

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022
4:00 P.M. – 3131 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING, MI 48912
(FORMER SEARS BUILDING)

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Dusty Fancher, Vice Chair
Jennie Gies
Mark Grebner
Robin Lewis
Dion'trae Hayes
John Prush
Phil Deschaine
Derek Melot

CALL TO ORDER:

Nathan Triplett, Chair called meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

ABSENT: Shanna Draheim, Secretary/Treasurer, Doug Lecato and Jack Schmitt

ROLL CALL: Phil Deschaine, Dusty Fancher, Dion'trae Hayes, Jennie Gies, Mark Grebner, Robin Lewis, Derek Melot, John Prush and Nathan Triplett were all present.

Shanna Draheim, Doug Lecato and Jack Schmitt were absent.

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

Chair Triplett requested a moment of silence to remember two (2) community leaders Dr. Joan Jackson-Johnson, City of Lansing and Ron Styka, Supervisor from Meridian Township who recently passed away.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Deb Parrish commented on the money CATA has spent for police protection down at the CTC and at the monthly Board meetings. She also inquired about the contract between CATA and the ATU and the issues separating the two (2) sides.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

MOTION:

Robin Lewis motioned to excuse Shanna Draheim, Doug Lecato and Jack Schmitt, and Dion'trae Hayes supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Bradley Funkhouser offered his condolences to the families of Dr. Joan Jackson-Johnson and Ron Styka.

Black History Month

Bradley Funkhouser shared his love for coin collecting by bringing each Board member a US Mint 2022 quarter. He explained that the quarter is one (1) of five (5) coins created honoring a diverse group of American women that have made significant contributions throughout history. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the first coin features Maya Angelou, who is also the first African American woman to be featured on the US quarters. Maya Angelou was an author, poet and civil rights activist who became famous with the publication of the groundbreaking poem, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." She was also a guest speaker at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton where she recited her poem. Mr. Funkhouser asked that we continue to share his story with others.

New Operators

Bradley Funkhouser stated that a class of eight (8) new operators started this past Monday, February 14, 2022 and another class will soon follow. Mr. Funkhouser expressed his enthusiasm for the new class and hiring more operators.

PASS App

Bradley Funkhouser informed the Board that the long-awaited PASS App has been approved by Apple. He also stated that the PASS App was tested by the LAC and will be ready to go live by the end of the month. Users will be able to schedule trips through their mobile device and the PASS App will be offered in both English and Spanish.

ATU

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he has been meeting regularly with Steve Soliz, Union President, Local 1039, to discuss and solve CATA's operator issues including ways to increase overtime. The meetings have proven to be successful and will continue as needed.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2022, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2022, BOARD RETREAT
- C. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2021
 1. Interim Income Statement
 2. Cash Summary
 3. Investments
 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

D. SYSTEMWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE SERVICE

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair Nathan Triplett and Chief Executive Officer Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve payment by CATA to the City of Lansing Police Department of \$80,000 to ensure a continued police presence and support at the CATA Transportation Center; Board, public and internal meetings; aboard buses; and throughout the system within its jurisdiction year for approximately one (1) year.

Jennie Gies requested that Action Item D be moved to discussion.

MOTION:

Robin Lewis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with ACTION ITEM D, SYSTEMWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE SERVICE moved to discussion and Dusty Fancher supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS - DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. SYSTEMWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE SERVICE

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair Nathan Triplett and Chief Executive Officer Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve payment by CATA to the City of Lansing Police Department of \$80,000 to ensure a continued police presence and support at the CATA Transportation Center; Board, public and internal meetings; aboard buses; and throughout the system within its jurisdiction year for approximately one (1) year.

MOTION:

Jennie Gies motioned to approve Discussion Item A, SYSTEMWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE SERVICE and Robin Lewis supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Jennie Gies inquired about whether the dollar amount for police services was the same as previous years.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that the dollar amount for police services was the same as past years. Mr. Funkhouser also recognized Officer VandeVoorde, who was present at the February Board meeting, and thanked him for his service.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Board Retreat Presentations

SERVICE OPTIONS: Kai Christiansen, Service Planning and Scheduling Manager, reported on the service options for FY 2022. Mr. Christiansen presented a diagram for proposed service alteration for Route 12. He also shared the flexibility in service options to include optimizing system productivity, maximize system coverage, reduce frequency and/or the span of service and alter routing in areas with low productivity.

Mark Grebner commented on frequency reductions to CATA's service.

Kai Christiansen stated that reducing service at different levels on fixed routes is difficult to do without excluding certain populations.

Mark Grebner suggested that CATA provide 20-minute base service to certain routes such as Route 1 or Route 26 and then adjust as needed. He also inquired whether Delta Township will be funding any of the Route 12 expansion into their township.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has met with various businesses in Delta Township. He also mentioned that he met with Ken Fletcher, Supervisor of Delta Charter Township and confirmed that Delta Township plans to be more involved in the expansion of Route 12.

Mark Grebner stated that CATA has survived the pandemic and now needs to start implementing changes to allow for TNCs and providing better service at less expense.

Derek Melot echoed Mark Grebner's remarks.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that one of CATA's biggest challenges was providing service to Delta's Redi-Ride. There were a lot of Lansing residents working in Delta Township who needed transportation. With the new businesses coming to Delta Township, Mr. Funkhouser expects the need for transportation to increase. CATA will be ready to comply and when it's time to provide better service, Delta Township will need to invest.

Derek Melot expressed that timing is critical and securing an agreement with these new companies will be more flexible now than down the road.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has met with Amazon's real estate company and LEAP. He also referenced a demand-response study that was done in Arkansas. This study is based on how transit agencies can provide better service to their riders. CATA will not only need to provide a fixed Route to Delta Township but an on-demand service as well.

Robin Lewis inquired about the start date for the holiday service pilot.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that the start date for the holiday service pilot will be in the fall.

Robin Lewis expressed her appreciation for Mr. Funkhouser's hard work. She also stated that she likes that CATA will provide service to Delta Township riders first and then as demand and expenses increase, Delta Township will need to step in and do their part.

Phil Deschaine appreciated Mark Grebner and Derek Melot's comments. He also stated that Meridian pays almost 5 mills. He suggested that CATA set a three (3) month trial period before collecting payment from other counties and new businesses that will be using CATA's service.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he doesn't want to repeat history. Instead, Mr. Funkhouser proposed that CATA present a proposal that will meet the needs of both entities. He also confirmed that CATA will not use millage money to put service outside of this area.

Mark Grebner stated that CATA may have to use millage money at first. He also proposed collecting double fares as we have done in the past.

Chair Triplett explained that the difference between now and then is that Mr. Funkhouser is working with Delta Township so that the service benefits both sides. He also commended Mr. Funkhouser for his work with the three (3) counties and promoting regional coordination.

Mark Grebner proposed that CATA form a contract with Delta Township.

Bradley Funkhouser made a point to confirm with the Board and the public that he plans to have CATA providing increased levels of service by this fall.

FINANCIAL PLANNING/PROJECTIONS: Jim Frenndt, Director of Finance reported on the department's accomplishments including a new accounting system which will be implemented on April 1, 2022, CATA's annual financial audit and the financials which will be presented at the March 2022 Board meeting. Mr. Frenndt reported that CATA did have one audit finding.

Jim Frenndt presented financial charts to compare historical performances compared over the last five (5) years.

Jim Frenndt stated that property taxes are estimated to increase to 2.5%-3% and federal and state revenues are estimated to increase by 2% through 2025.

Salaries and wages are projected to be between 3% and 3.5%, fringe benefits up by 7.5% and fuel expenses up by 3%. Some other expenses include increased inflation for 2023 then tapering off to 3% in 2024.

Jim Frenndt also stated that due to the stimulus money that CATA was awarded, CATA's revenue will continue to increase until the funds are depleted in 2025.

Mark Grebner stated that an expected 2.5% -3% increase in property taxes seems low.

Phil Deschaine stated that he believes that property taxes may increase closer to 5% in 2023.

Bradley Funkhouser thanked everyone for their patience. He also stated that he will work with Mr. Frenndt so that a 4% increase is factored into CATA's operating budget with the intent that CATA will be back to operating at full service soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Deb Parrish spoke as a Spec-Tran rider and shared a personal story. She then commented on the current service and the need for improvement.

Alex Gabbard commented on MSU's service restrictions and whether CATA is able to provide full Spartan Service. He also stated that he heard a rumor that it was MSU and not CATA that issued the request for reduce service.

David Ellis expressed his opinion that it is odd not to have better service to the multimodal center especially when it is a train station. He also commented on the fact that Delta Township doesn't pay for the service that CATA provides for them.

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 Jennie Gies 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: The motion was supported by Phil Deschaine, Dusty Fancher, Dion'trae Hayes, Jennie Gies, Mark Grebner, Robin Lewis, Derek Melot, John Prush and Nathan Triplett.

Shanna Draheim, Doug Lecato and Jack Schmitt were absent.

The Executive Session began at 5:11 p.m. and adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was no further business Chair Triplett adjourned meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanna Draheim
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary