

LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025  
3:30 P.M. – Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Deb Wiese, Chair  
Caleb Adams  
Erin Shannon, Vice Chair  
Jeffrey Allshouse  
Leah March-Pons  
Gloria Johnson-Cannon  
Doug Lecato  
Darrin Fowler  
George Hanley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gill Lemonde, Geneva Smith and Diana Paiz

**CATA BOARD MEMBER:** Kellie Blackwell

**CATA PERSONNEL:** Bradley Funkhouser, Craig Frazier, Victoria Joseph, Brandie Yates, Hannah Kindree, Ericka Hartigan, Todd Brooks and Darren Horn

**TRANSDEV PERSONNEL:** Simone Moore

**GUESTS:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Wiese called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER AGENDA**

**MOTION:**

A motion to approve the December 2025 agenda was moved by Caleb Adams and supported by George Hanley.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

A motion to approve October 2025 minutes was moved by Doug Lecato and supported by Caleb Adams.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **LAC CHAIR COMMENTS – Deb Wiese**

Chair Wiese expressed her disappointment over the transportation millage not passing in Delta Township.

### **BOARD LIAISON REPORT – Kellie Blackwell**

See attached report for October and November.

### **CATA CEO REPORT – Bradley Funkhouser**

#### **Delta Township**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that due to the transportation millage failing in Delta Township, service changes will take effect on January 12, 2026.

Chair Wiese inquired about the reasons behind the millage failure and the impact it will have in the area.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the impact will affect the Route 3 extension and the Grand Ledge Connector. He explained that both services will end on January 12, 2026. and surmised the reasons for failure were economic uncertainties and the reluctance to increase taxes. The Charlotte Connector will also be discontinued on January 12, 2026.

Chair Wiese inquired whether fares would double, as they did in prior years when customers traveling into Delta Township would pay an additional fare on fixed route and Spec-Tran services.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he is not in favor of fares doubling and there is no intention to do so.

George Hanley inquired about the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile Spec-Tran boundary around fixed-route and wondered whether he would still be able to get to the township hall.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that Mr. Frazier will get back to him with an answer.

Doug Lecato inquired about the percentage of the millage that did not pass.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the millage did not pass by 6%.

Doug Lecato inquired about the millage being back on the ballot for a vote.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that it is unknown when the millage will be back on the ballot for a vote.

#### **Electric Buses**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the new 40-foot electric bus was launched last week and is currently in service. He noted that CATA has thirteen hybrids on order, which are expected to arrive summer 2026, and one (1) new electric vehicle about to be delivered.

### **Contactless Fare Payment**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's contactless fare payment is in its final testing phase and is expected to be operational soon.

### **Labor Agreement**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the current ATU, Local 1039, contract expired on November 30, 2025, and a new tentative labor agreement was signed for a three (3) year contract on November 26, 2025.

Doug Lecato inquired whether the loss in ridership from January 12, 2026, service changes will impact any state or federal funding that CATA receives each year.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA will have to wait and see whether this change in ridership will have any effect on funding.

Chair Wiese inquired whether Mr. Funkhouser will be extending his contract with EATRAN.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he has already given his notice to Board Chair, Mary Clark, stating that he will not be extending his contract with EATRAN, which ends on Dec. 30, 2025.

## **CATA DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT – Todd Brooks**

### **Holiday Service and Events**

Todd Brooks stated that CATA's Thanksgiving holiday service was a success with 100% on time performance. He also thanked the Marketing Department for their help with this year's parades.

### **Awards/Training**

Todd Brooks stated that awards and bonuses for safe driving and attendance will be sent by Thursday, December 11, 2025. He noted that supervisors have been training on the new electric 40-foot bus and additional department training has also been scheduled.

### **CATA Community Partnership Summit**

Todd Brooks stated that CATA held the first CATA Community Partnership Summit meeting, which included Lansing Public Library, Lansing School District, Lansing Police Department, Advent House Ministries, and Child and Family Services. He noted that the partners plan to meet on a quarterly basis.

Darrin Fowler inquired whether the operators would receive any gifts or bonuses for the holiday season.

Todd Brooks stated that eligible operators receive an attendance bonus which will be disbursed next week prior to CATA's holiday party which will take place on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

**PARATRANSIT OPERATIONS MANAGER – Craig Frazier**

Craig Frazier stated that once CATA receives Board approval, new cutaway buses will be ordered in January. Mr. Frazier also stated that the My Spec-Tran website will be updated to the new version on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. He noted that CATA will start taking calls for scheduling Christmas holiday service on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

**TRANSDEV – Simone Moore**

Simone Moore stated that safety remains their top priority and gave an update.

Darrin Fowler inquired whether Transdev operators receive any gifts or bonuses for the holiday season.

Simone Moore stated that operators will receive their second portion of the contract sign-on bonus. They will also be given vouchers for a turkey and boxed lunches.

**SERVICE QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE (SQS) – Erin Shannon**

See attached report.

Doug Lecato inquired whether there will be a coat drive this year.

Erin Shannon confirmed that she will be participating again in the coat drive this year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Annual Grant Application**

Ericka Hartigan, Grants Manager, stated that CATA receives support from the Michigan Department Of Transportation (MDOT) each year by applying for matched dollars for a Specialized Services Grant through their application process.

Ms. Hartigan explained that part of the process includes receiving LAC approval. She then presented three (3) MDOT forms for LAC review.

- FY 2027 Specialized Services Grant Description
- FY 2027 Coordination Plan for Specialized Services
- FY 2027 Vehicle Accessibility Plan Update

Chair Wiese inquired if CATA is requesting a grant increase.

Ericka Hartigan stated that CATA is not requesting an increase.

Chair Wiese requested that the word "addition" in the Vehicle Accessibility Plan Update, section 4E, be replaced with "and a Board liaison".

Ericka Hartigan confirmed that she would update the section to include Chair Wiese's request.

The other two forms were reviewed in detail by Ms. Hartigan without any revision requested by LAC members.

**MOTION:**

A motion to approve all three (3) grant application forms with the word "addition" in the Vehicle Accessibility Plan Update, section 4E, replaced with "and a Board liaison" was moved by Jeff Allshouse and supported by Caleb Adams.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**New Website Presentation**

Brandie Yates, Interim Director of Marketing, stated that a lot of work has been put into the website redesign project and congratulated Hannah Kindree for receiving her Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPAC) certification. Ms. Yates noted that the target launch date for the website is at the end of January 2026. She then deferred to Ms. Kindree for a presentation.

Hannah Kindree, Digital Accessibility Specialist, presented a brief overview of the redesigned website homepage. She also played videos that demonstrated what the updated screen reader will look and sound like. Ms. Kindree stated that the target date for the website to be fully accessible is April 24, 2026.

Chair Wiese inquired whether the links and tagged photos are accessible for screen reader users.

Hannah Kindree confirmed that both links and tagged photos are accessible for screen reader users.

**MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:**

A motion to adjourn was moved by Doug Lecato and supported by Jeff Allshouse.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wiese adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Horn  
Paratransit Operations Supervisor

Victoria Joseph  
Operations Administrative Assistant