

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025
4:00 P.M. – DISABILITY NETWORK CAPITAL AREA
901 EAST MOUNT HOPE AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48910

PRESENT: Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair
Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Grebner
Derek Melot
Kellie Blackwell
John Prush
Chelsea Dowler
Steve Vagnozzi

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Draheim, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Kellie Blackwell, Phil Deschaine, Chelsea Dowler, Shanna Draheim, Mark Grebner, Derek Melot, John Prush, and Steve Vagnozzi were all present.

ABSENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair, Keith Barber, Ed Rodgers, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans

Vice Chair Draheim, welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. She also mentioned that the meeting is usually held on Zoom for those who wish to view the Board meeting virtually; however, due to a service outage, Zoom is not available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Daniel Black expressed his appreciation for the acoustics and the door being fixed at the Disability Network Capital Area (DNCAP). Mr. Black requested that operators have consistency when loading scooters onto a bus with and without ramps. He also offered to participate in operator training.

VICE CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Draheim, requested a motion to excuse Nathan Triplett, Ed Rodgers, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to excuse Nathan Triplett, Ed Rodgers, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans. Kellie Blackwell supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Bradley Funkhouser reminded attendees that CATA's Board meetings are recorded by Zoom so that the public can view meetings virtually.

Downtown Parking

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has been working with the mayor's office to create on-street, bus only parking on Lenawee Street.

New City Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the new city hall groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 23. He noted that representatives from CATA will be in attendance.

Downtown Facility

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's master planning is underway for the former Greyhound building. He noted that Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has been invited to participate in the new development. More to come.

Electric Vehicle Grant

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the \$1 million community grant that CATA was awarded for a new electric bus has been retracted. Mr. Funkhouser explained that Senator Slotkin's office sent an email stating that new funding is being made available, and CATA will be able to reapply. He also noted that CATA does have two (2) battery-electric buses on order, one (1) from New Flyer and one (1) from Gillig, and the Gillig bus will be arriving sometime in June.

Phil Deschaine inquired about the price difference between electric and hybrid buses.

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, for details.

Andrew Brieschke stated that for the 40-foot hybrids from New Flyer, the base price is between \$850,000 and \$900,000, and with accessories and options it is approximately \$1.032 million. A 40-foot battery-electric has a base price of approximately \$1 million and with options it is \$1.3 million. He noted that charging stations are an additional cost of approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 which does not include the construction cost of bringing power to the facility.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 2025, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 2025, CLOSED SESSION

C. TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025

1. Interim Income Statement
2. Cash Summary
3. Investments
4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

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

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report and directs staff to distribute it to the governing bodies of all participating members of CATA.

E. MDOT MASTER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AND PROJECT AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

PROPOSED MOTION: Staff recommends that the Board approve the Resolutions set forth below.

MASTER AGREEMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Transportation Authority ("CATA") has the authority to contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for state and/or federal funds for passenger transportation related services; and,

WHEREAS, CATA does hereby approve Master Agreement Amendment No. 2022-0027 A1 (the "Agreement").

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Chief Executive Officer of CATA be authorized and directed to execute the Agreement for, and on behalf of CATA.

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, this resolution shall also approve execution of project authorizations for any programs designated by CATA and/or project authorizations for any amount determined by CATA with the Michigan Department of Transportation which are issued under Master Agreement No. 2022-0027 A1.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Chief Executive Officer of CATA, or his or her designee, are authorized to enter into and execute on behalf of CATA all such project authorizations with the Michigan Department of Transportation for passenger transportation related services for the Agreement period.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Kellie Blackwell supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT - POLICY NO. 402 FORMULATION OF BOARD POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES - FIRST READING

PROPOSED MOTION: That proposed revised Policy No. 402 – Formulation of Board Policies and Administrative Procedures, be accepted for the first reading in accordance with existing Policy No. 402, Formulation of Policies and Administrative Procedures.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to accept Discussion Item A, Policy No. 402 - Formulation of Board Policies and Administrative Procedures, first reading and Chelsea Dowler supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chair and Policy Committee Chair Draheim stated that the Policy Committee met on Friday, April 4, to discuss revisions proposed for Policy No. 402. She noted that the change is centered around having one (1) reading instead of two (2) readings. She further noted that the Policy Committee agreed, thus she is recommending that the Board accept the first reading of Policy No. 402.

Steve Vagnozzi requested confirmation on whether this revision eliminates a second reading.

Vice Chair Draheim confirmed that the main revision will be to eliminate a second reading.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS - POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE ON POLICY NO. 205 – DISPLAY OF ITEMS ON CATA PROPERTY AND VEHICLES

Vice Chair and Policy Committee Chair Draheim stated that the Policy Committee met on Friday, April 4, to discuss Policy No. 205. She explained that due to FTA regulations pertaining to advertising on buses, the Policy Committee decided not to revise this policy. She then deferred to Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing and Public Information, for more details.

Lolo Robison stated that the Policy Committee reviewed transit agencies having exclusions compared to no exclusions along with comparing generated revenue. She explained that after reviewing the data and being informed on FTA regulations related to marijuana, gambling and tobacco advertising, it was determined that the possible revenue was not substantial enough to change the policy.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that the Policy Committee will continue to meet every other month through the end of the year to update a number of CATA policies. He explained that it was necessary to bring Policy No. 203 first, before bringing the rest of the policies for the Board to consider.

Vice Chair Draheim, thanked Ms. Robison for her report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annescia Dillard stated that she is a transit enthusiast. She has worked as a CATA Ambassador and encourages others to use CATA's services. Ms. Dillard requested that CATA allow public comments to be made via Zoom. She also expressed her appreciation for CATA's website outlining where the Board meetings will take place and what routes may be used to attend.

Daniel Black expressed his appreciation for Board members using their microphones. He reiterated that operators need to be more consistent and compliant with CATA's procedures. Mr. Black inquired whether operators had a flip chart that they could use so they would know what to do in certain situations that may occur. He also commented on operators being able to listen to their own music out loud while passengers are not allowed to.

Steve Vagnozzi stated that he has some ridership data that he would like to share. He reported that in February there were approximately 1.1 million rides, which is equivalent to approximately three (3) rides for every person in the service area. Year-to-date, ridership has increased to 8.2% in fiscal year 2024 with an actual number of an additional 350,000 rides. Mr. Vagnozzi stated that these figures represent the critical service that CATA is providing to the area, and they should be very proud.

Laura Breese expressed her appreciation for CATA's service. She also commented on Transdev and how operators are not always asking passengers if they want a seatbelt. She stated that she has been in three (3) accidents and expressed her belief that all passengers should be wearing a seatbelt.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chair Draheim adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary