The cost of services to be performed by Blank Rome pursuant to the proposed ordinance will be \$138,000 plus \$11,500 in approved expenses. The cost of services for Ed Heffernan is \$48,000 plus \$2,000 in expenses. These costs are level with last year.

Mr. Schlickman added that the RTA specifically pursued and chose a federal consultant with the idea of achieving this coalition of large systems, and we have successfully done that. Blank Rome has been very important in that process, and we are now moving forward from a very strong position for the large systems as we discuss what our interests are in the reauthorization.

Director Magalis commented that certainly in the past years we had the advantage of having the Speaker of the House from this state, which was a big plus for us that we don't have anymore. He added that our work is going to be cut out for us to compete with the other large transit systems.

Director Magalis moved, and Director Troiani seconded the recommendation of the proposed ordinances to the full Board for adoption.

The motion carried on the following leave for last unanimous roll call vote.

6 Yeas                      Directors Durante, Magalis, Norris, Rosenberg, Troiani, and Chairman Reilly

**Ordinance authorizing contracts for state government consulting services**

Chairman Reilly explained that the legislative session last year was intense, which ran until the middle of January. This year may also last that long. While we did succeed in dealing with the operating issue in Springfield, we are in desperate need of capital. We are working closely with the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, of which the RTA is a part, on developing a real capital bill that would provide not just a few \$100 million for transit and highways but substantial moneys. The best shot may well be after the November election, but only time will tell on that.

After review by our General Counsel and others, we proposed a contract with Taylor Uhe, LLC. The principals are Mark Taylor and Rob Uhe along with Jennifer Gordon and Renee Rose. Mark Taylor and Rob Uhe were partners at Mayer Brown but have formed their own lobbying practice, although they still work closely with Mayer Brown. They were immensely helpful and continue to be. Leinenweber & Baroni, represented by Peter Baroni, is a Chicago-based firm. Mr. Baroni was very instrumental in Springfield, and that definitely needs to continue. The third firm recommended is Scofield Communications, represented by Doug Scofield, largely for communications with the Executive Branch. While our relationships with the Executive Branch were not always what we might have wanted them to be, without Mr. Scofield's behind-the-scenes work, we wouldn't have gotten where we did. The costs of the services by Taylor Uhe are \$95,000 plus \$5,000 in approved expenses. The annual cost of services by Leinenweber & Baroni will be \$50,000 plus \$5,000 in approved expenses. The Scofield Communications contract would be \$66,000 plus \$5,000 in approved expenses. The total annual costs will be \$226,000, which is a reduction of \$41,000 below last year's authorized level. There is an increase for Leinenweber and a decrease for Scofield.

Director Coulson asked if the Service Boards retained their own lobbyists and if so, wouldn't that be duplicative in the sense that we are supposed to be speaking with one voice and not competing. Mr. Gruber responded that they do retain their own lobbyists. However, this does not necessarily mean we are competing with each other. In fact, during this last year in Springfield, we had significant coordination and cooperation among all the lobbying teams. It was actually very effective to have a whole army of lobbyists working on behalf of each of the Service Boards and the RTA. As we go forward, we will continue to coordinate and always be looking for opportunities not just in this area, but in other areas for improved efficiency and coordination as well.

Director Norris moved, and Director Rosenberg seconded the recommendation of the proposed ordinances to the full Board for adoption.

The motion carried on the following leave for last unanimous roll call vote.

6 Yeas                      Directors Durante, Magalis, Norris, Rosenberg, Troiani, and Chairman Reilly

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the public session of the Chairman's Coordinating Committee, Director Magalis moved, and Director Norris seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

6 Yeas                      Directors Durante, Magalis, Norris, Rosenberg, Troiani, and Chairman Reilly

The meeting ended at 9:00 a.m.

*Audrey MacLennan*

---

AUDREY MACLENNAN  
Secretary of the Authority

