

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
4:00 P.M. – LANSING CENTER GOVERNOR'S ROOM
333 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48933

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair
Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Grebner
Ed Rodgers
Chelsea Dowler
Eric Tans
Jack Schmitt
John Prush

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Triplett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Phil Deschaine, Chelsea Dowler, Shanna Draheim, Mark Grebner, John Prush, Ed Rodgers, Eric Tans, and Nathan Triplett were all present.

ABSENT: Kellie Blackwell, Derek Melot, and Steven Vagnozzi

LATE: Jack Schmitt

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

Jack Schmitt arrived at 4:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Kellie Blackwell, Derek Melot, and Steven Vagnozzi.

MOTION:

Phil Deschaine motioned to excuse Kellie Blackwell, Derek Melot, and Steven Vagnozzi. Chelsea Dowler supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Rosa Parks Bus and Transit Equity Day

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, CATA launched the Rosa Parks bus at the Transit Equity Day. He explained that the bus is like a traveling museum and is gaining a lot of attention now that it is in service. Mr. Funkhouser shared that CATA has received requests from Lansing City Hall and East Lansing High School asking that the bus be parked outside their buildings to share with the community.

Renovating the Former Greyhound Building

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has put a packet together and will be reaching out to local representatives requesting additional funding for renovation of the Greyhound building. Mr. Funkhouser shared that a potential partner, which has not been announced, is included in the design and will share office space alongside CATA.

Solar Presentation

Bradley Funkhouser stated that with a full agenda for February, the solar presentation has been moved to the March Board meeting.

40-Foot Electric Bus

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, CATA will receive its second, 40-foot electric bus from New Flyer. He explained that once the bus is inspected and cleared by maintenance, it will go into service.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2026, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2026, BOARD RETREAT
- C. TREASURER’S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2025
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation
- D. REAPPOINTMENT TO LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Local Advisory Committee to appoint Darrin Fowler to a three-year term through February 2029.

E. CROSS-BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN CLINTON TRANSIT AND CATA

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a Cross-Boundary Agreement between Clinton Transit and CATA for a one (1) year term expiring January 27, 2027.

F. PURCHASE OF UP TO EIGHT (8), 40-FOOT HYBRID-ELECTRIC BUSES FROM NEW FLYER

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a purchase of eight (8), New Flyer model XDE40, hybrid-electric transit buses from New Flyer, a subsidiary of NFI Group, Inc., using our 5339c Low/No Emissions Grant award and supplemental federal and state grant funds, for a total purchase price not to exceed \$9,800,410 for the vehicles, training, and accessories, pending successful completion of necessary FTA Buy America audits and inspections on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

G. MAINTENANCE TOOLING AND EQUIPMENT FOR BATTERY-ELECTRIC 40-FOOT BUSES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute the purchase of necessary tooling and equipment to support maintenance activities of battery-electric, 40-foot transit buses, at a price not to exceed \$178,017 of remaining federal and state grant funds and local operating funds, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

Phil Deschaine requested that Action Item E be moved to discussion.

MOTION:

Shanna Draheim motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Action Item E, Cross-Boundary Agreement Between Clinton Transit and CATA, be moved to Discussion. Eric Tans supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM - DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. CROSS-BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN CLINTON TRANSIT AND CATA

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a Cross-Boundary Agreement between Clinton Transit and CATA for a one (1) year term expiring January 27, 2027.

MOTION:

Ed Rodgers motioned to approve Discussion Agenda Item A, Cross-Boundary Agreement between Clinton Transit and CATA, and Mark Grebner supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Phil Deschaine inquired whether the Agreement between Clinton Transit and CATA is a continuation of the past Agreement.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has not had an agreement with Clinton Transit since August 2024. He explained that Clinton Transit is going through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) certification process. Mr. Funkhouser commented on transportation services in the region and being able to provide transportation to all those in need.

Chelsea Dowler inquired whether there are any additional operational costs in the Agreement.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that there are no additional costs associated with the Agreement. He explained that Clinton Transit has not been reporting their trips in the urban area accurately and the state has been double paying for the same service. The goal is to better coordinate service within the region.

Mark Grebner commented on Clinton Transit and their reluctance to remove boundaries in order to provide seamless transportation to those in need. He expressed his opinion that someone should be able to call one number to book a ride. Mr. Grebner acknowledged CATA's efforts in leading by example and trying to work with Clinton Transit.

Chair Triplett agreed with Mr. Grebner's comments. He also stated that transportation should be about the rider's experience and not the system.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

B. POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – POLICY FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the proposed policy for Immigration Enforcement Activities be accepted in accordance with Policy No. 402, Formulation of Policies and Administrative Procedures.

MOTION:

Shanna Draheim motioned to approve Discussion Agenda Item B, Policy for Immigration Enforcement Activities, and Jack Schmitt supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Chelsea Dowler inquired whether legal counsel had reviewed the proposed policy.

Chair Triplett stated that legal counsel had reviewed the proposed policy. He also thanked the Policy Committee for their work in getting this item on the agenda.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION - CATA'S ROAD AHEAD - COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONS ANALYSIS (COA)

- Andrew Ittigson, Associate Vice President, AECOM
- Elias Fischer, AICP, Senior Transit Planner, AECOM
- Ann Marie Kerby, AICP, Senior Planning Manager, C2G

Dustin Hagfors, Director of Planning and Development, stated that he has been working with the team since October 2025. He then introduced speakers for the COA presentation.

Andrew Ittigson began presentation by starting with an overview of the COA and "CATA's Road Ahead".

Ann Marie Kerby continued presentation by going over public engagement.

Elias Fischer concluded presentation by explaining "What's next."

Chair Triplett thanked speakers for their presentation.

Eric Tans suggested that they reach out to Lansing School District if they have not done so already.

John Prush inquired whether the speakers are familiar with the area.

Elias Fischer stated that he is from Detroit, Michigan.

Ann Marie Kerby stated that she went to Michigan State University.

Ed Rodgers inquired whether they have received any feedback from anyone about Route 13.

Ellias Fischer stated that they have not gone through all the survey responses yet, but they are asking riders which route they use and they will be looking at ridership for every route.

Phil Deschaine inquired about the process they are using for collecting the surveys.

Ellias Fischer stated that they are using the same process that CATA's Marketing Department has used with their surveys. He explained that they have also spoken to riders, operators, and stakeholders to gather information.

Shanna Draheim inquired about any feedback received related to CATA buses and bus stops.

Elias Fischer stated that the feedback they have received related to CATA's buses and bus stops has been about safety and comfort.

Chair Triplett inquired about other ways that they have reached out to riders that do not go online.

Ellias Fischer stated that they spent four (4) hours at MSU and CATA's Transportation Center (CTC) where they handed out paper surveys that the public could bring back to the center as well as submit online.

Chair Triplett inquired about how Board members could obtain more information.

Dustin Hagfors stated that Board members could contact him if they would like more information.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he wanted the Board to be updated at the February Board meeting on the COA rather than waiting until spring, especially since it ties into CATA's budget.

Chair Triplett thanked speakers for their presentation.

Bradley Funkhouser also thanked speakers for their presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS- BUDGET DISCUSSION

Bradley Funkhouser stated that at the January Board meeting members requested more budget scenarios to consider. He deferred to Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, for details.

Andrew Brieschke presented the Board with four (4) options for consideration. He also thanked Jim Frendt, Director of Finance; Kai Christiansen, Service Planning and Scheduling Manager; Todd Brooks, Director of Operations; and Craig Frazier, Paratransit Manager for their assistance.

Chair Triplett inquired about the feedback that would be most efficient.

Andrew Brieschke stated that there is a lot of information to process. He noted that his presentation did not simply show cost reductions but outlined projections for where CATA needs to be both next year and future years. Mr. Brieschke explained that canceling routes has effects on other routes. He further noted that routes are not independent and everything is connected.

Shanna Draheim inquired whether Transdev would provide protection operators if they were contracted to provide all Spec-Tran trips.

Andrew Brieschke stated that Transdev likely would have protection operators; however, that is something that would need to be negotiated if they were awarded all Spec-Tran trips.

Phil Deschaine stated that it would help to know the number of riders that would be impacted by service cuts. Mr. Deschaine also stated that he would be against CATA contracting all Spec-Tran services out to Transdev but would consider scaling back on service depending on savings. He noted that Meridian residents love CATA's Redi-Ride and appreciate the level of service that they receive.

Eric Tans stated that he would also like to see data related to the number of riders that would be impacted by service cuts. He also inquired whether CATA would receive any pushback from the union if all Spec-Tran service was contracted out to a third party.

Andrew Brieschke stated that CATA's union is very proud of this work and they would be against all Spec-Tran service being contracted to a third party. He explained that although not every operator wants to drive a large bus, they are all trained to be able to drive both small and large buses.

Discussion ensued over budget options and providing alternate forms of transportation to riders.

Chair Triplett noted that the Board will hear more as the COA continues.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA will look more closely at ridership impacts, revenue, and budget issues and report back at next month's Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Soliz, ATU President, Local 1039, stated that he believes that CATA needs to maximize the assets they have in order to continue to provide the best service to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned the Board meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary