

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

10:04 a.m. August 23, 2022

Board Members: Lucas (Chair), Moss (Vice Chair), Biasiotta, Joyce, McCall, Pellot, Weiss, Welch

Not present: Koomar

Staff: Birdsong, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Darwin, Fesler, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, (Diana), Hudson, Jones, (Deirdre) Jones, Lincoln, Miller, Mothes, Schipper, Walker-Minor, Woodford

Public: Bingaman, Booker, Collins, Gibbons, Loh, McDonnell, O'Reilly, Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. There were eight (8) board members present.

It was advised that notice of this meeting have been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification has 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 have been complied with.

Minutes

President Lucas stated that the minutes from the July 26, 2022, Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed, and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

1. Larry Rodriguez – He likes the cleanliness on the vehicles. Provide A Ride vehicles are not clean. RTA should take more control over the paratransit contractors. More schedulers and dispatchers are needed.
2. Airric Stewart - He questioned the random sampling done by TransPro in the previous committee meeting. Use numbers instead of percentages. Don't disregard the small number of complaints from the survey.
3. Pluria Gardner – She called to follow-up on her civil right complaint. Staff will follow up.
4. Chris Slocking – (submitted by webform) - Please replace broken next connect screens at bus stops and stations with new displays with accurate real-time information and current service alerts. Winter will be coming soon. I am not going to take off my gloves to check my phone when the bus is late. Just provide the info at the bus stop so everyone can see it. Also, just today I saw a rider run across the street from Tower City across to the HealthLine and nearly got hit by a car. It would be great to display the real-time information for the HealthLine large enough so people across the street can see it. Many people run to get that bus though it idles there for a few minutes. Riders never know if it will wait or if it's about to leave. We already face long commutes, missed connections and service cuts. Please just post this information large and high so riders stop running into traffic.
5. Christopher Jacobs - (submitted by webform) - On the subject of rail car replacement, I encourage RTA to move toward a standardized rail fleet that can operate on both the Red Line

and the Blue and Green lines. This may require an investment in standardizing stations, but that is a worthwhile investment to simplify maintenance, including spare parts inventory, and to provide the ability to use trains on any line. I also encourage RTA to buy railcars that are substantially the same as railcars in use by other transit systems in the US, thereby reducing the upfront purchase expense and ensuring future availability of parts for maintenance.

Has RTA investigated what steps would be necessary to modify stations such that a more standard light rail vehicle could be used at all stations? If RTA did not receive multiple viable proposals in response to the last RFP, then RTA should revisit the idea of purchasing standard vehicles rather than continue the current system with two different and custom-ordered rail cars.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

There were no reports from the CAC.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

The Ad Hoc Tech Committee meets August 24, 2022 at 5 p.m. Trustee Lauren Welch was appointed to assist with the Civilian Review Board.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

New Hires:

- Matthew Watts – Operator
- Tasha Raum – Operator
- Brittany Williams – Crisis Intervention Specialist
- Lucy Hammond – Operator
- Alton Kerley – Janitor
- Xenia Baeder – Crisis Intervention Specialist
- DaVeone Young – Operator
- Dalonzo Carey – Laborer
- Tory Blevins – Transit Ambassador
- Janice Brooks – Transit Ambassador
- Ebony Allen – Transit Ambassador
- Terence Jackson – Transit Ambassador
- Kimberley King – Transit Ambassador

Promotions:

- Janet E. Burney – Deputy General Manager – Legal Affairs Division

Introduction of Resolutions:

- A. 2022-72 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-039A with Community Insurance Company DBA Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield to provide medical and prescription drug benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in amounts estimated at \$31,930,000.00 and \$4,640,000.00 respectively, for a total contract amount estimated at \$36,570,000.00 for the first year (General Fund, various department budgets), the

adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Ms. McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

- B. 2022-73 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-039B with National Vision Administrators, LLC to provide vision benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in an amount estimated at \$112,728.00 for the first year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. McCall and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2022-74 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-039C with Delta Dental Plan of Ohio, Inc. to provide dental benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in an amount estimated at \$1,100,000.00 for the first year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Mayor Biasiotta and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2022-75 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-039D with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to provide life insurance and flexible spending account benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in an amount estimated at \$380,000.00 and \$20,000.00 respectively for a total contract amount estimated at \$400,000.00 for the first year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mayor Weiss and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2022-76 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-044 with Aon Risk Services Northeast, Inc. to provide property and crime insurance broker services in an amount not to exceed \$243,000.00 for the base three years, and in amounts not to exceed \$85,050.00 and \$89,300.00 for each option year, respectively, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$417,350.00 for the five-year period (General Fund, Risk Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Moss. Ms. McCall abstained. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention. It passes.
- F. 2022-77 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-045 with Applications Software Technology, LLC to provide Oracle IaaS services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,007,862.00 (RTA Development Fund, Innovation & Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Pellot and approved by unanimous vote.
- G. 2022-78 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-49 with Construction Support Solutions, L.L.C. for project 19.46 – On-Call Schedule and Cost Control - 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 for a period of twenty-four (24) months (RTA Capital and/or RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. McCall, seconded by Ms. Pellot and approved by unanimous vote.
- H. 2022-79 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-078 with Oracle America, Inc. to provide Oracle Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) Subscription Services, in an amount not to exceed \$173,934.00 (General Fund, Innovation & Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.
- I. 2022-80 – Authorizing the purchase of casualty insurance from various insurance underwriters through USI Insurance Services National, Inc. and Price Forbes & Partners Limited, or their successors, for a period of 12 months, in a total amount not

to exceed \$2,044,610.00 (Insurance and General Funds, Risk Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved Mayor Weiss, seconded by Mr. Joyce. Ms. McCall abstained. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention. It passes.

- J. 2022-81 – Authorizing the donation of transit coach numbers 1803 and 1806 to the Cuyahoga Community College District’s Transportation Innovation Center, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Pellot and approved by unanimous vote.

Alicia Booker, VP of Manufacturing and Technology Center and Ian Wilson, Director of Transportation Center from Tri-C were in attendance. The vehicles will be used for their bus operator training program. They thanked RTA for the vehicles.

- K. 2022-82 – Enacting Section 222.05 of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to create an independent Civilian Oversight Committee for review of public complaints against Transit Police Department employees, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Pellot, seconded by Ms. McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weiss thanked the staff for taking feedback from the Board on this program.

- L. 2022-83 – Amending the appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, as adopted in Resolution No. 2021-112 and amended in Resolution No. 2022-068, to increase the number of positions for members of the Civilian Oversight Committee, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Rajan Gautam, Deputy General Manager of Finance and Secretary-Treasurer gave the presentation. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped from 3.6% in June to 3.5%. Ohio unemployment rate is 3.9%. Cuyahoga County unemployment rate is 5.5%. The height of the labor force was February 2020. After the pandemic we’re back to pre-COVID unemployment rates. For June the MSA was unchanged for most of the metropolitan areas except for Toledo. Cleveland was 5.5%. Cincinnati was 3.3%. Columbus was 3.2%. Dayton was 3.7%. Toledo moved down from 4% to 3.9%

July ridership was 15.8% above July 2021. YTD ridership is 18.8% above 2021 levels. Compared to 2021, ridership increased on most modes. Paratransit up 20%. Bus up 18.6%. Heavy Rail up 12.9%. HealthLine up 12.5%. July fare revenue was \$2.2 million which is 25.4% higher than July 2021 and 21.2% higher than budget. YTD revenue is \$22.7% higher than the same period in 2021. Sales tax represents the largest unrestricted source of revenue for operations. August 2022 sales tax compared to August 2021 was up 2.4%. Fifteen of the 23 categories that make up the sales tax base was positive in June. For the first time, motor vehicles and watercraft showed a downward trend in June which was 20.5% lower. Online sales remain strong at 37.2%. Regular and statewide sales are 9.4% higher.

General Manager/CEO Report

India L. Birdsong, General Manager, CEO gave the report. RTA received a \$8 million OTP2 grant for rail car replacement and \$3.5 million UTP grant for the Bus Improvement Program. The GCRTA

mentoring program, Positive Impact Program held recognition ceremonies at the bus districts. RTA participated in the 52nd Annual Puerto Rican Parade on August 7. RTA is working with Graffiti HeArt and board member Luz Pellot on an art project with French artist Blek Le Rat. He donated the artwork which was placed on the Cuyahoga River Viaduct Bridge. RTA participated in the Touch A Truck event held on Public Square August 14.

The Rail District held a Rail Rodeo August 13. The rodeo is a skills competition among rail operators, Power & Way and Rail Equipment employees. Ms. Birdsong put in a request to APTA about hosting the Rail Conference in 2027 or 2028 when the Authority's new rail fleet is running. We are scheduled to host in 2024. RTA participated in the Corporate Challenge sports competition this summer. RTA placed 1st in skeeball and 2nd in tug a war. Chief Jones was honored for her work in the LGBTQ+ community at the Human Rights Campaign Annual Dinner held August 20.

Board members Ms. McCall and Ms. Pellot attended the APTA Transit Board Members Seminar held in Salt Lake City, UT, July 30 – August 2. Ms. McCall served on a panel about the CEO search process and CEO performance evaluation. Mr. Fields served on a panel discussion on addressing workforce shortages. Ms. McCall added that this seminar is excellent to see what other transit agencies are doing and to share RTA practices. APTA requested the CEO become more active. RTA employees participated in the Lean Six Sigma Boot Camp program at Tri-C Corporate College. Employees received Green Belt and Black Belt certifications. The EZ fare launch was June 12. Staff is working through the next steps for the program. Ms. Moss mentioned that people are having problems using the app as they exit the train stations. Ms. Birdsong said that staff will investigate this. Transit Ambassadors may also be able to assist customers.

President's Report

The Board of Trustees presented a gift to Sheryl King Benford, former General Counsel and Deputy General Manager of Legal Affairs. Ms. Benford expressed her appreciation and pleasure serving the Authority. She will stay on as an advisor for the Authority until later this year.

Public Comments

1. Loh – RTA needs to measure training. She has assisted customers in using the Transit App. Some ticket purchases are showing up in the old app. Veteran operators are more helpful than the new ones. Some operators dock the HealthLine vehicles too far away from the curb.
2. Airric Stewart – He restated his suggestions mentioned during public comments at past meetings for the 15A bus route. He proposes the bus should run every 15 minutes and will connect people to hospitals, schools, and retail jobs at Pinecrest and Harvard Shopping Plaza.
3. Sherita Montgomery – She suggested we use a more user-friendly virtual platform where participants can add the meetings to their calendar and participate virtually. She asked if the UTP grant money will be used for electric buses. She asked if the Board could increase the public comments time.
4. Brian Schriver – (submitted by web form) Rail car replacement - I believe that RTA would benefit from moving to a standard rail car fleet. My impression is that previous RFPs have required the rail car provider to heavily customize vehicles in order to adapt to the current physical requirements of stations. Is this accurate? Has RTA investigated what steps would be necessary to modify stations such that a more standard light rail vehicle could be used at all stations? Buying standard light rail vehicles would make it much easier for RTA to maintain the fleet and would give more flexibility in supporting the rail system into the future. It would

minimize the risks associated with being "locked in" to one vendor that had created a customized vehicle that could only serve GCRTA. I believe that previous consultants have overestimated the effort required to make these station modifications and I respectfully request that RTA revisit this alternative. Final question - has RTA received viable proposals from more than one rail car supplier in response to the RFP earlier this year?

5. Daniel Rossi – (submitted by web form) - Station upgrade/maintenance - I believe the GCRTA would benefit from a potential project to make the rail stations a more welcoming environment by neutralizing the odors that exist at the stations. Far too many times I have stepped foot into an RTA rail station and be welcomed of the smell of urine/body odor as I make my way to the platform. Is there any measures being taken to address this issue.

Expansion - Has there been any studies conducted in recent years to show demand/expansion for passenger rail in the surrounding communities of the existing rail line. I believe there is an untapped market in Lakewood, Rocky River, and Bay Village/Westlake for passenger rail along the Norfolk and Southern freight line. As someone who has visited friends and loved ones that live near that line, the line goes fairly unused and if an agreement was reached between the RTA and Norfolk Southern for passenger rail, I believe it would create a new revenue stream for RTA, and provide residents of the communities mentioned above opportunities to travel the west side of cuyahoga county more efficiently with less carbon impact.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 20, 2022**, 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 11:08 a.m.



President

Attest:



Secretary-Treasurer