

## Minutes

### RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:11 a.m. October 25, 2022

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

**Not present:** None

**Staff:** Birdsong Terry, Burney, Caver, Coffey, Dangelo, Davidson, Feke, Ferraro, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Jones, Kirkland, Miller, Walker-Minor, Woodford

**Public:** Gibbons, Loh, Pinkney-Butts

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. There were nine (9) 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 September 20, 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. Rev. Pinkney-Butts – She congratulated the retirees. Items B, C and D on the agenda needs elaborating. She asked about the property at Cudell Station. The rail operators are concerned about new rails and the system being overhauled. The E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street Station needs updating. People without motorized wheelchairs don't have accommodations E. 93 and E. 116<sup>th</sup> stations.
2. Jonathan Steirer – Cleveland – (Webform Comment): As a nearby resident and regular user of the West Blvd - Cudell station, I am excited to see movement towards finally building TOD in Cudell, especially as part of a plan to provide much-needed affordable units in the neighborhood. I would ultimately like to see more than 80 units in this location, as it is such a well-connected location and proximate to a significant number of city amenities. Additionally, while this may be out of the current scope of this resolution, I hope RTA can help lead a robust group of local stakeholders calling for traffic calming and improved pedestrian infrastructure along Detroit Ave and West Blvd in this location.
3. Daniel – Cleveland – (Webform Comment): Please support the TOD next to West boulevard.
4. Arthur Henke – Cleveland – (Webform Comment): I am writing to share my support for agenda item 14-D, resolution 2022-97. I live nearby in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, and I believe that density and transit-oriented development will benefit the City of Cleveland and its residents.

5. Doug Astler – Cleveland – (Webform Comment): Hello, I am writing to submit my comment of support for the selling of land adjacent to the West Boulevard and Cudell Rapid station to Flaherty and Collins to facilitate building of a TOD with some units below market rate.
6. Christopher Jacobs - Cleveland Heights – (Webform Comment): I am writing in support of agenda item 2022-97, the sale of property to Flaherty & Collins (FC) for development. FC has done great work and been an asset as a developer in Cleveland Heights, and I support RTA's efforts to increase development near transit stations.

President Lucas mentioned that Board member Luz Pellot will be honored at an event tonight.

#### Committee Reports

The Audit Committee will have its next quarterly meeting on November 3 at 2:30 p.m.

#### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

There was no report from the CAC.

#### Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There was no report.

#### Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

##### New Hires:

- Monique Burgess – Operator
- Mark Cox – Operator
- Lateisha Ford – Operator
- Kala Hampton – Operator
- Wilbert Patterson – Operator
- Surazal Sanders – Operator
- Lanisha Underwood – Operator
- Jaytionna Wells – Operator
- Latayvia Williams – Operator
- James Conroy – Line Maintainer
- Jaenin Deskin – Crisis Intervention Specialist
- Jason Gardner – Janitor
- DeAndre Hodges – Janitor
- Kim James – Janitor
- Trinity Robinson – Engineering Co-Op

##### Promotions:

- Anna Hlavacs – Senior Counsel
- Alexander Terriaco – Signal Technician

#### Introduction of Resolutions:

- A. 2022-94 – Expressing congratulations to the employees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority who retired during the third quarter of 2022, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Pellot, seconded by Ms. McCall and approved by unanimous vote.



- B. 2022-95 – Authorizing Contract No. 2022-094 with Vehicle Maintenance Program for the furnishing of motorcoach filters, as specified and as required, for a period of two years, in an amount not to exceed \$134,900.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. McCall, seconded by Ms. Pellot and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2022-96 – Removing Sections 642.10 Reduction in Workforce, 642.11 Workforce Accommodation, 642.12 Transitional/Alternative Work and 642.13 Pre-Termination Meeting from the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority as duplicates of the Personnel Policies, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Ms. McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Moss added that this updates our policies, moving it from the Code to the Personnel Policies.

- D. 2022-97 – Authorizing the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to enter into an option agreement with Flaherty & Collins Development, LLC, an Indiana Limited Liability Company, for the proposed sale of property adjacent to the West Boulevard-Cudell Rapid Transit Station, known as Cuyahoga County Permanent Parcel Number 001-32-012 on Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. McCall, seconded by Ms. Pellot. The roll was called. There were eight (8) ayes and one abstention from Mr. Joyce. It passes.

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Rajan Gautam, Deputy General Manager of Finance and Secretary-Treasurer, gave the report. The U.S. unemployment rate for August was 3.7%, up from 3.5% in July. Ohio's rate increased slightly to 4% which was 3.9% in July. The County rate is not seasonally adjusted which causes the increase in the unemployment rate as reported. The County estimated unemployment rate was 5% in August. In reviewing the five largest metropolitan statistical areas in Ohio. Over the past three years, the height of the labor force was in February 2020. After the Pandemic we are now back to pre-COVID unemployment rates. For August the unemployment rates for Cleveland were 5.2%, down from 5.4% in July. In Cincinnati, 3.5% rose from 3.4%. Columbus is 3.4% up from 3.3%. Dayton is 3.9% up from 3.8%. Toledo at 4%, up from 3.9%.

Ridership continues to show gains. September ridership was 16.6% higher compared to September 2021. YTD ridership is 18.6% above 2021 levels. September passenger fares increased 32.5% compared to September 2021 and 28% higher than budget. YTD it is 19.29% higher than the same period in 2021. Sales tax which represents the largest source of unrestricted revenue for the General Fund remains strong. September 2022 receipts which is based on July 2022 activity was 4.7% higher compared to October 2021 and 2.7% higher than budget. YTD they are 6.6% higher than 2021 levels. The sales tax base is made of 23 categories. Seventeen of the 23 were positive in October. Motor vehicles and watercraft are trending lower at 0.2%. Online sales were 17% higher compared to October 2021. Regular and statewide sales are 4.1% higher.

#### General Manager/CEO Report

India L. Birdsong Terry, General Manager, CEO gave the report. The Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) conducted a Drug & Alcohol Audit Oct. 3-5. It was a review of policies and procedures. The audit was last conducted in 2014. Staff response to FTA is due January 2023. RTA received the Ohio

Auditor of State "Award with Distinction" for the 2021 Audit. We were noted for excellence in financial reporting.

RTA donated two MCI coaches to Tri-C's Transportation Innovation Center. Tri-C President Dr. Michael Baston was present. The coaches will be used for training. RTA staff attended the United Way Annual Committee Meeting, September 30, 2022 and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Annual Meeting, October 7, 2022. Sharon Sobol Jordan was introduced as the new President and CEO for the United Way. The theme for the NOACA meeting was "Competing Globally Requires World-Class Infrastructure: The Bipartisan Discussion." NOACA is a big supporter of RTA.

Several RTA employees attended and presented at the 2022 Ohio Public Transportation Association (OPTA) Conference, in Columbus, Ohio, October 3-5. Board member Valarie J. McCall and former RTA General Manager/CEO Joe Calabrese were honored at the honors luncheon during the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) TRANSform Annual Conference in Seattle, WA, October 9-12. Board member McCall said it was an honor to receive the award and that it is a great achievement to have two people from RTA to receive an award.

#### New Business

- The Board was presented the proposed 2023 Board and Committee Meeting schedule for their review.

#### Public Comments

1. Rev. Pinkney Butts – She is concerned about the safety of workers at Tower City. The workers must be there early. Parking is expensive in Tower City. Workers would have to park at a station and take the train downtown to save money. She is grateful to RTA. She used the bus to go see her son.
2. John Taylor – He was told by an operator not to preach on the bus. He wanted to know the policy for preaching on the system.
3. Dontez Taylor – He asked to partner with RTA on a coat drive. He was directed to speak with Dr. Walker Minor. His pickup on paratransit was late.
4. Lou – She attended the Center for Community Solutions event. She was happy to see RTA represented. The RTA quarterly surveys are from an administrative point of view. She asked that the survey be conducted from a user's point of view.
5. Airric Stewart – Ridership concerns should be a standing agenda item. He repeated his proposal for the 15A to run hourly from Pinecrest. If the regular 15 ran every 20 minutes, there would be space to run the 15A which will hit more residential neighborhoods, hospitals, libraries and make connections at major train stations.
6. Alexander Wax - Rocky River (Webform Comment): I would like to see the Westlake Park and Ride #246 brought back into service even if on a reduced schedule. It was a convenient way for me, as I am sure many other West side commuters to get Downtown to work. I do realize that telework has become more common as a result of the pandemic. However, as people start to return to their offices Downtown, I am confident the service will be used even on a reduced schedule. The 55 routes take approximation one hour each way. This takes up a lot of our time as commuters.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 15, 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](http://www.RideRTA.com/board)) by selecting the meeting date. The public is welcome to attend in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

  
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President

Attest:   
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Secretary-Treasurer