

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

4:00 P.M. – 511 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48933  
(FORMER GREYHOUND BUS STATION)

**PRESENT:** Nathan Triplett, Chair  
Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair  
Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer  
Kellie Blackwell  
Steve Vagnozzi  
Chelsea Dowler  
Mark Grebner  
John Prush

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL:** Kellie Blackwell, Phil Deschaine, Chelsea Dowler, Shanna Draheim, Mark Grebner, John Prush, Nathan Triplett and Steve Vagnozzi were all present.

**ABSENT:** Derek Melot, Ed Rodgers, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans

Chair Triplett welcomed everyone to the Board meeting held at 511 S. Washington Avenue (former Greyhound Bus Station). He also mentioned that the meeting is being held on Zoom for those who wish to view the Board meeting virtually.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Triplett mentioned that there was a public comment received via email by Jennifer Torrez-Favreau who requested reasonable accommodation. He noted that each Board member has been given a copy of her comments and it will be included in the minutes for today's meeting (full copy attached).

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:**

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Derek Melot, Ed Rodgers, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans.

**MOTION:**

Chelsea Dowler motioned to excuse Derek Melot, Ed Rodgers, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans. Kellie Blackwell supported the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**511 S. Washington Avenue (former Greyhound Bus Station)**

Bradley Funkhouser welcomed everyone to the new location. He commented on the history of the building and its convenient location adjacent to the CATA Transportation Center (CTC). He expressed his appreciation for the work done so far and looks forward to being downtown.

### **Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA)**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA is currently in Phase II of the COA study. He explained that the COA is a year-long process reviewing CATA's existing transit services including both fixed-route and demand-response. Mr. Funkhouser shared that the first public meeting took place on Wednesday, April 15, at the East Lansing Public Library and the second meeting was on Tuesday, May 12 at the Foster Community Center. He also shared that according to CATA's Planning Department, the online survey may be extended due to the popularity of this topic. Mr. Funkhouser noted that there will be a presentation next month to provide an update on the COA.

### **CATA Operating & Capital Budgets FY 2027**

Bradley Funkhouser commented on past discussions regarding the trajectory on CATA's budget for FY 2027. Mr. Funkhouser shared that CATA provided three (3) iterations based on the Board's direction over the past couple of months. He noted that the FY 2027 CATA Operating & Capital Budget will be completed and sent to Board members by June 30, according to Board policy No. 202. Mr. Funkhouser stated that CATA's budget for FY 2027 will be \$65 million.

### **New Website**

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the CATA new website received an award for its innovation, creativity, and performance. He introduced Hannah Kindree, Digital Accessibility Specialist, for more details.

Hannah Kindree stated that CATA won silver at the New York Digital Awards. She explained that CATA was entered by their vendor, Exemplfi, for their website redesign. She further explained that CATA follows federal regulations that require CATA to provide accessibility.

Bradley Funkhouser congratulated and thanked Ms. Kindree for her work on this very important project.

Board members applauded.

Steve Vagnozzi requested clarification on the timeline for CATA's budget for FY 2027 and the outcome of the COA.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that the COA is a year-long process; therefore, all the findings will not be figured into CATA's budget for FY 2027. He explained that the COA will identify some cost saving ideas, but it will mainly help guide service for next year, especially if CATA does not receive any additional revenue from the state or federal government.

Steve Vagnozzi summarized that CATA would use the data collected from the COA thus far to guide CATA's budget for FY 2027.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that the data collected from the COA will be consistent with CATA's budget for FY 2027.

**ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 2026, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR MARCH 2026
  - 1. Interim Income Statement
  - 2. Cash Summary
  - 3. Investments
  - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation
- C. PURCHASE OF UP TO FOUR (4) ADA ACCESSIBLE FULL-SIZE VANS

**PROPOSED MOTION:** That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a purchase of up to four (4) accessible, full-size Ford Transit vans, from Hoekstra Transportation, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan, through the State of Michigan, MDOT contract, for a total amount not to exceed \$440,000 of federal and state grant funds, pending successful completion of necessary Buy America audits, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

- D. RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

**PROPOSED MOTION:** That the CATA Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Local Advisory Council to reappoint Gloria Johnson-Cannon and Leah March-Pons to three-year terms through April 2029 and J. Caleb Adams to a three-year term through June 2029.

**MOTION:**

Shanna Draheim motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Steve Vagnozzi supported the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED DISCUSSION AGENDA**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Amy Campeau expressed her frustration with Spec-Tran. Ms. Campeau stated that she belongs to the group ASPPIRE of mid-Michigan, which serves the disabled community including those who are autistic. She also stated that her son uses Spec-Tran along with a lot of the other members who rely on it for work, appointments, and activities. Ms. Campeau explained that Spec-Tran has been consistently late or extremely early for her son's trips. She noted that the riders need special help and better service.

Katie Corr expressed her frustration with Spec-Tran. She stated that her son also rides Spec-Tran and has been left alone while waiting for his ride which has caused him to have a public melt-down. She expressed her fear and worry that her complaints were not making it to the appropriate channels. Ms. Corr suggested that Spec-Tran operators be provided with better training and awareness.

Oliver Corr spoke on behalf of the disabled community. He expressed his belief in more training and better service.

Daniel Black commented on the concerns brought forth by the previous speakers. He stressed the need for better communication and sensitivity training. Mr. Black stated that the customer service booth microphones at the CTC are broken. He also stated that some of the operators are unaware of *CATA's Road Ahead* program and that the front doors to the new building need to have automatic openers installed.

Mark Grebner commented on the acoustics being better in the new building compared to years in the past. He also stated that the building is very nostalgic.

Chair Triplett stated that this is the first time in the new building and to please send any feedback to Mr. Funkhouser or himself.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned the Board meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine  
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando  
Recording Secretary