

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021
4:00 P.M. – 3131 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING, MI 48912
(FORMER SEARS BUILDING)

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Dusty Fancher, Vice Chair
Jennie Gies
Doug Lecato
Mark Grebner
John Prush
Phil Deschaine
Dion'trae Hayes
Robin Lewis
Jack Schmitt

CALL TO ORDER:

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

LATE: Dion'trae Hayes

ABSENT: Shanna Draheim and Derek Melot

ROLL CALL: All present, Shanna Draheim and Derek Melot were absent.

Chair Triplett welcomed everyone back to meeting in person and thanked the staff for working out the details at the new location. He also mentioned that the meeting is being offered on Zoom for those that wish to view the Board meeting virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chair Triplett thanked everyone involved in the recent press release for Route 18 especially Vice Chair, Dusty Fancher who not only spoke at the event but has been a driving force behind making this route come to fruition.

MOTION:

Dusty Fancher motioned to excuse Shanna Draheim and Derek Melot and Jennie Gies supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Triplett stated that under CATA's policy, in July 2021, the Board is required to appoint a Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating members who wish to serve as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. Chair Triplett announced that three (3) board members have graciously agreed to serve in this capacity with Derek Melot chairing the committee along with Jack Schmitt and Robin Lewis.

MOTION:

A motion to approve the appointment of Derek Melot, Jack Schmitt and Robin Lewis to serve as the Nominating Committee in the upcoming year with Derek Melot chairing the committee was moved by Dusty Fancher and supported by Doug Lecato.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Bradley Funkhouser welcomed everyone back in person while recognizing the fragile situation that COVID-19 had presented.

Route 18

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA is looking at the comments recorded from several public meetings. He also recognized Chair Triplett and Vice Chair, Dusty Fancher as being the driving force behind Route 18. This route is a prime example of how CATA is spending their money and will continue invest into projects to expand service.

Ridership

Bradley Funkhouser reported that ridership has been very steady over the past month bringing in about 8,000 rides per day. Mr. Funkhouser stated that once MSU students are back, he anticipates that ridership will improve.

Safety and Mask Mandate

The federal mask mandate is still in place for public transportation and CATA drivers have had a couple irritable riders. This situation is not only a local concern but a nationwide problem as well.

Jennie Gies inquired about the upset customers having to wear a mask.

Bradley Funkhouser replied that CATA operators have come across a few upset customers refusing to wear a mask. In fact, there was an assault a couple weeks ago on a driver. Having to work through COVID-19, CATA has become a more careful, cleaner and a safer place to work. Mr. Funkhouser stated that we will continue to work with the Safety Committee to implement these new additions, however; the operators are still working in a dangerous environment which we all hope will improve soon.

Doug Lecato referenced an APTA report which stated that safety among operators continues to be a struggle all over the world.

Meetings

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he had a great meeting with John Prush, Deputy Director at MSU Police Department and Luis Garcia, Director of Migrant Student Services and Co-Chair of DEI at MSU. There were a lot of great ideas that emerged from the meeting and CATA will continue to work with Mr. Garcia to help bridge the gap for new migrant families in the area. Mr. Funkhouser also reported that Marshea Brown, Director of Human Resources and Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing and

Customer Experience will be coordinating with MSU's Migrant Student Service representatives on future projects.

In another meeting, Bradley Funkhouser met with Dr. Rodriguez, and Guillermo Lopez, Lansing School District (LSD) Board member who introduced him to the new Superintendent, Ben Schuldiner. Their conversation included how to carry over the same partnership from MSU to the local school districts.

Lastly, Bradley Funkhouser met with Nicole Noll-Williams, Director of Capital Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) to discuss regional coordination, not only with other transit agencies, but with airports and intercounty travel. Mr. Funkhouser stated he is very excited to see the next phase of CATA.

Mark Grebner inquired about the new Board meeting location.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that a Board member recommended the former Sears building as an alternate location. This building works out exceptionally well. It is centrally located and accessible by fixed route. Mr. Funkhouser also reported that CATA has used this location for a job fair, public meetings and as a training center for the new operators.

Mark Grebner inquired about the cost of having the Board meetings at this new location.

Bradley Funkhouser referred to Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing and Customer Experience for the details.

Lolo Robison stated that, at this time, there is no cost to CATA for using this location.

Mark Grebner inquired about others being able to reserve space in the former Sears building.

Bradley Funkhouser reported that the space is not only for CATA and that others may inquire as well.

Mark Grebner inquired about Route 18 through MSU.

Bradley Funkhouser replied that Route 18 goes to MSU campus, meets Route 1 and travels back to the train station. It is a one-way loop that is very quick.

Dusty Fancher reported that she was amazed at how quick Route 18 goes from Colonial Village to the train station. The trip took approximately 15 minutes.

Doug Lecato inquired about coordinating with the other transit agencies.

Bradley Funkhouser replied that CATA and the other transit agencies have been meeting every two (2) weeks. There is an upcoming meeting with Board Chairs from

the other transit authorities to discuss greater coordination. There will also be talks on moving some CMAQ money and repurposing it for other endeavors. More information to come at the next Board meeting in August.

Doug Lecato inquired about having the transit agency representatives back for another meeting.

Bradley Funkhouser endorsed the idea of having the transit agencies meet again in person.

Chair Triplett stated that there have been conversations to get the other transit agencies and their Boards to all come together for a combined meeting.

Phil Deschaine explained that Meridian Township now has fulltime security guards present at their meetings. He also expressed the importance of having their employees and attendees feel safe. Mr. Deschaine also inquired about plans to increase ridership.

Bradley Funkhouser replied that there will be more details on increasing ridership at the next Board meeting in August. He also predicted that it will be a long time before ridership will increase due to ongoing COVID-19 fears.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2021, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2021
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation
- C. RESOLUTION OF THE CATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors adopts the Resolution of the CATA Board of Directors set forth below:

RESOLUTION OF THE CATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, CATA did not hold a regular Board of Directors Meeting in April 2020 and began holding virtual monthly meetings in May 2020; and

WHEREAS, the CATA Board of Directors elected to provide for safe public meetings that included procedures for virtual meetings of the public body, which included access for public participation at virtual meetings; and

WHEREAS, the virtual public meetings complied with the mandates of emergency orders issued to control the spread of COVID-19 by Governor Whitmer, MDHHS, and Mayor Schor; and

WHEREAS, the Open Meetings Act (OMA) was amended to allow a public body to hold virtual meetings for a period of time and in certain circumstances, including during a local declared state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the state of emergency declarations have now ended, and each Board Member is choosing to ratify their vote on every action taken during the period of time when meetings were held virtually.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CATA Board of Directors hereby ratifies *nunc pro tunc* each and every action and vote taken by the Board, without any change in an individual Board member's vote, at all Board meetings between May 20, 2020 and June 21, 2021.

MOTION:

Robin Lewis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Dion'trae Hayes supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bradley Funkhouser reported that CATA received over 160 applications and training has already started for approximately 22 new hires. Some of the new trainees already have a CDL while others are in the process of obtaining their commercial license. CATA included various incentives to recruit new hires and for the first time, new operators will have the option to start out as full-time employees.

Jennie Gies inquired about existing part-time employees being offered full-time positions.

Bradley Funkhouser clarified that the offer was given to existing part-time workers first in addition to recruiting new operators.

Robin Lewis inquired about the new operator training.

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

Andrew Brieschke stated that the training for the new operators takes approximately six (6) weeks depending on whether or not they have already obtained their CDL.

Dion'trae Hayes inquired about the diversity among the new hires.

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Marshea Brown, Director of Human Resources for the details.

Marshea Brown stated that the class is very diverse and there is a total of 15 in this class with nine (9) males and six (6) females all between 20-50 years old. She will send the Board a more detailed list following the Board meeting.

Robin Lewis inquired about the new operators being recognized.

Bradley Funkhouser reported that the new operators will be recognized at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING UNION LABOR AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATIONS**

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:

Dusty Fancher motioned to go into closed session and Robin Lewis supported the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business Chair Triplett adjourned meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanna Draheim
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary