



MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) will take place on **Tuesday, July 7, 2026**, in the Board Room of the Authority, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44113, for consideration of the listed items and such other items that may properly come before the Board and be acted upon. This meeting will be live streamed on GCRTA's Board Page www.RideRTA.com/board on the meeting date for staff and members of the public. Members of the public may attend in person.

The meeting package will be posted on GCRTA's website at (www.riderta.com/board), on GCRTA's Facebook page and GCRTA's Twitter page.

9:00 a.m. **Special Board Meeting**

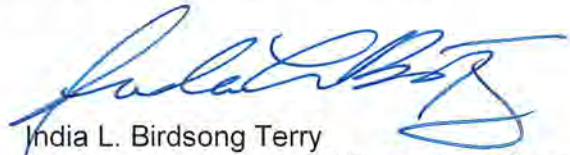
- Agenda attached.

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

- Agenda attached.

Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee

- Agenda attached.



India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer

IBT:bc
Attachment

Scan this QR code to access the meeting schedule, live streams and meeting materials.





AGENDA

GCRTA Special Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

9:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Certification Regarding Notice of Meeting
- IV. Discussion and vote regarding the following:

SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE AUTHORITY'S EXISTING ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES AND USE TAX FOR ALL TRANSIT PURPOSES SHALL BE INCREASED BY UP TO ONE-HALF PERCENT (0.5%) TO A TOTAL OF UP TO ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GENERAL REVENUE FOR THE AUTHORITY FOR A CONTINUING PERIOD OF TIME, FOR SPECIFIED ELECTION DATES IN 2026 OR 2027

- V. Adjournment



AGENDA

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Committee Members: Jeffrey W. Sleasman, Chair
Emily Garr Pacetti, Vice Chair
Mayor Marie Gallo
Emily Harper
Stephen M. Love

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2026

III. RFP Procurement - a competitive negotiated procurement for professional consulting services for safety and security certification of major rail projects.

Presenters:

- Joseph Shaffer, Director, Engineering & Project Dev.
- Jonathan Laule, Program Contract Manager, Procurement

IV. Cleveland Municipal School District - an Intergovernmental Student Transportation Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.

Presenter:

- John Togher, Accounting

V. 2027 Tax Budget Presentation

Presenters:

- Kay Sutula, Director, Office of Budget & Management
- Wendy Feinn, Budget Management Analyst

VI. Adjourn



MEETING MINUTES

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

June 2, 2026

Committee Members: Mr. Sleasman (Chair), Ms. Pacetti (Vice Chair), Mayor Gallo, Ms. Harper, Mr. Love

Also Present: Mayor Koomar, Ms. Elder, Ms. McPherson, Mayor Weiss

Staff/Other: Tom Allen, Shawn Becker, Nick Biggar, India Birdsong Terry, Muriel Bowen, Janet Burney, Floun'say Caver, Brent Charnigo, Jonathan Ciesla, Nick Davidson, Traci Ext, Maribeth Feke, George Fields, Bob Fleig, Joel Freilich, Anthony Garofoli, Rajan Gautam, Chief Deirdre Jones, Carl Kirkland, Jennifer Martin, Nicholas Miller, Sheila Miller, Charles Morgan, Jim Rusnov, Mike Schipper, Joe Shaffer, Kay Sutula, Wendy Talley

Public: 6

I. Roll Call

Mr. Sleasman called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. with roll call. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2026

Ms. Pacetti moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Love seconded. The motion carried.

III. IFB Procurement – a competitive negotiated procurement for the replacement and installation of five bus wash lanes at Hayden Garage (two wash lanes) and Triskett Garage (three wash lanes).

Norbert Reynolds, Resident Engineer II, Track, stated that this procurement will replace an aging bus wash system. The new wash system will have heavy-duty steel components that are corrosion and wear resistant. The high-volume throughput will clean a forty (40) foot bus in approximately forty (40) seconds. The water reclamation system can reduce freshwater usage by up to 98%. Stationary equipment also removes the possibility of human error.

The Hayden system will be replaced first, followed by Triket.

Jenn Martin, Program Contract Manager, Procurement, stated that the RFP was issued on February 2, 2026, and accessed by 14 interested parties. Staff requests that the Committee recommend the Board to award a contract to Ross & White, Inc. for the Hayden and Triskett Garage Bus Wash System Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$2,825,000.

CEO Terry stated that this investment is another example of technology upgrades and capital investments to provide a better product for customers.

Dr. Caver, Chief Operating Officer, explained that GCRTA buses are the first thing people see on the streets and a clean bus makes a good impression. The current bus washing system has been in operation for 30 years, working 365 days per year. The new system will utilize modern technology

that will result in a cleaner, more visually appealing vehicle. The additional time savings will be a game changer for staff.

Ms. Pacetti moved to advance the item to the Board of Trustees and seconded by Mr. Love. The motion carried.

IV. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Pacetti moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Gallo. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer

Brent Charnigo
Board Administrator



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

Interoffice Memo

To: Mayor Paul A. Koomar, President
and Members, Board of Trustees

From: India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer 

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Project 20.65 Consultant Services for Safety and Security Certification
Rail Transit Projects IV
RFP Procurement

At the July 7, 2026, Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting, staff will provide an overview of the upcoming contract for Consultant Services for Safety and Security Certification of Rail Transit Projects IV. The presentation will include the scope of work and staff recommendation for the contract award.

The consultant will ensure that projects are designed and constructed to be operationally safe for passengers, employees, first responders, security personnel and the public. They will also ensure compliance with the GCRTA May 2007, and subsequent Safety and Security Certification Plans as well as FTA requirements.

The Summary of Proposed Award is attached.

Staff will request that the Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee recommend award of the contract to the full Board for approval at the July 21, 2026 Board meeting.

Please call me if you have any questions or require additional information prior to Tuesday's meeting.

IBT/JLS

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AWARD
Consultant Services for Safety and Security Certification of GCRTA Rail Transit Projects IV

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) sought the services of a professional consultant(s) to complete safety and security certification for GCRTA's major transit projects. Such certification will ensure the projects are operationally safe for passengers, employees, emergency responders and the public, and will comply with the GCRTA Safety and Security Certification Plan adopted in May 2007, and all applicable additions.

PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW:

The Request for Proposal for Consultant Services for Safety and Security Certification of GCRTA Rail Transit Projects IV was issued on April 27, 2026. The necessary legal notice was published in the Plain Dealer and Call & Post newspapers. The Request for Proposal was also published on the GCRTA Procurement website.

The Request for Proposal was accessed and/or downloaded from the website by fourteen (14) interested parties. Four (4) proposals were received on May 28, 2026, as shown below:

PROPOSALS (4):

K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc.*
US Rail Systems*
DSS+*
Transit Safety and Security Solutions, Inc.*

CONFIDENTIAL

* Denotes shortlisted firms

A panel of Authority employees, including representatives from the following departments: Engineering and Project Development; Office of Management and Budget; Safety Department; Procurement; and the Office of Business Development performed an evaluation of the proposals using the following Evaluation Criteria:

- Project Manager
- Assigned Staff
- Past Performance
- Project Approach
- Location of Majority of Work
- DBE Participation

This process was conducted in accordance with established Procurement Department Policies and Procedures. The evaluation panel interviewed all four (4) firms. It was determined that the proposal of K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc. was most advantageous to the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION:

K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc. was founded in 2002 and maintains a thirty-one-person survey group. It is a professional services firm located in Cantonment, Florida specializing in safety and security services.

The strengths of K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc. include:

- Qualified staff
- Familiar with GCRTA safety and security program
- Quality deliverables on past projects

As a result of the USDOT Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register and made effective October 3, 2025, DBE goal setting has been suspended on Authority projects until further notice.

CLIENT BASE:

During the past five (5) years, K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc. has successfully completed projects for the Greater Cleveland RTA, WMATA, PRITA, and SEPTA among others.

A resolution will request authorization to issue a contract to K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc. to conduct safety and security consulting services of GCRTA's rail transit projects in an amount not-to-exceed \$650,000.



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

Interoffice Memo

To: Mayor Paul A. Koomar, President
and Members, Board of Trustees

From: India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer 

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Intergovernmental Student Transportation Agreement – CMSD Student Fares

At the July 7, 2026, Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee meeting, staff will present a summary of the Intergovernmental Student Transportation Agreement with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for the 2026-2027 school year.

Staff will request that the Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee recommend this agreement to the full Board for approval at the July 21, 2026 Board meeting.

Please call me if you have any questions or require additional information prior to Tuesday's meeting.



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

Interoffice Memo

To: Mayor Paul A. Koomar, President
and Members, Board of Trustees

From: India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: **Proposed FY 2027 TAX BUDGET**

On Tuesday, July 7, 2026, staff will present the Proposed Fiscal Year ("FY") 2027 Tax Budget to the Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee, which will include the Fund Statements with the explanations and financial assumptions used in the development of the Tax Budget.

The FY 2027 Tax Budget is the first of two legislative steps to establish the financial plan for the upcoming fiscal year. To provide an opportunity for the public to comment, a public hearing will also be held on July 7, 2026, in the Board Room of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

The development of a tax budget requires an early review and analysis of the Authority's projected revenues and expenditures. It provides the initial framework for the next budget cycle and begins the process for formally adopting the FY 2027 budget appropriations. The primary emphasis of a tax budget is to identify expected revenues for the next fiscal year and defines anticipated expenses in very broad terms.

The Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee will be requested to recommend the FY 2027 Tax Budget to the full Board for discussion and approval at the July 21, 2026, RTA Board Meeting. Once the Tax Budget is adopted, it will be filed with the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission.

KMS
Attachment



AGENDA

Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Committee Members: Emily Garr Pacetti, Chair
Mayor Marie Gallo
Stephen M. Love
Deidre Y. McPherson
Jeffrey W. Sleasman

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2026

III. IFB Procurement – a competitive procurement to purchase a production/switch tamper.

Presenters:

- James Burke, Vehicle Engineer I
- Jonathan Laule, Program Contract Manager

IV. RFP Procurement – a competitive negotiated procurement for community and customer surveys for a period of three years with two, one-year options.

Presenters:

- Nick Biggar, Sr. Director, Customer Experience & Performance Management
- Natoya Walker-Minor, Deputy General Manager, Administration & External Affairs
- Scott Lawson, Contract Administrator II

V. Adjourn



MEETING MINUTES

Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee

June 2, 2026

Committee Members: Ms. Pacetti (Chair), Mayor Gallo, Ms. Harper, Mr. Sleasman

Also Present: Mayor Koomar, Ms. Elder, Mr. Love, Ms. McPherson, Mayor Weiss

Staff/Other: Tom Allen, Shawn Becker, Nick Biggar, India Birdsong Terry, Muriel Bowen, Janet Burney, Floun'say Caver, Brent Charnigo, Jonathan Ciesla, Nick Davidson, Traci Ext, Maribeth Feke, George Fields, Bob Fleig, Joel Freilich, Anthony Garofoli, Rajan Gautam, Chief Deirdre Jones, Carl Kirkland, Jennifer Martin, Nicholas Miller, Sheila Miller, Charles Morgan, Jim Rusnov, Mike Schipper, Joe Shaffer, Kay Sutula, Wendy Talley

Public: 6

I. Roll Call

Ms. Pacetti called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. with roll call. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2026

Mr. Sleasman moved and Ms. McPherson seconded to approve the minutes; the motion carried.

III. RFP Procurement – a competitive negotiated procurement for the furnishing of natural gas supply requirements for the Authority's facilities and CNG buses for a period of three years with two, one-year options.

Tom Allen, Energy Manager, stated that the Authority utilizes natural gas to fuel CNG coaches and heat facilities and water. Staff manufactures CNG on-site at Hayden and Triskett, so this is a portion of the overall CNG cost. It also includes the utility cost of natural gas and electricity for stations.

The contract is anticipated to begin in August 2027 with a base term of three years and two one-year options. Annual natural gas consumption is expected to exceed 500,000 MCF, driven largely by the continued transition of the fleet to CNG. The fleet is currently approximately 85% CNG, with full conversion expected by 2028.

Cost comparisons indicate that CNG remains significantly less expensive than diesel, with recent figures showing CNG at approximately \$1.17 per gallon equivalent compared to nearly \$4.00 per gallon for diesel in April 2026.

Mr. Allen outlined two pricing structures included in the procurement: fixed pricing, which offers budget certainty, and basis pricing, which combines a partially fixed component with market-based pricing to provide flexibility. Due to ongoing volatility in energy markets, vendors are only able to hold pricing for short periods.

Jenn Martin, Program Contract Manager, stated that The RFP was issued on March 23, 2026, and was accessed by eleven (11) interested parties. She advised that vendors may hold their pricing for an exceptionally short window and the vendor and exact pricing will be determined on June 15, which is the day prior to the next Board Meeting.

Mayor Koomar stated that a length of at least three years as a based in the contract was a good strategy.

Discussion among Committee members emphasized the importance of balancing price stability with flexibility in a volatile market, as well as the anticipated increase in demand for natural gas due to its expanded use in electricity generation.

Mr. Allen highlighted GCRTA's ability to produce its own compressed natural gas at its facilities, which contributes significantly to cost savings and operational efficiency.

IV. RFP Procurement – a competitive negotiated procurement for a new learning and employee management system.

Jonathan Ciesla, Project Resource Manager, stated that the current system, Oracle EBS, is limited to tracking training records and lacks the functionality required to support modern training delivery, reporting, and workforce development needs. Additionally, there is no centralized system for employee performance management, and existing processes rely heavily on manual tools such as spreadsheets and documents.

The proposed solution integrates learning and performance management into a single system, allowing for improved training delivery, compliance tracking, onboarding, and employee development. The system will support learning plans, microlearning modules, policy distribution, and documentation storage, while also strengthening audit and investigation capabilities, particularly for safety and regulatory matters such as OSHA and ODOT requirements. Staff noted that the system will enhance workforce development and align with organizational performance metrics.

Rosalind Robinson, Contract Administrator II, stated that the RFP was issued on March 30, 2025, and was accessed by fifteen (15) interested parties. Six (6) proposals were received.

Staff requests that the Committee recommend the Board of Trustees to award a contract to eSkillz Corporation for providing a learning management and employee performance management system in an amount not to exceed \$472,717.94 for the base three years, and in an amount not to exceed \$120,742.92 for option year one and not to exceed \$126,176.33. Cents for option year two, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$719,637.19.

The selected vendor will provide implementation infrastructure, while internal staff will support ongoing administration following deployment. The contract also includes provisions for continued vendor support during the option years.

Committee members expressed support for the investment, noting that it represents an important step toward modernizing systems and improving organizational effectiveness.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before this Committee, Mr. Sleasman moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Harper. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer

Brent Charnigo
Board Administrator



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

Interoffice Memo

To: Mayor Paul A. Koomar, President
and Members, Board of Trustees

From: India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer 

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Procurement of a Tamper – IFB Procurement, 2026-071

This is an Invitation for Bid procurement to award a contract to a qualified firm to provide the Authority with a new tamper. This work equipment will replace our almost thirty year old equipment which is utilized to perform maintenance along the rail right-of-way.

At the July 7, 2026, Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee meeting, staff will make a presentation on the scope of work, background, procurement process and recommendation for contract award. Attached is the summary for this contract award. Staff will be requesting that the Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee recommend the award of this contract at the July 21, 2026 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Please call me if you have any questions or require additional information prior to Tuesday's meeting.

IBT/SB

SUMMARY OF AWARD
Procurement of a Production/Switch Tamper

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Authority has the need to purchase a new tamper. The current tamper is one of the primary pieces of equipment used by Power & Way utilized to maintain the track. The current equipment was purchased in 1997, and has served GCRTA well, but it will not fit the reduced platform clearance after the new railcars are in service.

PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW:

The Invitation for Bid ("IFB") for the Procurement of a Tamper was issued on May 18, 2026. The necessary legal notice was published in the Plain Dealer and Call & Post newspapers. The Invitation for Bid was also published on the GCRTA Procurement website.

The Invitation for Bid ("IFB") was accessed and/or downloaded from the website by three (3) interested parties. Two bids were received and opened on June 30, 2026. The responsive bids were as follows:

Company Name	Total Base Bid
Harsco Metro Rail, LLC	\$1,950,000.00
Plasser American Corp.	\$2,145,774.46

The Basis of Award is the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder for the Total Base Bid price. Harsco Metro Rail, LLC was determined to be a responsive bidder.

RECOMMENDATION:

Harsco Metro Rail, LLC provides expert engineering, innovative technology, dedicated parts and services, and quality maintenance from nine main locations in the US, UK, Germany, India, Brazil, China, and Australia.

A resolution will request authorization to issue a contract to Harsco Metro Rail, LLC for the Procurement of a Production/Switch Tamper in an amount not to exceed \$1,950,000. This bid is 18.38% below the estimate of \$2,389,173.



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

Interoffice Memo

To: Mayor Paul A. Koomar, President
and Members, Board of Trustees

From: India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer 

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Survey Services – RFP Procurement, 2026-011

This is a Request for Proposal procurement to award a contract to a qualified firm to provide the Authority with survey services for a period of three years with two, one-year options. These surveys will help the authority assess customer satisfaction, community value, and employee engagement.

At the July 7, 2026, Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee meeting, staff will make a presentation on the scope of work, background, procurement process and recommendation for contract award. Attached is the summary for this contract award. Staff will be requesting that the Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee recommend the award of this contract at the July 21, 2026 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Please call me if you have any questions or require additional information prior to Tuesday's meeting.

IBT/SB

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AWARD

Survey Services

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Authority is seeking the services of professional surveying firms that specialize in developing, administering, collecting, and analyzing surveys and survey data. The Authority will administer four (4) quarterly Customer Satisfaction surveys, one (1) annual Community Value survey, and one (1) annual Employee Engagement survey. The customer survey evaluates customer satisfaction on each Authority transit mode: Fixed Route Bus, Rail, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and Paratransit. The community survey canvases Cuyahoga County, the Authority's service area, to obtain data from the community related to perceptions of the Authority's performance and value. Survey analyses will result in updating scorecards, creating report metrics, and documenting performance. This work will continue the Authority's culture of ownership, continuous improvement, and performance management by identifying and tracking measurable goals and success outcomes.

PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW:

The Request for Proposal was issued on February 23, 2026. The necessary legal notice was published in the Plain Dealer and Call & Post newspapers. The Request for Proposal was also published on the GCRTA Procurement website.

The Request for Proposal was accessed and/or downloaded from the website by forty-two (42) interested parties for this solicitation. Four (4) proposals were received on April 2, 2026, as shown below:

PROPOSERS: (4)

Rwazi, Inc.*
ETC Institute*
TransPro Consulting, LLC.*
Marcova, Inc.

CONFIDENTIAL

*denotes shortlisted firms

A panel of Authority employees, including representatives from the following departments: Administration and External Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Training & Employee Development, Customer Experience & Performance Management, Management Information Services and Procurement performed an evaluation of the proposals using the following Evaluation Criteria:

- Experience
- Completion of Proposal
- Technology
- Cost

This process was in accordance with established Procurement Department Policies and Procedures. The evaluation team reviewed the proposals and invited three (3) proposers to participate in the interview process to clarify aspects of their proposal. A Best and Final Offer was requested from each of the three (3) shortlisted proposers. After negotiations, an award to ETC Institute was deemed to be in the most advantageous to the Authority, cost and all other factors considered.

RECOMMENDATION:

ETC Institute has 40 years of experience in survey development, execution, data collection, analysis, and reporting for transit agencies, state departments of transportation, and metropolitan organizations. Within the previous five years, ETC Institute has successfully exhibited the following experience:

- Completed more than 60 customer satisfaction and non-rider survey engagements for transit agencies
- Administered more than 300,000 transit-specific customer service surveys
- Senior-level personnel will lead the day-to-day management of survey tasks
- Use of tablet technology and dashboards enables field supervisors to review surveys and monitor data quality in real-time to ensure the completeness and usability of each survey
- In addition to static reports and databases, data visualization dashboards will be provided, which will give the Authority the ability to interactively review the data
- Industry leader in survey oversight techniques and the collection methods required to ensure proper sampling
- Maintains a Cleveland presence and has surveyed more than 25,000 people in the Cleveland Metropolitan area during the previous 15 years as part of multiple projects conducted for the Ohio Department of Transportation

There is no DBE goal established for this project.

ETC Institute successfully provided the Authority's on-board origin-destination passenger surveys for the period of 2022-2025. Other clients include: Capital Area Transit System, Los Angeles Metro, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Miami-Dade Transit, Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority, and Kansas City Area Transportation Authority.

A resolution will request authorization to issue a contract to ETC Institute to provide survey services in an amount not to exceed \$658,122 for the base three years, and an option year amount not to exceed \$219,374 for each of two option years, resulting in a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,096,870 for a five-year period.