

## Minutes

### RTA Operating Budget Public Hearing

9:35 a.m. November 10, 2020

**Committee Members:** Joyce (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair) Byrne, Moss, Pellot, Serrano

**Other Board Members:** Clough, McCall, Weiss

**Not present:** Bibb

**Also Present:** Benford, Birdsong, Bitto, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis, Fields, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Kirkland, Laule, Mothes, Orlando, Piggery, Schipper, Shaffer, Sutula, Tarka, Temming, Valentino

Mr. Joyce called the Public Hearing to order at 9:35 a.m.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference for members of the Board in accordance with House Bill 197 of the 133rd General Assembly, signed by the Governor of the State of Ohio on March 27, 2020, the March 9, 2020 order of the Governor of the State of Ohio declaring a public health emergency and the April 30, 2020 order of the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Health prohibiting any gathering of ten (10) or more people. The meeting was live-streamed on RTA's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/rideRTA](http://www.facebook.com/rideRTA)) for staff and members of the public.

This is the first of two official public hearings on the proposed 2021 Budget for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The information for the 2021 Budget has been made available for public inspection on the Authority's web site, Twitter page, and Facebook page.

Public notice of this hearing has been given by publication of legal advertisements in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on October 23, 2020 and October 25, 2020, the Call & Post on October 21, 2020 and October 28, 2020, as well as by posting of notice in the first floor lobby of the Authority's Main Office Building, the Authority's Facebook page, and Twitter page. Notification was also given on these sites on how to virtually attend (live-streaming) the Committee Meeting, Public Hearing, and Board Meeting and how to submit a comment for the public hearing.

The Proposed 2021 Budget was presented to the Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee of the RTA Board of Trustees on November 10, 2020. The Proposed 2021 Budget estimates revenues at \$268.2 million. Sales and Use Tax receipts are projected to increase by 1.8%, as the economy slowly rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic. Total Passenger Fares are projected at \$27.8 million. Reimbursed Expenditures includes reimbursements for preventive maintenance, force account labor, fuel tax and other miscellaneous reimbursements. For 2021, reimbursed expenditures are projected at \$19.4 million, of which \$16.8 million is for preventive maintenance reimbursements. We are projecting to transfer all the preventive maintenance reimbursement to capital to fund high priority projects.

In 2020, the Authority was awarded approximately \$112 million of Federal Funding through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. This funding is to help supplement the decline in passenger fares and sales tax receipts and added expenses due to the pandemic. Through October, we have drawn down the entire \$112 million. This funding will help carry us through Fiscal Year 2022 and beyond.

Total expenditures for the Proposed 2021 Budget are projected at \$317.6 million, which includes \$262.5 million for Operating Expenditures and \$55.2 million for transfers to other funds to support

expenses and maintain the recommended fund balances for Bond Retirement, Insurance, Supplemental Pension, Capital Improvement, and Reserve Funds.

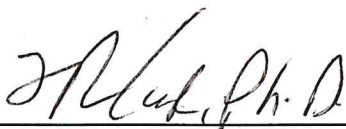
Total expenditures of \$317.6 million against total revenues of \$268.2 million, the Authority will be operating at a loss. The awarded CARES Act funding will help the Authority recover from the loss of passenger fares and sales tax due to the COVID pandemic through December 2022. The CARES Act funding will help the Authority to invest in the Community through reviewing and implementing recommendations from the Fare Equity and Redesign Studies, provide labor stability, increase capital investments, and reduce the capital backlog through 2022 and beyond.

Public Comment

Comments were received at [Public-Comment@gcrta.org](mailto:Public-Comment@gcrta.org)

1. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – With regard to the proposed budget as presented today, I believe it is disingenuous to not specifically list the budget for the GCRTA Transit Police Department, which makes up a large percentage of the Operations Division that it is a part of. In 2020, you are spending \$14 million dollars on your police. The public should know what you propose for 2021.

The public hearing was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Floun'say R. Caver, Ph.D.  
Interim Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage  
Executive Secretary