

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
4:00 P.M. – LANSING CENTER GOVERNOR'S ROOM
333 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48933

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Derek Melot
Mark Grebner
Jack Schmitt
John Prush
Doug Lecato

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

ABSENT: Terrance Augustine, Maggie Sanders and Eric Tans

LATE: Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair, and Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer

Shanna Draheim and Phil Deschaine arrived at 4:01 p.m.

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 COMMENTS:

Daniel Black stated how much he appreciates CATA's service. He requested that Board members speak close to their microphones so that he can better hear their comments. Mr. Black also commented on Board attendance from the September Special Board meeting that took place last week and noted that there were a few more members present today. He encouraged CATA to think before scheduling special Board meetings in the future so that others may have enough time to attend and vote.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Maggie Sanders and Eric Tans.

MOTION:

Doug Lecato motioned to excuse Maggie Sanders and Eric Tans. Shanna Draheim supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Triplett announced the awards for outgoing Board members including Phyllis Vaughn, Meridian Township; Dusty Fancher, City of Lansing; Jennie Gies, City of Lansing; and Doug Lecato, Delhi Township. Members were recognized for their service to CATA.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Contactless Fare Payment

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's launch date for Phase I of contactless fare payment is scheduled for October 14, 2024. He explained that riders will be able to download the app and upload passes to their mobile devices. Phase II will begin sometime in January 2025, and riders will be able to add value to their account. Phase III will follow and vending machines will be available.

Route 3 Extension, Charlotte Connector, and Grand Ledge Connector

Bradley Funkhouser stated that ridership for the Route 3 extension was over 5,000 trips last month. He noted that the Route 3 extension also receives riders from both the Charlotte connector and the Grand Ledge connector which are also very popular and well-served services. Mr. Funkhouser also stated that EATRAN is providing service to the new Amazon facility twice a day and ridership in Eaton County is becoming more well known and growing.

Purchase Agreement Update

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the purchase agreement for the old Greyhound station has been completed. Mr. Funkhouser also stated that earlier today he walked through the property and met with an architect. He also shared that an environmental survey and appraisal have both been scheduled.

Phil Deschain inquired whether CATA is on track for the microtransit project.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that CATA is on track for the microtransit project, and it will start in November 2024. He noted that microtransit will begin in the turnkey areas first and then Redi-Ride.

Doug Lecato inquired about the fares associated with microtransit.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA is still working out the details with the contractor.

Shanna Draheim expressed her excitement for contactless fare payment and requested that Board members be notified once the service begins.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing, Customer Experience and Public Information Officer, will let Board members know via email once contactless fare payment becomes operational.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2024, BOARD MEETING

B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2024

1. Interim Income Statement
2. Cash Summary
3. Investments
4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

C. CATA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FY 2025

PROPOSED MOTION: That the proposed CATA Board Meeting Schedule for FY 2025 be adopted as presented.

D. LEGAL COUNSEL RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approve the following law firms to represent CATA during FY 2025: Murphy & Spagnuolo, P.C.; Barnes & Thornburg, L.L.P.; Butzel Long, P.C.; and Fraser Trebilcock, P.C..

E. SYSTEMWIDE POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve payment by CATA to the City of Lansing Police Department, in the amount of \$68,850 for the period beginning October 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025; and \$23,640, for the period beginning July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025. The total FY 2025 cost of Systemwide Police and Public Safety Service is projected at \$92,490, which will ensure a continued police presence at the CATA Transportation Center, aboard buses; and throughout the CATA system within LPD's jurisdiction.

F. PURCHASE OF UP TO 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 up to five (5) cutaway-style, small buses in an amount not to exceed \$775,000, pending successful completion of necessary Buy America audits, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

G. CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute the expenditure of up to \$162,000 to Verizon and/or AT&T/FirstNet for cellular service and ancillaries during the FY 2025 budget period, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

H. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE A & E

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve a proposal to Progressive AE, Grand Rapids, MI, seeking architecture and engineering services related to the electric vehicle charging infrastructure architecture and engineering project, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

Chair Triplett stated that Derek Melot has requested that item D, be moved to discussion and Shanna Draheim has requested that item H, be moved to discussion.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Action Item D, Legal Counsel Recommendation, and Action Item H, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure A & E, moved to the Discussion Agenda. Shanna Draheim supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM - DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. LEGAL COUNSEL RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approve the following law firms to represent CATA during FY 2025: Murphy & Spagnuolo, P.C.; Barnes & Thornburg, L.L.P.; Butzel Long, P.C.; and Fraser Trebilcock, P.C..

Derek Melot requested more details about the service that each legal counsel provides for CATA.

Bradley Funkhouser gave more details on each legal counsel.

Mark Grebner inquired which legal counsel handled CATA's millage.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that Murphy & Spagnuolo, P.C. was comfortable in taking on CATA's millage proposal.

Chair Triplett informed the Board that this item is similar each year and follows CATA policy.

MOTION:

Mark Grebner motioned to approve Discussion Item A, Legal Counsel Recommendation, and Jack Schmitt supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

B. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE A & E

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve a proposal to Progressive AE, Grand Rapids, MI, seeking architecture and engineering services related to the electric vehicle charging infrastructure architecture and engineering project, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

Shanna Draheim requested more details regarding the infrastructure plans.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that this item is about CATA's infrastructure design for charging electric vehicles. He then deferred to Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, for further explanation.

Andrew Brieschke stated that this item is mainly to procure A & E services, through Progressive AE, to upgrade the infrastructure to CATA's Tranter bus storage facility; however, part of the scope also includes expanding at the CTC at a later date.

Shanna Draheim stated that she understands this procurement is mainly for charging CATA's electric vehicles, yet wondered whether this upgrade will include adding charging stations for employees to use.

Andrew Brieschke stated that it will include charging stations for employees in the future; however, the primary initial purpose is for the electric buses that CATA has on order.

Shanna Draheim expressed her love for the fast-charging stations and would like to see more of them in the urban areas. She also commented on the idea of sharing charging stations with other entities to help support local businesses.

Doug Lecato inquired about CATA's relationship with Consumers Energy and whether they will be included in CATA's plan.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that CATA's relationship with Consumers Energy will continue. He also noted that CATA plans to buy power directly from Lansing Board of Water and Light and is also looking at generating solar power.

Phil Deschaine inquired whether employees will be able to use the charging stations.

Andrew Brieschke confirmed that employees will eventually be able to use the charging stations; however, the initial scope of work will be for CATA's own fleet and then will expand to the parking areas.

Chair Triplett stated that in the near future, Staff will offer a presentation on zero-emissions that will include a broader and more comprehensive report

MOTION:

Shanna Draheim motioned to approve Discussion Item B, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure A & E, and Doug Lecato supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and elects the following Board members to the offices set opposite their names, effective October 1, 2024, for a one (1) year term expiring September 30, 2025, pursuant to Board Policy #400, Section 1.03:

Nathan Triplett - Chairperson
Shanna Draheim - Vice Chairperson
Phil Deschaine - Secretary/Treasurer

Derek Melot stated that the Nominating Committee has agreed to support the recommended Executive Officers.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Derek Melot and supported by Mark Grebner to approve the recommendation from the Nominating Committee for the election of Executive Officers as follows: Nathan Triplett, Chair; Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair; and Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer for the FY 2025.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Triplett thanked the Nominating Committee and the Board for allowing them to serve for another year.

Shanna Draheim echoed Chair Triplett's remarks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Black thanked the Board and Staff for their efforts to speak louder. He also thanked Chase Media for operating the soundboard as he was able to hear a lot better.

Doug Lecato stated that it has been an honor to serve on the CATA Board for the last 15 years. He also shared how he has seen a lot of changes over the years, especially in the last five years. Mr. Lecato expressed his appreciation for CATA and their dedication to making a difference, which he has tried to do the same.

Eduardo Gonzalez stated that he is excited for CATA's new electric buses to arrive from New Flyer and Gillig.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business Chair Triplett adjourned meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Phil Deschaine
Secretary/Treasurer



Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary