

General Manager, CEO Report

India L. Birdsong Terry

April 21, 2026

GCRTA /Hawken Mastery School

March 6, 2026 | Main Office

The Mastery School of Hawken students presented mock redesign proposals for eight GCRTA Blue Line stations as part of a real-world engineering project. These student-led concepts focused on achieving modern ADA compliance and preparing the infrastructure for the agency's new railcar fleet arriving later this year.



2026 Elevating Women Together Conference

“Driving Success: Empowering Women in Transportation Careers”

March 27, 2026 | Adcom

Sessions Included:

- Navigating Beyond the “No”
- Interactive: Finding Your Strengths
- “CEO Transit Talk- Women CEOs Driving the Future of Public Transportation”, moderator, Tatia Harris Akron METRO RTA, panelists, India Birdsong Terry, and Laura Koprowski Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)



NOACA Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI)

- GCRTA Awarded \$125,000 to fund GCRTA's Planning Study: Pathways to Transit
- Study will analyze First & Last Mile Connections to Transit Stations
- NOACA Will Cover 100% of Costs – No Local Match Required

GCRTA Executive Leadership Retreat

March 31-April 1, 2026 | Tri-C Corporate College East

Two-day immersive experience, blending strategic dialogue, leadership frameworks, and experiential learning:

- Day 1:
 - Organizational Awareness & Alignment
 - Goal Setting & Inspiring Engagement
- Day 2:
 - Team Effectiveness & Emotional Intelligence

Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA) Federal Strategy Session

Main Office | April 10, 2026

In-person strategy session to align federal advocacy efforts with GCRTA's legislative agenda and funding strategy while refining engagement with Congressional partners

Discussions focused on:

- Capital priorities (Railcar Replacement and State of Good Repair)
- Strategic messaging
- Protection of transit funding
- Opportunities for partnership in federal policy

American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference

April 12-14, 2026 | Washington, D.C.

The Conference helps educate APTA members on important federal legislation and policy initiatives and affords an unparalleled opportunity to shape the industry's positions and federal advocacy agenda



Elevate: Lifting Stories of Hope Gala 2026

April 17, 2026 | InterContinental Cleveland

- Highlights The City Mission's transformational ministry happening at Crossroads Men's Crisis Center, Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center, and in Rothstein Village Transitional Housing for Families



Public Hearings on Proposed Service Reductions

April 13, 15 & 16, 2026 | Board Room

- Attended by community residents, GCRTA Board members, Community Advisory Committee members, and GCRTA employees
- Most concerns voiced during the hearings were about the B-Line Trolley discontinuation and the frequency reductions
- Comment period remains open until April 27
 - To submit a comment use: [Proposed Service Reductions | RideRTA](#)
- Media coverage received from local TV, radio, print and online platforms



Railcar Replacement Program Budget

(Based on Board approved budget as of May 20, 2025)

Item	Current Budget
Vehicle Acquisition	\$380,702,126
Design, Inspection & Testing	6,453,947
Existing Infrastructure Upgrades	33,524,698
Project Administration	300,000
Force Account	12,712,115
Unallocated Contingency	16,307,114
Total	\$450,000,000

Proposed Schedule Modifications

1. The first three vehicles will be delayed because of manufacturing issues.
 - First railcar delivery expected early Fall 2026
2. Conditional Acceptance of the 24th vehicle, is impacted by installation of CAD/AVL.
 - 24th Vehicle Conditional Acceptance expected early Fall 2027
3. These schedule modifications are not expected to delay the summer 2027 Red Line opening.

Quality Assurance/Manufacturing Update



Bogie Frame Inspection



Powered Bogie Set



Axle Set with Brake Rotor

Quality Assurance/Manufacturing Update



Bogie Press



Carshell 5A & B



Carshell 14A

Cleveland Student Technical Enrichment Program (STEP)

March 21, 2026 | Main Office Building

- GCRTA hosted 50 Cleveland STEP students, which is a STEM education initiative designed for students in grades 6-9, led by the City of Cleveland Water Department and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- Students participated in hands-on STEM activities led by Human Resources, Engineering, and Transit Police team
 - Hands-on bridge-building challenge using simple materials, promoting creativity and problem-solving
 - Facilitation of real-world scenario using technology to solve car burglaries, through critical thinking and investigative skills

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4WFduQ01iE>

