

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2022
4:00 P.M. – 3131 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING, MI 48912
(FORMER SEARS BUILDING)

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Dusty Fancher, Vice Chair
Shanna Draheim, Secretary/Treasurer
John Prush
Derek Melot
Doug Lecato
Mark Grebner
Robin Lewis

CALL TO ORDER:

Nathan Triplett, Chair called meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ABSENT: Jack Schmitt

LATE: Phil Deschaine and Jennie Gies

ROLL CALL: Shanna Draheim, Dusty Fancher, Mark Grebner, Doug Lecato, Robin Lewis, Derek Melot, John Prush and Nathan Triplett were all present.

Chair Triplett welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. He also mentioned that the meeting is being offered on Zoom for those who wish to view the Board meeting virtually.

Jennie Gies arrived at 4:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Deb Parrish commented on the amount of time that CATA and the Union have been without a contract. She also expressed her appreciation for the mask mandate being lifted.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

MOTION:

Jennie Gies motioned to excuse Jack Schmitt and Dusty Fancher supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mask Update

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Monday, April 18, 2022, a U.S. District judge in Florida overturned the mask mandate set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In reply, the White House stated that they would not oppose the verdict and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) would no longer enforce the mask mandate on public transportation. Mr. Funkhouser noted that throughout the pandemic, CATA has followed both the TSA and CDC regulations. Due to the mask mandate being lifted, CATA will no longer enforce wearing masks; instead, CATA will recommend wearing masks on public transit. CATA's Human Resources Department posted and issued a memo last night to all employees about the mask mandate being lifted.

Job Fair

Bradley Funkhouser reported that yesterday, April 19, CATA hosted their third job fair. CATA received 114 applications for the positions of operators, customer experience representatives, utility, and mechanics. Mr. Funkhouser acknowledged the job fair's success and confirmed that CATA will continue to have regular job fairs in the future.

MSU Ridership

Bradley Funkhouser stated he has been in constant communication with Board member John Prush from MSU since the release of the last bid board. Mr. Funkhouser noted that CATA has added two (2) buses to the MSU bus routes. He also explained that CATA has been able to maintain service levels and has noticed that there is an increase in ridership when the weather is rainy or cold and a decrease in service when the weather is warmer. CATA will continue to monitor service to MSU and plan accordingly.

Dr. Sally Ride

Bradley Funkhouser shared a second coin in the American Women Quarters Program. Dr. Sally Ride was a physicist, educator and the youngest, first American female astronaut. Dr. Sally Ride had a Ph.D. in astrophysics and her research was focused on the interaction of X-rays and the radiation of interstellar medium. She was also known to be an avid tennis player and was friends with tennis pro Billie Jean King. Unfortunately, at the age of 61, Dr. Sally Ride lost her battle with pancreatic cancer and passed away on July 23, 2012.

Shanna Draheim inquired about promoting the job fair.

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing and Customer Experience.

Lolo Robison stated that the job fair was promoted on CATA's website, social media, print, radio, billboards and a postcard mailer to marginalized population/neighborhoods.

Shanna Draheim inquired whether CATA has received any feedback on MSU ridership.

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Board member John Prush.

John Prush stated that overall, MSU has received very positive feedback from their riders. There has been some concern over Route 32.

Bradley Funkhouser informed the Board that early on CATA created a feedback outlet for riders with Mr. Prush's office at MSU.

Robin Lewis inquired about CATA's status with the Lansing School District.

Bradley Funkhouser reported that CATA provided a large amount of bus passes to the Lansing School District and although, CATA could not alter any routes, we have worked closely to provide service for those in need.

Robin Lewis inquired whether CATA would share the applicants they received from the job fair with other transit agencies.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that details are being discussed and once CATA is able to process through all the applicants and hire enough drivers, we will look to assist other transit agencies as well.

Robin Lewis inquired about the incentives being offered to new hires.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the incentive money that new hires will receive will be paid out in stages. He then deferred to Marshea Brown, Director of Human Resources for more details.

Marshea Brown, Director of Human Resources reported that new operators hired will receive a \$2,500 sign-on bonus in three (3) stages. The first payout of \$500 will be paid after successful completion of a 90 working day probation, \$500 after their sixth month anniversary and a final payout of \$1,500 following their one (1) year anniversary.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2022, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

C. ANNUAL REPORT TO GOVERNING BODIES OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF CATA

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the Fiscal 2021 Annual Report and directs staff to distribute it to the governing bodies of all participating members of CATA.

MOTION:

Robin Lewis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Dusty Fancher supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS - DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. CATA ZERO-EMISSION FLEET TRANSITION BY 2035

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the zero-emission fleet initiative and authorizes the Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, or his designee to implement the zero-emission fleet initiative to bring CATA's entire fleet of revenue and non-revenue service vehicles to zero-emission by 2035 in order to lower greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize CATA's operation.

MOTION:

Dusty Fancher motioned to approve Discussion Item A, CATA ZERO-EMISSION FLEET TRANSITION BY 2035 and Shanna Draheim supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Policy Committee Chair Dusty Fancher stated that the Policy Committee met this month to discuss transitioning CATA's fleet over to zero-emissions. At the Policy Committee meeting, the committee decided that the language was broad enough to give CATA some flexibility as technology improves while offering a realistic timeline. Policy Committee Chair Fancher explained that this proposed motion will not be voted on as a new policy but rather as a recommendation from the Policy Committee. Policy Committee Chair Fancher noted that the Policy Committee offered their unanimous support for the proposed motion.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that this is a very historic moment in time. CATA has had their consultants review the proposed timeline. Mr. Funkhouser noted that transitioning CATA's fleet will not be instant. The process will take time and that the technology for batteries needs to improve. CATA was required and has already submitted their Electrification Plan. The Electrification Plan was necessary in order to apply for the Bus Facility Grants Program and the Low or No Emission Grant Program. Creating a fleet plan that aligns with FTA's regulations will allow CATA to apply for future grant funding opportunities. Mr. Funkhouser also shared that CATA has already been awarded grants to purchase up to three (3) 40-foot electric buses as well as

one (1) 40-foot electric autonomous bus grant from the State of Michigan.

Mark Grebner stated that CATA will eventually save money in the maintenance department.

Bradley Funkhouser noted that there is a lot of opportunities out there for public transit.

Doug Lecato inquired about the infrastructure associated with transitioning the fleet to zero-emissions.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that charging stations will be installed. He also stated that CATA will inform the Board throughout the transitioning process.

Jennie Gies inquired about the proposed motion being the first action item passed.

Bradley Funkhouser noted that CATA will have a new order of buses coming in at the end of the year. CATA will also work with the Operations Department to improve efficiencies. The Infrastructure Bill that passed presents a lot of opportunities for public transit and CATA will forward soon.

Dusty Fancher explained that during the Policy Committee meeting, it was agreed that CATA will provide regular updates at the Board meetings.

Chair Triplett further explained that the updates will take place about every six (6) months at the Board meetings. He also thanked the Policy Committee for their recommendation and Mr. Funkhouser, consultants and staff for the feasibility study. Chair Triplett closed with emphasizing the importance of making sure that CATA does not miss out on any current opportunities.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

B. POLICY NO. 200 – PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING – SECOND
READING

PROPOSED MOTION: That proposed revised Policy No. 200 – Purchasing and Contracting, be accepted for the second reading and adopted in accordance with Policy No. 402, Formulation of Policies and Administrative Procedures.

MOTION:

Dusty Fancher motioned to approve Discussion Item B, POLICY NO. 200 – PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING – SECOND READING and Doug Lecato supported the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

C. POLICY NO. 204 – DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE - SECOND READING

PROPOSED MOTION: That proposed revised Policy No. 204 – Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, be accepted for the second reading and adopted in accordance with Policy No. 402, Formulation of Policies and Administrative Procedures.

MOTION:

Doug Lecato motioned to approve Discussion Item C, POLICY NO. 204 – DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE – SECOND READING and Robin Lewis supported the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mark Grebner stated that he supports the current administration. He also commented on CATA providing service to Delta Township and how the township can raise funds to expand their public transit system.

Phil Deschaine arrived at 4:31 p.m.

Deb Parrish commented on a public speaker at the March Board meeting. She also inquired about the number of new operators that have stayed and received hiring incentive pay.

Dave Ellis inquired about CATA's reasoning behind transitioning their fleet to zero-emissions. Mr. Ellis shared his opinion on battery electric buses and hydrogen electric buses. He also shared his views of saving money for CATA by increasing frequency with later bus trips and more routes in general along with considering in-motion-charging buses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING UNION LABOR AGREEMENT

PROPOSED MOTION: That this Board meeting go into closed session, pursuant to MCL 15.268(c), for a strategy session in connection with negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement with the Union, ATU, Division 1039, and that following such closed session, this Board meeting return to open session for completion of the Agenda.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Shanna Draheim and supported by Robin Lewis to approve going into closed session, pursuant to MCL 15.268(c), for a strategy session in connection with negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement with the Union, ATU, Division 1039, and that following such closed session, this Board meeting return to open session for completion of the Agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Phil Deschaine, Shanna Draheim, Dusty Fancher, Jennie Gies, Mark Grebner, Doug Lecato, Robin Lewis, Derek Melot, John Prush and Nathan Triplett were all present.

Jack Schmitt was absent.

The Executive Session began at 4:45 p.m. and adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was no further business Chair Triplett adjourned meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanna Draheim
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary