

LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026
3:30 P.M. - CATA BOARD ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deb Wiese, Chair Darrin Fowler
Diana Paiz Gill Lemonde
George Hanley Erin Shannon, Vice Chair (Zoom)
Doug Lecato Leah March-Pons (Zoom)
Gloria Johnson-Cannon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Geneva Smith, Caleb Adams, and Jeffrey Allshouse

CATA BOARD MEMBER: Kellie Blackwell (Zoom)

CATA PERSONNEL: Bradley Funkhouser, Craig Frazier, Victoria Joseph, Ericka Hartigan, Todd Brooks and Darren Horn

TRANSDEV PERSONNEL: Simone Moore

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wiese called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY AGENDA

MOTION:

A motion to approve the February 2026 agenda was moved by Diana Paiz and supported by Gill Lemonde.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

MOTION:

A motion to approve the December 2025 minutes was moved by Gill Lemonde and supported by Gloria Johnson-Cannon.

VOTE: Motion passed with Darrin Fowler abstaining.

LAC CHAIR COMMENTS – Deb Wiese

None.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT – Kellie Blackwell

See attached report.

George Hanley inquired whether the cost of five (5) small buses was \$750,000.

Kellie Blackwell confirmed that the cost of five (5) small buses was \$750,000.

CATA CEO REPORT – Bradley Funkhouser

Transit Equity Day

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has wrapped a bus to honor and recognize Rosa Parks' birthday and Transit Equity Day. He noted that the bus was parked out front of the State Capitol today for the Transit Equity Day event.

Code Blue

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has been using their buses on Route 1 to serve as overnight warming buses. Mr. Funkhouser explained that CATA will continue to supply warming buses until the Code Blue alert from the City of Lansing expires.

Darrin Fowler inquired whether there are any funding initiatives available to help with the unhoused.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA is not aware of any funding initiatives to help with the unhoused, but he welcomes any ideas.

Darrin Fowler inquired about the number of people that have used CATA's warming buses.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that between 700 and 800 people have used CATA's warming buses at no charge.

Budget

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the LBO improved and CATA's deficit decreased from around \$12 million to around \$10 million.

Chair Wiese asked if the budget remains the same, would CATA Rydz and other services be maintained.

Bradley Funkhouser stated as of right now we don't know.

CATA DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT – Todd Brooks

Community Outreach

Todd Brooks stated that he has received many calls from the local community expressing their appreciation for CATA's overnight warming bus. He shared that the overnight warming bus runs from 11:30 p.m. through 8:00 a.m. during Code Blue alerts from the City of Lansing. Mr. Brooks also stated that CATA is providing a shuttle from Letts Community Center to CATA Transportation Center (CTC).

Holiday Service

Todd Brooks stated that this Easter will mark the fourth year of CATA Holiday services. More to come on reserving rides.

CATA Community Partnership

Todd Brooks stated that the second CATA Community Partnership meeting will take place on Thursday, February 12, 2026.

Community Connect Proclamation Award

Todd Brooks shared that CATA will be receiving an award during Lansing's City Council meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026. He explained that the award recognizes CATA's participation in the City of Lansing's coat drive that took place on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the CATA Transportation Center (CTC).

Continued Training

Todd Brooks stated that supervisor training was held throughout the month of January. He also stated that Customer Experience Representative (CXR) training is currently taking place this month.

PARATRANSIT OPERATIONS MANAGER – Craig Frazier

Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) Survey

Craig Frazier stated that CATA's Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) survey is now available and there should be an internal report available sometime in June.

Paratransit Ridership Report

Craig Frazier shared the Paratransit ridership report from December 2024 to December 2025. He noted that paratransit service has increased by 10.5% from last year.

Exceptional Customer Service

Craig Frazier read some emails that he received acknowledging Transdev's exceptional customer service.

TRANSDEV – Simone Moore

Simone Moore stated that safety remains their top priority. She also stated that Transdev lost a few operators after the holidays. Ms. Moore explained that Transdev has increased their recruiting efforts and will hold a job fair on February 19, 2026.

SERVICE QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE (SQS) – Erin Shannon

See attached report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Renewal of LAC Appointments

MOTION:

A motion to approve the renewal of LAC appointee Darrin Fowler was moved by George Hanley and supported by Gloria Johnson-Cannon.

VOTE: Motion passed with Darrin Fowler abstaining.

5310 Funding and Call for Projects

Ericka Hartigan, CATA Grants Manager

Ericka Hartigan discussed Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program. The goal of this program is to provide funding to support the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults. Eligible applicants for funding include public transportation providers, government entities, and non-profit organizations.

CATA's FY2026 Call for Projects Important Dates:

- Launched: 10-30-2025
- Closed: 01-12-2026
- Selection Committee Meeting: 02-17-2026

LAC Participants in Selection Committee are Erin Shannon, Vice Chair, and Gloria Johnson-Cannon

Projects must be consistent with the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission region that includes Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties.

MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

A motion to adjourn was moved by Darrin Fowler and supported by George Hanley.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wiese adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Horn
Paratransit Operations Supervisor

Victoria Joseph
Operations Administrative Assistant