

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 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
Steven Vagnozzi
Derek Melot
Eric Tans
Kellie Blackwell
John Prush

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL: Kellie Blackwell, Phil Deschaine, Shanna Draheim, Mark Grebner, Derek Melot, John Prush, Eric Tans, Nathan Triplett, and Steven Vagnozzi were all present.

ABSENT: Ed Rodgers and Jack Schmitt

LATE: Chelsea Dowler

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Jack Schmitt.

MOTION:

Shanna Draheim motioned to excuse Jack Schmitt and Kellie Blackwell supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Pay Your Way

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Friday, January 9, 2026, CATA launched its new *Pay Your Way* campaign to inform riders of the many ways to pay fares including cash and contactless forms of payment. Mr. Funkhouser noted that many riders are already using it and CATA will be a track ridership.

2026 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day of Celebration

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Monday, January 19, 2026, CATA participated in celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Lansing Center. He explained that CATA coordinated with the MLK Commission of Mid-Michigan to have the Rosa Parks bus parked out front of the event to honor and recognize Rosa Parks' birthday and Transit Equity Day, which is on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Mr. Funkhouser stated that CATA also coordinated with The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan, where the original Rosa Parks bus has been preserved and is currently on display. He noted that operator Karen Williams suggested that the bus have an outlined silhouette of Rosa Park being placed in the window.

State Funding

Bradley Funkhouser stated that there has been a lot of back and forth with additional funding for transportation from the state. He explained that CATA received \$5 million in grant money for the purchase and renovation of CATA's downtown facility located at 511 S. Washington. Further, Mr. Funkhouser explained that CATA has so far drawn \$1.5 million and has decided to do less renovation in order to move into the building sooner rather than later. More details to come.

Solar Power

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the Board had requested to have solar panels installed at both CATA buildings. He noted that a consultant will be present at the February Board meeting to give an update.

Listening Bus

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, CATA issued a press release regarding *CATA's 2026 Listening Bus* sessions. Mr. Funkhouser explained that the program gives riders a way to share their feedback while traveling on the bus.

Shanna Draheim inquired about whether anyone interested in participating in the Listening Bus program should sign up beforehand or just attend scheduled sessions.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that anyone interested can choose which way they prefer to participate.

Mark Grebner inquired about CATA's Rosa Parks bus.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's Rosa Parks bus was designed and wrapped to resemble the original vehicle. He then deferred to Brandie Yates, Interim Director of Marketing, for further details.

Brandie Yates confirmed that CATA worked with The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan, to replicate the original bus which has been preserved and is currently on display at the museum. She noted that the bus also includes a fact board of the civil rights movement and Rosa Parks' birth, life and legacy.

Chair Triplett stated that for those that have not yet seen the bus, the silhouette of Ms. Parks in the window creates a very nice visual for everyone to see.

Steve Vagnozzi expressed his excitement at CATA's creative choice in acknowledging Rosa Parks. He also stated that he has seen the original bus at the museum and can confirm that the colors match the CATA Rosa Parks bus.

Phil Deschaine echoed Mr. Vagnozzi's remarks. He also inquired whether CATA was absorbing the credit card fees associated with the "Pay Your Way" program.

Jim Frenndt confirmed that CATA is absorbing credit card fees.

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Ed Rodgers.

MOTION:

Mark Grebner motioned to excuse Ed Rodgers and Phil Deschaine supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025, CLOSED SESSION MEETING
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2025, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2025, CLOSED SESSION MEETING
- E. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation
- F. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

G. PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) SMALL BUSES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a purchase from the State of Michigan (MDOT) Small Bus Contract for five (5) cutaway-style, small buses in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, pending successful completion of necessary Buy America audits, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Kellie Blackwell moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Steve Vagnozzi supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM - DISCUSSION AGENDA

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned the Board meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary