



Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

October 7, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members: Mayor Koomar, Mayor Gallo, Mr. Love, Mr. Sleasman

Not Present: Rev. Lucas

Staff/Other: Shawn Becker, Nick Biggar, India Birdsong Terry, Janet Burney, Floun'say Caver, Brent Charnigo, Nick Davidson, Maribeth Feke, Michael Fesler, George Fields, Bob Fleig, Joel Freilich, Anthony Garofoli, Rajan Gautam, Carl Kirkland, Jonathan Laule, Sheila Miller, Charles Morgan, Mike Schipper, Joe Shaffer, Wendy Talley, Dawn Tarka, Brian Temming, John Togher, Natoya Walker-Minor, Carolyn Young

Public: Loh, Brian Gibbons

I. Roll Call

Mr. Sleasman called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. with a roll call. A quorum was present.

II. RFP Procurement – a presentation of a competitive negotiated procurement for architect/engineer services to provide a design for the reconstruction of eight (8) stations along the Blue Line.

Brian Temming, Manager, Quality Assurance, stated that this project involves the reconstruction of eight (8) Blue Line stations which were rebuilt in the early 1980s and have reached the end of their useful lives. The primary objective of the project is to bring the stations into ADA compliance, and they will be designed to accommodate the new rail car fleet.

The project will focus on the eight (8) non-ADA compliant stations which are in a deteriorated condition.

Many of the same design elements of the Lee/Shaker Station on the Green Line will be the prototype for this project. The platforms will be replaced, new curb ramps and sidewalks will be added, and the existing parking lots will be repaved. Additionally, staff will evaluate switching the platforms to far-side stops. This option would allow trains to get through the intersection, so they are not stopped at lights. The original stations would remain open during construction.

Mini-high platforms will be constructed to provide access to the trains to attain ADA compliance. Additional project details include replacing all the crossings of track with new precast ADA crossings, new emergency call boxes, cameras and the installation of new lighting throughout the stations. New shelters, site furnishings and real-time signage will be provided as well. Shelters and signage will be salvaged from a Blue Line project to reinstall in the new stations.

The construction budget is \$15 million and is funded through the All-Station Accessibility Program (ASAP). This is the same grant that funds the construction of the East 79th Street Blue and Green Line Station currently under construction.

The design phase of the project is expected to continue through 2026, which will then be bid over the winter with construction expected to begin in Spring 2027. Construction will last about 15 months and align with the new light rail cars going into service.

Jonathan Laule, Program Contract Manager, Procurement, advised that the Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on June 30, 2025. Twenty-two (22) interested parties reviewed the solicitation. Three (3) firms proposed and were interviewed. The evaluation panel members for this project came from the Engineering Project Development Department, the Office of Management & Budget, Operations, Safety Department, Office of Business Development and Procurement.

The most technically qualified vendor for the project was Richard L. Bowen & Associates. This vendor has successfully completed projects for the GCRTA, among others. They are a multidisciplinary firm that has knowledgeable staff and a good understanding of this project's objectives.

Staff requests that the Committee recommend award to Richard L. Bowen & Associates, Incorporated for this project in amount not to exceed \$1,239,711.92.

Ms. Pacetti inquired why the far side stops were originally built that way. Mr. Schipper stated that the original Shaker line was built when cars were not widely available, and the transportation network was much different. The concept of far-side stops is a huge opportunity. GCRTA spends a lot of time coordinating with the City of Shaker Heights and the Shaker Heights Police Department with the block-out no left turn signs. Moving more of the stations to the far side would make those intersections much safer and allow some of the stations to stay open during construction.

Mr. Sleasman stated that trains picking up or dropping off passengers at a red light is frustrating. This would be a great opportunity to make some of the intersections less confusing for drivers and pedestrians.

Mr. Sleasman moved to advance the item to the Board and seconded by Ms. McPherson. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Love moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. McPherson. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.


Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer


Brent Charnigo
Board Administrator