

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:03 a.m. January 23, 2024

Board Members: Lucas (Chair), Koomar (Vice Chair), Biasiotta, Love, Mersmann, Sleasman, Weiss, Welch

Not present: McPherson

Staff/Other: Bailey, Birdsong Terry, Blaze, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Feke, Fields, Fleig, Ford, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Hudson, Johnson, Jones, Jupina, Kirkland, Miller, Mothes, Schipper, Talley, Togher, Walker Minor

Public: Chagar, Gibbons, Loh, Pacetti

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. There were eight (8) Board members present.

It was advised that notice of this meeting had been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification had been given the news media and other interested persons, and that all requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules and Bylaws of this Board regarding notice of meeting had been complied with.

Minutes

President Lucas stated that the minutes from the December 19, 2023 Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed, and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no corrections. It was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

The call-in studio was experiencing technical difficulties, so we were unable to take calls. There were no in-person or webform public comments.

Committee Reports

Under the Audit, Safety Compliance and Real Estate Committee, the Internal Audit department is now taking input from the Board on the proposed 2024 Internal Audit Plan. Board members with questions can speak to Tony Garofoli, Executive Director of Internal Audit after the meeting.

Civilian Oversight Committee (COC)

The Civilian Oversight Committee (COC) is now taking applications over the next month.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

There was no report.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There were no reports.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

There were 40 new hires and eight (8) promotions. Their names are listed on the PowerPoint presentation.

Executive Session Requested

9:21 a.m. - It was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. Welch to go into executive session to consider GCRTA's security arrangements and emergency response protocols. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

9:44 a.m. – It was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Mayor Biasiotta to come out of executive. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2024-1 – Expressing congratulations to the employees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority who retired during the fourth quarter of 2023, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Mersmann, seconded by Mayor Koomar and approved by unanimous vote.

There were five retirees present. They all expressed appreciation for their time at RTA.

- B. 2024-2 – Authorizing Contract No. 2024-001 with GIRO, Inc. to provide Hastus Software Hosting Services for a period of one (1) year in an amount not to exceed \$207,516.00 (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2024-3 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-76 with Lake Business Products for the purchase of Digital Color Printing System Equipment and Support Services for a period of five (5) years in an amount not to exceed \$287,821.00 (RTA Development and General Funds, Support Services Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. Mersmann and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2024-4 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-94 with Michael Baker International, Inc. to provide design services for the Metrohealth Line Bus Rapid Transit in an amount not to exceed \$2,353,751.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Love, seconded by Mr. Sleasman. Ms. Mersmann requested a roll call. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention from Ms. Mersmann. It passed.
- E. 2024-5 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-122 with HDR Engineering, Inc. to conduct a Transit Access Barrier Study in an amount not to exceed \$649,640.95 (RTA Development Fund, Programming and Planning Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Mayor Koomar and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2024-6 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-155 with the Great Lakes Construction Co. for Project No. 52N – Tower City East Portal Rehabilitation in an amount not to exceed \$15,739,633.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Welch, seconded by Mayor Koomar. Ms. Mersmann requested a roll call. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention from Ms. Mersmann. It passed.
- G. 2024-7 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-161 with Buckeye Power Sales Co., Inc. to provide Generator Preventative Maintenance, Service and Parts, for a base period of three years in an amount not to exceed \$174,550.00, with two, one-year options in amounts not to exceed \$60,850.00 and \$61,350.00, respectively, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$296,750.00 for a period of five years (General Fund, Service Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Mersmann and approved by unanimous vote.

- H. 2024-8 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-166 with Parsons Transportation Group Inc. for Project 66C2 – Architect/Engineer Services for Brookpark Rail Shop Modifications in an amount not to exceed \$283,739.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Mayor Biasiotta. Ms. Mersmann requested a roll call. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention from Ms. Mersmann. It passed.
- I. 2024-9 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-173 with Government MLO Supplies USA, Inc. for the furnishing of chemical ice melt, as specified and as required, for a period of two (2) years in an amount not to exceed \$135,700.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Mersmann, seconded by Mr. Sleasman and approved by unanimous vote.
- J. 2024-10 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-189 with Oracle America, Inc. to provide Oracle Software Licenses, Maintenance, and Support Services for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$648,690.77 (General Fund, Management Information Services Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. Mersmann and approved by unanimous vote.
- K. 2024-11 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-200 with Ultramain Systems, Inc. to provide Ultramain Software Maintenance, Support and Hosting Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,766,631.00 for a period of three (3) years (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Mr. Love and approved by unanimous vote.
- L. 2024-12 – Authorizing the General Manager, Chief Executive Officer to enter into an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for continued participation in the Multi-Jurisdictional Organized Crime Task Force, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- M. 2024-13 – Authorizing the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to enter into an option agreement with Flaherty & Collins Development, LLC for the proposed sale of property adjacent to the West Park Rapid Transit Station, known as a part of Cuyahoga County Permanent Parcel Number 024-33-01 on Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Mayor Weiss. Ms. Mersmann requested a roll call. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention from Ms. Mersmann. It passed.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Rajan D. Gautam, Deputy General Manager of Finance and Secretary-Treasurer gave the report. Inflation hit a high of 9.1% back in June of 2022. It has been steadily declining. In December it increased from 3.1% in November to 3.4%. The FOMC is scheduled to meet on January 26 to discuss future actions. December 2023 ridership was 15.9% higher compared to December 2022 levels. Year-end it was 16.5% above 2022 levels. YTD ridership in millions for 2023 is 21.9 million compared to 32.1 million in 2019. That's 10.2 million lower or a 31.7% decline. Passenger fares for December were 3.5% higher compared to December 2022 levels and 26.8% above the budgeted amount. YTD for 2019 was \$42.79 million compared to \$27.57 million in 2023, a decline of \$15 million or 35.5%.

YTD sales tax for 2023 was 2.7% higher compared to 2022 or \$6.9 million. January 2024 receipts were 1.7% lower, roughly \$365,000. Fourteen of the 23 categories that make up the sales tax base were positive in January 2024 compared to January 2023. Online sales were 13.9% higher. Regular and statewide sales were .4% lower. Motor vehicles and watercraft were 7.6% lower.

General Manager/CEO Report

India L. Birdsong Terry, General Manager, CEO gave the report. Ms. Birdsong Terry is authorized to offer fare incentives or complementary rides to promote ridership and to report on it to the Board each year. In 2023, there were two programs that benefited from this program. Passes were provided to the organizations at a 50% discount totaling \$2,265.

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lieutenant contract was signed January 12. It was approved by the Board on December 19, 2023. The agreement term is from January 14, 2024, through August 31, 2026. The Transit Police Honor Guard represented RTA at a G-League basketball game on January 2, 2024, at the Wolstein Center. Honor guard members include Commander Flachbart, Sergeant Hassing and Officer Miller.

Casey Blaze, Rail Equipment Manager was honored by Railway Age as a "Fast Trackers" 25 Under 40. He is working on the railcar replacement program. He thanked the RTA team for their support and great work. William H. Nix, Sr. celebrated his retirement on January 13. He has been with RTA for 34.5 years and President of ATU Local 268 for 12 years. A workforce mentoring podcast will be recorded through APTA later today.

Public Comments – public transit related items

The call-in studio was experiencing technical difficulties, so we were unable to take calls. Any email/webform comments will be forwarded to the Board.

1. Bryan Chagar, Jr. – Bryan is a 27-year rider. There is a lack of communication about removing transit stops, also with City employees, utilities and construction workers. The rapid has been taken over by trash and the unhoused.
2. Airric Stewart – Airric emailed several comments/recommendations for the following bus lines: 11, 15, 15A, 48 and 50.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 27, 2024**, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. This meeting will be live streamed on RTA's Board page (www.RideRTA.com/board) by selecting the meeting date. The public is welcome to attend in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.



President

Attest: Rajan D. Jantam
Secretary-Treasurer