

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
4:00 P.M. – LANSING CENTER GOVERNOR'S ROOM
333 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48933

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Derek Melot
Mark Grebner
Kellie Blackwell
Phil Deschaine
John Prush
Steve Vagnozzi
Eric Tans
Ed Rodgers
Chelsea Dowler
Jack Schmitt

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL: Kellie Blackwell, Chelsea Dowler, Derek Melot, John Prush, Ed Rodgers, Eric Tans, Nathan Triplett, and Steve Vagnozzi were all present.

ABSENT: Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair, and Keith Barber

LATE: Mark Grebner, Phil Deschaine and Jack Schmitt

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

Mark Grebner arrived at 4:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Daniel Black reminded Board members to speak into their microphone. He also invited the public to attend CATA Board meetings.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Shanna Draheim.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to excuse Shanna Draheim and Chelsea Dowler supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Fall Service

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's fall service with MSU and local schools has started and is running smoothly. He also stated that CATA's football shuttle service with MSU is up and running.

Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Monday, September 15, he attended the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee meeting along with CATA Board Chair, Nathan Triplett and EATRAN Board Chair, Mary Clark. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inform the chamber about Delta Township's transit millage in hopes of gaining their support for the millage and regional coordination.

Phil Deschaine and Jack Schmitt arrived at 4:04 p.m.

State Budget

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he has no news to report. He also stated that CATA has a contingency plan in place to cover any budget shortfalls.

Opinion Piece (Op-Ed)

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he co-wrote an article with John Dulmes, Executive Director of the Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA), to promote the need for transit funding. More to come.

Local Regional Planning

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has invited a local regional partner to share space in the new downtown CATA facility. He explained that once it becomes official, he will share more details.

Mark Grebner inquired about a new name for the old Greyhound Building.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he is unsure what the official name will be.

Phil Deschaine inquired about the status of the new downtown CATA facility.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that right now the building is in the preliminary planning stage, and it will probably open around the same time that the new City Hall will be completed sometime in 2026. He noted that he should have more information by the end of the year.

Steve Vagnozzi inquired about CATA's contingency plan covering CATA's financial needs as the state works through budget issues.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that CATA has a contingency plan and reserves in place to cover expenses. He also stated that CATA's grants have already been pre-awarded and will not be affected by the state budget issues.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2025, CLOSED SESSION

C. TREASURER REPORT FOR JULY 2025

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

D. CATA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

PROPOSED MOTION: That the proposed CATA Board Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2026 be adopted as presented.

E. LEGAL COUNSEL RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approve the following law firms to represent CATA during Fiscal Year 2026: Murphy & Spagnuolo, P.C.; Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C.; Butzel Long, P.C.; and Fraser Trebilcock, P.C.

F. TWELFTH AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH INGHAM COUNTY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CATA RURAL AND SPEC-TRAN SERVICES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute Amendment No. 12 to the Agreement between the County of Ingham and Capital Area Transportation Authority for October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and begin work on a new, base Agreement that will commence on January 1, 2026, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

G. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) 2026 TARGETS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan 2026 Safety Performance Targets to meet compliance with the FTA.

H. CELLULAR SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

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 Fiscal Year 2026 budget period, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Steve Vagnozzi motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Mark Grebner supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM - DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the First Amendment to Contract of Employment between CATA and the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) and authorizes Chief Executive Officer Bradley T. Funkhouser, to continue to serve as the EATRAN Executive Director on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

The CATA Board of Directors further authorizes the participation of a non-voting representative representing Eaton County on the CATA Board, as provided for in Section 1.11 of the CATA Bylaws, upon execution of the First Amendment and during the term of such contract.

MOTION:

Phil Deschaine motioned to approve Discussion Item A, First Amendment to Contract of Employment. Derek Melot supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Bradley Funkhouser stated that three (3) years ago, the CATA Board approved his contract of employment at EATRAN through the end of September 2025. He explained that the amendment will extend his contract through December 31, 2025, and give him the opportunity to continue to work with EATRAN and see whether the transit millage in Delta Township will pass this November.

Mark Grebner inquired whether the transit millage is only in Delta Township.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that the transit millage is only in Delta Township. He explained that up until now CATA has been using a regional grant to pay for the Route 3 extension which will soon expire.

Eric Tans inquired about the expiration of the grant and additional funding.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the grant will go through the end of this year. He noted that EATRAN has been working with Delta Township to secure additional funding through a transit millage which will be placed on the November 2025 ballot.

Chair Triplett explained that the CATA Board's role is to authorize Bradley Funkhouser to continue to serve as the Executive Director at EATRAN through December 31, 2025.

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, 2025, for a one (1) year term expiring September 30, 2026, 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 Phil Deschaine 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 Fiscal Year 2026.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Triplett thanked the Nominating Committee and the Board for allowing him to serve for another year. He also thanked the Board on behalf of Shanna Draheim who could not be here.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Pratt commented on the contract that CATA has with Advent House. He also expressed his frustration with the way Advent House is operating at CATA's CTC.

CLOSED SESSION:

Chair Triplett stated that since there is not any news to report, the CATA Board will not need to go into Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned the Board meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary