

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The **Planning Committee** of the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met in public session on **Thursday, December 18, 2008**, at 8:50 a.m., in Suite 1550, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Committee Chairman Topinka opened the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee Members: James Buchanan  
Jan Carlson  
Phil Fuentes  
Dwight A. Magalis  
Patrick V. Riley, Jr.  
J.D. Ross  
Judy Baar Topinka

Absent: William R. Coulson

Other Board Members: Rev. L. Tyrone Crider, Sr.  
Patrick J. Durante  
Al Jourdan  
Michael Rosenberg  
Michael Scott  
Douglas M. Troiani  
RTA Chairman Jim Reilly

Staff Participants: -----  
Stephen Schlickman, Executive Director  
Leanne Redden, SDED, Planning and Regional Programs  
Jay Ciavarella, Div. Manager, Special Programs

**Reading and approval of minutes from the meeting held on November 20, 2008**

Director Ross moved, and Director Magalis seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on November 20, 2008 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

7 Yeas            Directors Buchanan, Carlson, Fuentes, Magalis, Riley, Ross, and Topinka  
1 Absent        Director Coulson

**Information regarding an amendment to a Task Order contract for Station Area Plans and related studies**

Mr. Ciavarella explained that in order to build on current transit-oriented development (TOD) activities and initiatives, staff will be working to research and prepare a brief “white paper” outlining and assessing TOD policies that are currently in place in regions across the country, with a particular emphasis on legislative authority and models for public-private partnerships to leverage and capture the value of TOD. We are seeking consultant support to review the applicability of value capture initiatives from other regions to the Chicago area as well as identify new initiatives our region could put into place. The final report will be completed within a six-month timeframe and be presented to the Planning Committee in the summer of 2009.

RTA staff used the existing consolidated task order process to select a consultant to complete this work. As reported at the June 2008 Planning Committee meeting, the RTA competitively procured and executed contracts with three firms, HNTB Corporation, Land Vision and S.B. Friedman and Associates, to conduct station area plans and related planning studies, primarily for studies being completed through the Community Planning program.

A selection committee comprised of RTA staff working on these types of projects reviewed and ranked all three submittals, and determined that HNTB Corporation was the highest ranked firm. The selection committee preferred HNTB Corporation’s detailed and innovative approach and the knowledge and experience of the key personnel assigned to the task. The total cost of the project is \$49,100. The 2008 budget contains sufficient RTA funds for this contract amendment.

**Universal Fare Coordination – Peer Presentation**

Ms. Redden requested that this item be deferred to a later date, as the peer presenter was delayed and unable to make the meeting.

**Ordinance to adopt a BRT Mission Statement and corridor selection criteria**

Ms. Redden explained that the mission statement highlights the need to develop and to determine the viability of BRT options across our region based on three key elements: cost-effectiveness, market potential and engineering. We also see that there is a need to demonstrate feasibility in a variety of different corridor types. We are looking at identifying an urban arterial, a suburban arterial, and a highway treatment where we could test and assess these options. We have established an inter-agency working group that is made up of the RTA, Service Board staff, IDOT and the Tollway to develop ideas and projects that we want to demonstrate. We are also very excited about the Tollway's green lanes efforts, which we think presents a real opportunity for us to go further in our BRT initiatives and try to demonstrate even more alternatives in a highway setting.

It is the goal of the RTA BRT Sub-Committee to better understand the feasibility of BRT in this variety of different environments throughout our metropolitan region. The ultimate goal is to select several corridors within differing environments to really test and demonstrate them as pilots. RTA staff, along with the inter-agency working group, has already begun to better understand what those opportunities might be, building upon the work that the Service Boards, IDOT, and the Tollway have already done. We are looking to screen these corridor possibilities.

The work proposed in this contract is really to allow us to develop a synthesis of all the existing studies that have been conducted and build upon the work from our sister agencies. To date, there have been many studies and analyses done, and we are using those as a foundation from which we launch. We need to expand the breath and depth of our experiences and our agencies' experience to help us better understand the feasibility of implementing BRT across this region. We want to involve experts who have done this in the real world to help us better understand and build upon their knowledge and use that to augment the work that we have already undertaken. We need to bring in extra support in to help us develop these short-term, as well as the long-term workplans for implementing BRT. This will be further explained in the next item.

Director Carlson moved, and Director Buchanan seconded recommendation of the proposed ordinance to the full Board for approval. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

7 Yeas	Directors Buchanan, Carlson, Fuentes, Magalis, Riley, Ross, and Topinka
1 Absent	Director Coulson

**Ordinance authorizing a contract to perform BRT planning support services**

Ms. Redden explained that an RFP for this BRT support work was publicly released in October. Six proposals were submitted. The submittals were reviewed based on overall experience of the firm; their similar project experience, specifically in BRT work; their key personnel expertise; the performance of their past work; and as well as their labor rates. AECOM ranked as the highest because of the firm's overall range of experience; broad team and project leadership expertise; familiarity with BRT planning, project planning and implementation; and familiarity not only within our local area, but also national Bus Rapid Transit feasibility planning experience. Within our evaluation, the greatest weight as given to the overall experience on similar types of projects. In addition to the work performed by staff in our inter-agency working group, we've identified a range of functions that we want this consultant team to support us in, primarily focused on areas such as BRT highway planning and roadway design; traffic engineering, and mixed traffic operations. We need support in visualization and computer traffic simulation areas. We also want some assistance from them in screening of the corridors for the highest potential of success. We will use them to help support us in some of our marketing and branding efforts, which are key to the implementation of any Bus Rapid Transit project. We also want to work with them to gather their expertise and knowledge in funding and financing alternatives for alternative construction and delivery methods.

Ms. Redden concluded by stating tasks specifically to be undertaken include the development of physical conceptual alternatives; identifying operating concepts and ITS opportunities; and help in developing cost estimates beyond the work that has already been done to date in our region. The contract value will not exceed an amount of \$250,000 to AECOM for this work. In addition, AECOM will meet the RTA's DBE requirements goal of 19%.

Director Carlson moved, and Director Riley seconded recommendation of the proposed ordinance to the full Board for approval. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

7 Yeas	Directors Buchanan, Carlson, Fuentes, Magalis, Riley, Ross, and Topinka
1 Absent	Director Coulson

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the Planning Committee, Director Riley moved, and Director Buchanan seconded that meeting adjourn. The motion carried on the following leave for last unanimous voice vote.

7 Yeas            Directors Buchanan, Carlson, Fuentes, Magalis, Riley, Ross, and Topinka

1 Absent        Director Coulson

The meeting ended at 9:00 a.m.

*Audrey MacLennan*

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AUDREY MACLENNAN  
Secretary of the Authority