

General Manager, CEO Report

India L. Birdsong Terry

August 18, 2026

NAACP Cleveland Branch 114th Annual Freedom Fund

July 25, 2026 | Huntington Convention Center



- Special event that honors those who have served and continue to serve the community
- Attended by civil rights activists, clergy, business and civic leaders, neighbors and friends.
- Keynote speech provided by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III
- GCRTA Board of Trustees and staff were in attendance

Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) 55th Annual National Meeting & Training Conference

July 25-28, 2026 | Washington D.C.



- Conference theme: “Rooted in Legacy, Driving the Future of Transportation”
- The annual conference brings together industry leaders across all modes of transportation for four days of learning, training, and networking
- GCRTA Transportation Manager, and COMTO Cleveland President, Daveda Bencs, and Business Development Director, and COMTO Cleveland 1st Vice President, Carl Kirkland attended

American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF) Annual Scholarship Selection Meeting

July 28, 2026 | Washington D.C.



- Over \$300,000 in scholarship funds were awarded to students and professionals aspiring to advance their career in the transit industry
- GCRTA General Manager and CEO India L. Birdsong Terry attended, as APTF Chair (2026-2027)

Siemens Mobility Inc. Visit

July 27, 2026 | Sacramento, CA

- Special visit to take part in a First Article Inspection (FAI) of the new railcar
 - FAI is a production validation process for verifying that a new or modified production process produces conforming parts

General Manager and CEO India L. Birdsong Terry, Deputy General Manager Operations, Dr. Floun'say Caver and GCRTA Railcar Replacement Program members participated

- Delivery of first new car expected fall 2026



Public Hearings on Proposed Service Reductions

August 10, 11 & 12, 2026 | Board Room

- Attended by community residents, GCRTA Board members, Community Advisory Committee members, and GCRTA employees
- Most concerns voiced during the hearings were about the #35 Lee Blvd.-East 123 route discontinuation and the weekday frequency reductions
- Comment period remains open until August 24
 - To submit a comment use: <https://www.riderta.com/riders-alerts/proposed-service-reductions-202608>
- Media coverage received from local TV, radio, print and online platforms



Summer Shutdown



- E. 79 St – Hillside Station
- Trunk Line Fiber Optic Cable
- Trunk Line Single Bungalow Foundations
- Shaker Substation Wall Repairs
- Concrete Repairs at Tower City
- Light Rail Retaining Wall Repairs
- Warrensville – Van Aken Station



Reverend Dr. Charles P. Lucas Jr.

Plaque Dedication



August 10, 2026 | Shaker Square Station

- Special day to honor the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Charles P. Lucas Jr.
- Guests included Lucas family and friends, GCRTA Board Members and Staff, and special local dignitaries

Rajan D. Gautam

Deputy General Manager – Finance | Secretary Treasurer



Dedicated more than 40 years to finance, accounting, auditing, and public service. Since joining GCRTA in 2013, Raj has strengthened the organization's financial operations through strategic leadership, enhanced internal controls, and a commitment to developing high-performing teams. Prior to GCRTA, Raj spent nearly 29 years as a CPA Partner serving nonprofit, governmental, and private-sector organizations. Raj's legacy is defined by integrity and collaboration.

Noted Accomplishment: Shaped GCRTA's future through his leadership on the historic Railcar Replacement Project, leaving a lasting impact for generations of riders and financial stewardship.

Raj, we wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and well-deserved retirement.