



Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

January 6, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members: Mr. Sleasman, Ms. Pacetti, Mr. Love

Staff/Other: Shawn Becker, Nick Biggar, India Birdsong Terry, Muriel Bowen, Janet Burney, Floun'say Caver, Brent Charnigo, Nick Davidson, Drew Dimmick, Maribeth Feke, George Fields, Bob Fleig, Joel Freilich, Catherine Galla, Anthony Garofoli, Rajan Gautam, Orlando Hudson, Robert Jefferson, Sharon Jenkins, Chief Deirdre Jones, Lawrence Jupina, Carl Kirkland, Jonathan Laule, Derek Meinke, Sheila Miller, Charles Morgan, Jason Rosenlieb, Mike Schipper, Joe Shaffer, Kay Sutula, Dawn Svancara, Wendy Talley, Brian Temming, Donald Tereba, John Togher, Carolyn Young

Public: Loh, Chris Urban

I. Roll Call

Mr. Sleasman called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m. with roll call. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2025

Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes; Ms. Pacetti seconded. The motion carried.

III. RFP Procurement – a presentation of a competitive procurement for a consultant to update our Strategic Plan.

Maribeth Feke, Director, Programming & Planning, stated that the Strategic Plan was developed in 2019 and included an overarching plan that provided pillar studies.

The updated plan will incorporate new data and transition from the 2019 model to address post-COVID changes and new priorities like safety, routes, rights-of-way, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), creating revenue from land, and employee retention. GCRTA plans to revisit and establish clear measurable goals and focus on 15-minute city concepts and high-frequency networks.

Drew Dimmick, Contract Administrator II, Procurement, stated that after a competitive bidding process, staff recommends awarding a contract to AECOM Technical Services, Inc, which has a presence in Cleveland, to provide consulting services for an update to the Strategic Plan in a total contract amount not to exceed \$465,000.

The contract is approximately \$123,000 less than the previous plan due to more efficient, online-based community engagement strategies.

Ms. Pacetti stated that it is important to update the plan post-COVID and to coordinate with other agencies to complement efforts with TOD. She emphasized that the consultant would support feedback from the Board, staff and community.

Mr. Love requested clarity regarding extending the plan to 2035-2036. Ms. Feke stated that the goals from the Strategic Plan will have concrete, measurable objectives through 2030 and 2030 to 2036 regarding how to position the Authority for the future. The entirety of the plan will be revisited.

Ms. Whigham requested information regarding the timeline for the project. Ms. Feke explained that the kickoff will be in early February and the entire process will be complete in less than a year.

CEO Terry advised that this project is a mid-life review of the Strategic Plan. Extending the timeline to around 2032 would allow a full five (5) years to enjoy the benefits of the process. This update was incorporated into the 2026 budget.

Mr. Love moved to advance the item to the Board of Trustees; Ms. Pacetti seconded. The motion carried.

IV. IFB Procurement – a presentation of a competitive procurement for the reconstruction of the transfer table at Track 3 at CRMF

Derek Meinke, Engineer Project Manager, Mechanical, stated that the transfer table at the Central Rail Maintenance Facility brings rail cars from different tracks. This project is to reconstruct the transfer table at Track 3. A 2019 design change had prioritized railcar geometry over the transfer table, causing the heavy equipment to get stuck in gaps. This project would replace those intersections to return to the traditional intersection at Tracks 4 through 11.

Jonathan Laule, Program Contract Manager, Procurement, stated that the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for this project is Delta Railroad Construction, Inc. Staff requests this Committee award a contract amount not to exceed \$1,093,055.

Ms. Pacetti moved to advance the item to the Board of Trustees; Mr. Love seconded. The motion carried.

V. Proposed Change Order – a presentation of a negotiated change order to authorize additional construction services under Contract No. 2025-007 with RL Hill/Platform Joint Venture and to reinstate the General Manager's change order signing authority.

Brian Temming, Manager, Quality Assurance, explained that the current contract amount with one authorized change order is \$10,481,779.86. The change orders approved under the current signing authority is \$497,192.86 and the limit for change orders on this project is \$500,000.

The proposed change order is for additional construction services including relocating high platforms and adding extensions to improve ADA boarding and lighting. The change order, initiated to accommodate new rail operations and ADA customers, will move mini-high platforms and extend completion to September 23, 2026.

Staff requested approval for a negotiated amount not to exceed \$67,550, raising the total contract to \$1,549,329.86 and reinstating the General Manager's change order authority.

Dr. Caver explained operational changes for ADA boarding, emphasizing the transition to ensure ADA customers are always with the operator.

Ann Marie Prebish, Contract Administrator II, Procurement, stated that the change order summary \$2807.14 remains and the general manager change Order Authority proposed change order #3 is for

VII. IFB Procurement – a presentation of a competitive procurement to make the necessary modifications to CRMF to support the new railcars.

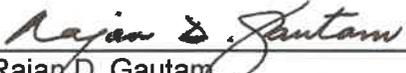
Derek Meinke, Engineer Project Manager, Mechanical, stated that modifications to the CRMF, including new service balconies, monorail crane rails, and a dedicated hydraulic brake room to accommodate new railcars are necessary to enhance safety, versatility, and maintenance capabilities. The existing fleet is serviced from underneath the car in the pit. This project will build infrastructure to access equipment on top of the railcar.

Jonathan Laule, Program Contract Manager, Procurement, stated that the lowest responsive vendor for this project was Standard Contracting Engineering Incorporated. Staff requests that this Committee award a contract to Standard Contracting & Engineering, Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$9,505,365.

Ms. Pacetti moved to advance the item to the Board of Trustees; Mr. Love seconded. The motion carried.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Sleasman moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Love. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.



Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer



Brent Charnigo
Board Administrator

a negotiated amount not to exceed \$67,550 and will extend final completion date to September 23, 2026.

Staff requested that the Committee recommend approval of the proposed change order to RL Hill platform contracting joint venture and a negotiated amount not to exceed \$67,550, resulting in a new total contract amount not to exceed \$1,549,329.86. This change order will also reinstate the general manager's change order authority to \$500,000 and extend the project by 34 calendar days.

Dr. Caver explained that the current light rail system has two trains with a conductor managing door operations on the back. A conductor will not be necessary on the new railcars because the back doors will be operated with cameras and computers. More importantly, customers will be on the train with the operator.

Mr. Love moved to advance the item to the Board of Trustees; Ms. Pacetti seconded. The motion carried.

VI. IFB Procurement – a presentation of a competitive procurement to make the necessary modifications to the Red Line platforms to support the new railcars.

Don Tereba, Project Manager, Facilities, stated that this contract will modify twenty-two (22) Red Line platforms to fit the new railcars, which are fifteen (15) inches narrower and ten (10) feet longer than the current fleet. Four (4) stations are being designed under a separate contract.

Mr. Tereba explained that a modular bracket and bookshelf extension design will be used to bridge the 10-inch gap created by the narrower cars. The design includes modular bracket and bookshelf extensions to bridge gaps and facilitate quick transitions during two-week shutdowns in Summer 2027, following a proof of concept. During this time, the old fleet will be retired to the Brook Park station as they will be too wide to operate once the platforms are extended. The upgrades are coordinated with the future Cleveland Browns stadium to support three-car trains for major events.

Jonathan Laule, Program Contract Manager, Procurement, stated that the lowest responsive and responsible vendor for this project is Shermer Construction LLC. Staff requests that the Committee recommend award to Shermer Construction LLC for the for this project in the contract amount not to exceed \$11,111,000.

The Committee requested that staff provide a schedule regarding the timeline of the new railcars with key benchmarks.

Mr. Schipper stated that conversion on the Red Line is planned for August 2027 and on light rail in August 2028. CEO Terry further advised that a railcar replacement project update will likely be provided to the Board in March.

The Committee discussed integration with Cleveland Browns stadium plans and the importance of marketing and communications to leverage the investment. CEO Terry stated that everything is on the on the table when considering how operations would be impacted. She also noted that the new railcar fleet will be running before the stadium is built.

Mr. Love moved to advance the item to the Board of Trustees; Ms. Pacetti seconded. The motion carried.