

## Minutes

### RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:03 a.m. September 23, 2025

#### Board

Members: Koomar (Chair), Welch, Gallo, Love, McPherson, Pacetti, Sleasman, Weiss

Not present: A. Elder

Staff/Other: Becker, Biggar, Birdsong-Terry, Ciesla, Fields, Fleig, Ford-Marshall, Garofoli, Jones Chief, Jupina, Kirkland, Miller, Moore, Morgan, Mothes, Reed, Schipper, Shurik, Sutula, Taley, Togher, Young, Smith K, Harris, Fernandez, Bencs

Public: Hinkle K, Bartlett J, Patten M, Woods C, Davis, S, Loh

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. There were (8) board members present.

It was advised that the notice of this meeting has been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification has been given to the news media and other interested people, 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

August 19, 2025, Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee meeting minutes, moved by Mayor Weiss and seconded by Mr. Sleasman. The minutes were approved.

Mayor Koomar stated that the minutes from August 19, 2025, Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no corrections, moved by Mr. Sleasman and seconded by Ms. Pacetti. The minutes were approved.

#### Public Comments – Agenda Items

Dr. Caver responded yes, there are 3 web comments. The first of them is from Mr. Airric Stewart, the content of them broadly captures what he said, and as you mentioned, we'll make sure that these written words make it into the record. There are two additional webform comments.

1. Kevin Hinkle – He is a longtime resident of Cleveland, and architect builder. Mr. Hinkle's issue is about safety concerns, especially the West Park station. He stated that he has witnessed people climbing the wall and crossing over the tracks. Secondly, he stated that at Windemere station riders must stand while Healthline is laying over because there's no place for people to sit. Please consider adding seating at this location for Healthline riders.
2. Loh – there are two issues to state: first on time performance (OTP) transit app missing vital information such as real-time data, this is not up to standard because the perception that it gives is not good. Secondly, speaking for bus operators/union members should be

able to opt in or opt out to donate their holiday pay to individual charities of choice because they can also contribute along GCRTA back to the community. Please consider this idea.

3. Airric Stewart – Mr. Stewart insisted that we please post his prior phone and electronic comments verbatim. He questioned why people can no longer listen to the BOT meeting in its entirety by phone and why is Finally, he asked if the BOT and the CAC made a conscious effort to make the suggested 15A, 48A, and 50 routes available to the public for full thorough examination by the public? I was wondering why the construction of the new Van Aken Warrensville station has been delayed. On the RTA website it says that construction was supposed to start in spring of 2025 however construction still hasn't started (although I know the site has been prepared for construction). I was also wondering if there was an estimated date for the installation of the real time signage at the westbound rapid stations in Shaker Heights. Thank you for your time.

August 19, 2025 Comment: Airric Stewart: Post this verbatim. On 7-15-25 , at approximately 7:45 pm, 2 emails each were sent to the BOT and CAC. Subject lines are labeled "Touchpoints for the 15A" and "Transfer Points for the 15A and 48A." These emails should be made available for public examination distributed by the 2 previously mentioned entities. This should have been done prior to the implementation of the 6-13-21 NextGen project. The suggested 48A going on the SB route would best be labeled "Kerruish Park." Kerruish Park is approximately 6 blocks from E. 177th and South Miles. It is a significant part of the route. It is close enough to the end for there to be no confusion. The suggested 48A will pass through Shaker Square where there is a stable CVS pharmacy and Dave's supermarket. This route will serve people traveling from Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals for those purposes. It will give grocery shoppers and pharmacy customers from Ward 1, 2, and 4 one-bus easy turn around service. There can be bus shelters at the NE and SW corners of Invermere and Lee Rd for the 15A. In 2015, construction of Pinecrest Shopping Center began. It opened for business in June 2018. The 15 via Walden should have been examined for the good purpose of making adjustment during this time. RTA leadership had knowledge of the construction of Pinecrest. The suggested 15A gives healthy strength to the responsibility for the socioeconomic well-being of the public implemented through public transit. Airric Todd Stewart 404 869 0655

Mayor Koomar responded to Mr. Airric Stewart's comments regarding the August 19<sup>th</sup> minutes, noted that members of the public addressed by the board regarding both agenda and non-agenda items, public comments submitted through the web, form will appear in their original form and have not been edited. They are captured accurately. Advisement, if you want your comments accurately reflected, using the web form so that the public can see those. So, the board can see those are the appropriate format for that.

Mayor Komar asked if there were any other web comments?

Brent Charnigo - There are two additional webform comments:

- 4 Alice Smith - a resident of Shaker Heights, I was wondering why the construction of the new Van Aken Warrensville station has been delayed on the RTA website. It says the construction was supposed to start in spring of 2025. However, construction still hasn't

started, although I know the site has been prepared for construction, I was also wondering if there was an estimated date for the installation of the real time signage at the westbound Rapids stations in Shaker Heights. Thank you for your time.

- 5) Christopher Stocking, resident of Cleveland. The comment is on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, the eastbound #9 bus left the Little Italy rapid station stop 2 minutes early at 7:42 AM instead of 7:44 am. The eastbound Red Line due at Little Italy Rapid Station was also nearly 10 minutes late, arriving at 7:42am instead of 7:34am. Riders had to wait 30 minutes for the next #9 bus to come after we watched it pass us up from the platform getting off the train. Can you please remind operators not to leave stops before the scheduled time so people can get their bus? This is especially important at rapid stations. Also, what is being done to improve on-time performance for the Red Line? This same eastbound train (leaving the airport at 6:52am) is often late. It already takes nearly twice the amount of time to take transit than driving. Riders should have 10 minutes to transfer as scheduled. Please ensure transfers can actually be made by addressing buses leaving ahead of schedule and trains running late.

GM Terry responded that she appreciated the details and it's important to have those operational reminders of not pulling off too early. Also Mr. Schipper responded that the bulk and physical work will mostly take place starting next year however we did receive a notice to proceed thus the construction that has started.

- 6) My name is Daniel Kirchner, I am an Ohio City resident and homeowner (1435 W. 38th St.) and I am strongly in favor of the proposed W. 25th BRT project INCLUDING dedicated bus lanes through the W. 25th business corridor.

I see only positives:  
 - increased transit accessibility and use  
 - increased pedestrian traffic  
 - little to no impact on parking (large surface parking behind West Side Market, -distributed street parking across neighborhood)  
 - better streetscaping and pedestrian/bike safety and accessibility.  
 Again, I am an Ohio City resident and homeowner, and I very strongly support the full scope of this project and the benefits it will bring to my neighborhood and city. Thank you.  
**Email:** kirchnerdaniel98@gmail.com

- 4) My name is Sumare Davis, a resident of East Cleveland. I have been left behind/passed up while very obviously standing at a bus stop too many times. Maybe even three too many times in the past 30 days. Email: [dsumare216@gmail.com](mailto:dsumare216@gmail.com)

## Committee Reports

Board Governance Committee – No reports. Meetings are conducted Quarterly

Community Oversight Committee – No reports but Ms. Welch reminded everyone to check the website for details next week

## Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There were no reports

## Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

### New Hires:

Dominique Moore – Operator  
Keli Edwards – Operator  
Traci Jackson – Operator  
Derrick Hill – Operator  
Marcus Hampton – Operator  
Marshall Brooks – Operator  
Carlos Stewart – Operator  
Jennifer Love – Bus Operator  
Dorian Brackins – Bus Operator  
Doris Taylor – Bus Operator  
Dennis Daniel – Bus Operator  
Allen Banks – Bus Operator  
Crystal Kelly – Bus Operator  
Jessica Vallejo – Bus Operator  
Wayne Stokes – Bus Operator  
Davina Tolliver-Gamble – Bus Operator  
Karam Ridgeway – Bus Operator  
Danielle Lewis – Bus Operator  
Gwendolyn Robertson – Bus Operator  
Ray Lilly – Bus Operator  
Howard Mathews, Jr. – Bus Operator  
RoseAnn Vaughn – Bus Operator  
Hasheem Hussein – Bus Operator  
Chaianne Corbin – Bus Operator  
Lamonica Thompson – Bus Operator  
William Deaver – Bus Operator  
Aquella Grays – Bus Operator  
Darrin Hunt – Bus Operator  
John Truitt – Bus Operator  
William Kirksy – Bus Operator  
Brandee Varner – Paratransit Reservation Operator  
Jenna Rhodes – Paratransit Reservation Operator  
Austin Miller – Maintainer  
Brent Charnigo – Goard Administrator/Executive Assistant  
Colleen Slattery – Legal Assistant  
Catherine Galla – Customer Experience & Performance Management Fellowship

### September Promotions:

Warren Thornton – Special Equipment Operator/Mechanic  
Kelly Smith – Executive Assistant Administration & External Affairs

### Introduction of Resolutions:

- A. 2025-92-Authorizing Contract No. 2025-061 (A) with Quality Control Inspection, Inc. for Project 20.32 – On-Call Construction Inspection Services – 2025 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$400,000.00 for a Period of Twenty-Four Months (RTA Capital and/or Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman and seconded by Ms. McPherson and approved by unanimous vote.
- B. 2025-93 – Authorizing Contract No. 2025-061 (B) with Hill International, Inc. for Project 20.32 – On-Call construction Inspection Services – 2025 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$400,000.00 for a Period of Twenty-Four Months RTA Capital and/or Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman and seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2025-94- Authorizing Contract No. 2025-097 with Michael Baker International, Inc. for Project 20.37 – On-Call Rail Engineering Services – 2025 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$800,000.00 for a Period of Twenty-Four Months (RTA Capital and/or Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman and seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2025-95 – Authorizing Contract No. 2025-094 with R.E. Warner & Associates, Inc. for Project 66E2 – Architect/Engineer Services for Light Rail stations Modifications in an Amount Not to Exceed \$586,608.00 (RTA Development Funds, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Love and seconded by Mr. McPherson and approved by unanimous vote
- E. 2025-96 – Authorizing Contract No. 2025-091 with Osborn Engineering company for Project 24Y – Engineering services for The Design of Red Line Platform replacements at Superior, cedar/University east, west boulevard, and West Park in an Amount Not to Exceed \$746,188.98 (RTA Development Funds, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Welch and seconded by Ms. Pacetti and approved by unanimous vote
- F. 2025-97 – Authorizing the Exercise of an Option under contract No. 2021-125 with Siemens Mobility, Inc. for the Purchase and Delivery of up to Six (6) High Floor Light Rail Vehicles at the Contractual Base Price of \$5,166,336.00 Plus an Inflationary Price Increase calculated at the time of Final Assembly Based on the Producer Price Index for Transportation Equipment and a Labor Index Published Monthly by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (RTA Development Fund, Fleet Management Department Budget),

Mayor Koomar asked if the General Manager could highlight again where we are at with the vehicles (railcars) for the public and more specifically with the funding for them.

GM Terry responded that she would like Dr. Caver, Mr. Shipper and Mr. Becker to give us an update on where we are with the railcars. Mr. Becker is asked to read Memo previously presented to the BOT regarding modifications for the purchase and details for the railcars. Dr. Caver explained the reason behind the modifications was to decrease the number of

cars initially requested to purchase. Mr. Shipper also concurred with Mr. Becker and Dr. Caver regarding the memo modification changes at this time we felt it was most prudent for us to only come to you with six cars. We will have six cars remaining, so the six that you may approve today will give us 54 and we'll have 6 cars left to purchase. We have a lot of contingencies in the program. But as we open contracts as we award contracts, you know our cost risk narrows. So, in the next couple of months, we're going to open a couple of bids that you know could be \$20 million worth of work, which will help solve where that part of the budget is. So, things are moving forward. We do have items that we are still negotiating with Siemens, so that we can take that cost and schedule risk and narrow it. And our original contract was set up to buy options in multiples of six, so the last time we did options we did 18. And the first set of options we did were six. So, we're going with six this time and when we're ready and we have a better handle on the overall program budget schedule, we'll come back with whatever our recommendation is for the rest.

GM Terry asked Ms. Sutula if she could give a high-level overview about funding stack, Ms. Sutula stated Funding Stack we have a comprehensive funding stack for all current options. This option will be funded through formula dollars as well as OTP2 funds. Ms. Pacetti asked what is OTP2? Ms. Sutula stated it stands for Ohio Transit Partnership Program. Moved by Mayor Weiss and seconded by Mr. Sleasman

Mr. Sleasman asked for clarification if in fact there will be a purchase of 6 cars with 6 remaining? GM Terry responded absolutely.

- G. 2025-98 – Authorizing Contract No. 2025-107 with Railworks Track Services, LLC for Warrensville-Van Aken Station Track, Power, OCS, and Signal reconstruction in an Amount Not to Exceed \$11,185,852.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman and seconded by Ms. Welch

Roll Call Requested: Koomar, Welch, Elder, Gallo, Pacetti, Love, Rev. Lucas, Sleasman, McPherson, Weiss (abstained),

- H. 2025-99 - Authorizing Contract No. 2024-211(A) with Kalamuna, Inc. to Provide a PaaS Web Hosting Solution for a Period of Three Years in an Amount Not to Exceed \$248,308.00 With Two, One-Year Options in Amounts Not to Exceed \$78,719.00, and \$82,654.00, respectively, for a total Contract Amount Not to Exceed \$409,681.00 for a Five-Year Period (General fund, Management Information services Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Pacetti and seconded by Mr. Love
- I. 2025-100 – authorizing Contact No. 2025-117 with Dell Marketing L.P. for the furnishing of a Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement Through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Cooperative Purchasing Program, in Amounts Not to Exceed \$1,174,444.25 for Year One, \$1,115,100.05 for Year Two, \$1,115,100.05 for Year Three, Plus \$60,000.00 in Contingencies, for a Total Contract Amount Not to Exceed \$3,464,644.35 for a Three-Year Period (General Fund, Information Technology

Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Pacetti and seconded by Ms. Welch

- J. 2025-101 – Real Estate Exchange Agreement for the Construction of the New East 79<sup>th</sup> Street Rapid Transit Station, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman and seconded by Ms. Welch

Roll Call Requested: Koomar, Welch, Elder, Gallo, Pacetti, Love, Rev. Lucas, Sleasman, McPherson, Weiss (Abstained)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report – Kay Sutula/Acting Deputy General Manager, Director of Office Management & Budget

Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) decreased interest rates to 4.25% (0.25% decrease) at the September 16-17 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28-29. Annual inflation rate in U.S. has decreased from high of 9.1% in June 2022 to a low of 2.3% in April 2025 to 2.9% in August 2025. Consumer confidence decreased 5% from August following two months of increases. In August 2025, year-to-date ridership was 0.5% below 2024 levels. August Passenger Fare Revenue increased by 1.1% compared to August 2024 and 31.2% above budget. Year-to-date, Passenger Fare Revenue is 8.2% below 2024 levels. September receipts for Sales & Use Tax were 6.3% higher than September 2024. Year-to-date, Sales Tax is 3.6% higher than 2024. The average monthly investment yield, year-to-date, is 4.09%, \$25 million has been transferred to the General Fund from the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

General Manager's Report – India L. Birdsong Terry, General Manager, Chief Executive Officer

Thank you to Talent Acquisition for the update on where we are. The partnerships and events are worth the time and effort. Northeast Ohio Chapter of WTS, an organization advancing women in transportation, visited the East Portal Construction Project.

Tech Cred – Training grants were recently awarded about \$30,000 through the State of Ohio for training that is tech focused.

National Payroll week, acknowledgment and thank you to all of you who make sure we get paid.

APTA Transform Conference – an annual conference, this year it was held in Boston, MA. Several Board members and employees attended. Board members shared what they learned during the conference. Sherman Stewart won two American Public Transportation Foundation (APTA) scholarships, who is getting his PhD. He received the Ambassadorial Scholarship and Frontline Worker Scholarship. Mr. Stewart shared how winning these scholarships will help him and GCRTA.

Latinos in Cleveland highlighted specifically Ruben Morgan, Manager of Operational Analysis, honored by AM More Consulting.

La Distancia/The Distance, sculpture in front of Metro Health, created by Edna Soto. GM Terry also mentioned the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival features "Elevate the East video celebrating the mural by CBM.



President

Attest:   
Secretary-Treasurer