

AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING via ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021; 4:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Nathan Triplett, Chair  
Dusty Fancher, Vice Chair  
Shanna Draheim, Secretary/Treasurer  
Dion'trae Hayes  
Mark Grebner  
Robin Lewis  
John Prush  
Jennie Gies  
Derek Melot  
Doug Lecato  
Jack Schmitt

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Nathan Triplett, Chair called meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**ABSENT:** Phil Deschaine

**ROLL CALL:** All present, Phil Deschaine was absent.

Chair Triplett instructed all participants on the Zoom meeting format in accordance with the authority of Public Act 254, 2020.

**CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

***Correspondence to the Board***

Chair Triplett stated that there were several emails sent to the Board.

***Public Comments***

Deb Parrish thanked the Board for letting her speak and expressed her disapproval of the unmasked riders pictured on CATA's Facebook page. She wondered whether anyone has been screening CATA's social media outlets.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:**

Chair Triplett confirmed that masks are still required on all CATA buses.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Mask Update**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA will be issuing a mask update to all employees which will follow the CDC and ICHD guidelines. CATA is unique in that it is both a transportation provider as well as a major employer. Mr. Funkhouser reported that there will be no major changes to the mask update except for TSA guidelines which now state mechanics and operators who are working or driving a

single unoccupied vehicle are no longer required to wear a mask. CATA will review the mask update and guidelines again in another 30 days.

### **Regional Coordination**

Bradley Funkhouser recognized Chair Triplett's dual role as chairman of the Tri-County Board as well as the CATA Board. Mr. Funkhouser stated that Chair Triplett has been instrumental in having the transit authorities come together. The Tri-Counties are meeting on a regular basis and laying out some major goals which include improving the software used for communicating and scheduling. This will help improve regional-wide dispatch and regional ride sharing. Thus far, CATA has provided 1,500 free rides to vaccination sites. Mr. Funkhouser stated ridership is on the rise and he expects a busy fall with MSU students back in session and the new cross-town route (east-west connector) being added to CATA's schedule.

### **New Shelters**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA continues to partner with neighboring communities to build new shelters. He expressed his excitement to announce that CATA has added a new shelter at Hunter Park and Foster Park which are both located on Kalamazoo Street. CATA receives a great deal of positive feedback from the communities involved. The communities also tend to take care of the shelters more by having that personal connection. Mr. Funkhouser revealed that CATA plans to expand this program by adding capital money to the budget in order to fund more personalized shelters.

### **Hiring New Operators**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA will be hiring new operators this summer. CATA will be reaching out to various organizations in order to seek new employees, including those that perhaps never thought of being a driver or working for CATA in the past. Mr. Funkhouser mentioned his previous conversation with Luis Garcia, Director of MSU's Migrant Student Services. He believes conversations like the one with Mr. Garcia are a great way to reach out to community members and build bridges to promote CATA.

Doug Lecato expressed his enthusiasm for the new shelters.

### **PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2021, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2021
  - 1. Interim Income Statement
  - 2. Cash Summary
  - 3. Investments
  - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

### **MOTION:**

Doug Lecato motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Jennie Gies supported the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM - DISCUSSION AGENDA**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

- SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE/PRESENTATION

Matt Oudsema presented his update on CATA's Sustainability Plan.

Shanna Draheim thanked Matt and his team for their hard work and the goals CATA has set. She also inquired about the data related to COVID-19.

Matt Oudsema explained that to help with the COVID-19 data, CATA has turned in data from 2018 and 2019 to APTA in order to receive guidance moving forward.

Doug Lecato inquired about CATA's sustainability as it relates to the demand for increased workforce.

Matt Oudsema replied that he would include data related to the demand for increased workforce to the sustainability plan.

Bradley Funkhouser recognized Shanna Draheim's comments and her experience in sustainability. He also stated that CATA will find a way to centralize the Board's recommendations on the final plan.

Chair Triplett thanked everyone for their hard work on the sustainability plan.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deb Parrish commended Mr. Funkhouser on his accomplishments yet expressed her frustration over the ATU and CATA still not having a contract. She also stated that the shelter near her needs to be repaired and the location is not ideal. Ms. Parrish also referred to the emails sent to the Board.

**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 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanna Draheim  
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando  
Recording Secretary