

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024  
4:00 P.M. – DISABILITY NETWORK CAPITAL AREA  
901 EAST MOUNT HOPE AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48910

**PRESENT:** Nathan Triplett, Chair  
Doug Lecato  
Derek Melot  
John Prush

Mark Grebner  
Jack Schmitt  
Terrance Augustine

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Nathan Triplett, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Terrance Augustine, Mark Grebner, Doug Lecato, Derek Melot, John Prush, Jack Schmitt, and Nathan Triplett were all present.

**ABSENT:** Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair, and Maggie Sanders

**LATE:** Phil Deschaine Secretary/Treasurer

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:**

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Board members Shanna Draheim and Maggie Sanders.

**MOTION:**

Doug Lecato motioned to excuse Shanna Draheim and Maggie Sanders. Derek Melot supported the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Bradley Funkhouser congratulated Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing, Customer Experience, and Public Information Officer, who has been selected to join the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan.

### **New City Hall Downtown**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has been in discussions with Mayor Schor about the possibility of CATA being part of the plan to build a new city hall downtown on Lot 1. With this new partnership, CATA has revised their request from fifty million to five million. Mr. Funkhouser noted that CATA is focused on building a neighborhood and moving people between communities. He also extended his appreciation for Chair Triplett, Staff, and Steve Soliz, ATU President, Local 1039, for voicing their support.

### **Operators**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that with MSU students off and Spartan Service concluded for the summer, CATA will begin all-operator training (AOT) next week at CATA's space located on Long Boulevard. Some of the topics that will be covered are new safety procedures in the industry and concerns from the operators. Mr. Funkhouser expressed his appreciation to all those who take part in the training.

Phil Deschaine arrived at 4:06 p.m.

### **EATRAN's Grand Ledge Connector**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that EATRAN's Grand Ledge Connector ridership continues to grow. Mr. Funkhouser also noted that he has been discussing the future of EATRAN with its board members.

### **CATA's Millage**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA intends to bring the millage renewal election ballot language to the Board in July. Mr. Funkhouser explained that this will be one year ahead of the expiration date, yet he wants to make sure this is on the ballot.

Derek Melot inquired whether there is a timeline on the decision for the millage.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's proposal needs to be sent to the County Clerk's office approximately 30 days before November 5<sup>th</sup> to be placed on the ballot. He noted that CATA's millage numbers will not change.

Chair Triplett stated that the Board will be able to discuss this more at the July Board meeting.

### **Budget Update**

Bradley Funkhouser introduced Jim Frenedt, Director of Finance, for an update on CATA's budget.

Jim Frenedt updated the Board on budget items such as microtransit, increases in Spec-Tran service, and projections for OPEB.

Bradley Funkhouser thanked Mr. Frenedt for giving an update on CATA's budget.

Phil Deschaine inquired about the additional expenses.

Jim Frenedt stated that CATA's new projected revenue is approximately \$72 million, and the projected operating expenses are between \$69 million and \$72 million.

Jack Schmitt inquired whether CATA considers microtransit service as revenue or only as an expense.

Jim Frenndt stated that he considers microtransit somewhat as a revenue since CATA received funds for microtransit from MDOT.

Chair Triplett stated that he and Mr. Funkhouser have been very engaged in the LBO discussions, including at the legislative conference that took place last week.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA and ATU, Local 1039, have been working well together since the contract was settled in 2022. He then introduced Todd Brooks, Director of Operations, to give his report.

Todd Brooks gave his report on some of the accomplishments that CATA has been able to achieve with the help from ATU, including creating two (2) bid boards, providing a more desirable work schedule, and updating some of CATA's fixed-routes. He thanked Kai Christiansen, Service Planning and Scheduling Manager, and Marissa Morris, Operations Applications Administrator, for their hard work along with Steve Soliz, ATU President; Steve Clem, ATU Vice President; and Mike Beech, ATU Representative, for their assistance.

Jack Schmitt thanked Mr. Brooks for his report. He also inquired how this information compares to other transit agencies.

Todd Brooks stated that he is not quite sure how it compares to other transit agencies.

Doug Lecato inquired about CATA's rosters and the differences from previous years.

Todd Brooks stated that CATA has 139 full-time rosters. He also noted that the rosters change from year-to-year and at one point CATA had 145 full-time rosters.

Bradley Funkhouser thanked ATU and Staff for their hard work.

Chair Triplett also thanked ATU and Staff for their hard work. He also expressed that it was nice to receive feedback from ATU.

Doug Lecato inquired about split-shifts.

Todd Brooks stated that they are always working on improving shifts and noted that currently, CATA has four (4) split-shifts.

Chair Triplett welcomed Steve Soliz, ATU President, Local 1039, to speak.

Steve Soliz stated that he is very proud of the achievements that CATA and ATU have been able to achieve. He noted that there is a big difference now from three (3) years ago and believes CATA is headed in the right direction.

**ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 2024, BOARD MEETING
- B. TREASURER’S REPORT FOR MARCH 2024
  - 1. Interim Income Statement
  - 2. Cash Summary
  - 3. Investments
  - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation
- C. CATA AND EATRAN VENDING SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT

**PROPOSED MOTION:** That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a contract with Continental Cafes, LLC, for vending services and management for a pilot period of one (1) year, plus the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional two-year extensions on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

**MOTION:**

Jack Schmitt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Doug Lecato supported the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM – PROPOSED DISCUSSION AGENDA**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nicole Jackson shared some instances where she felt she was mistreated by CATA operators and staff. She also expressed her opinion that her service dog has been discriminated against by operators and staff because of its breed.

Chair Triplett thanked Ms. Jackson for her comments and acknowledged that Staff has already reached out to her and will continue to follow up.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Triplett adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Phil Deschaine  
Secretary/Treasurer



Tina Orlando  
Recording Secretary