CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026
4:00 P.M. – 511 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48933
(FORMER GREYHOUND BUS STATION)

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer
John Prush
Derek Melot
Steve Vagnozzi
Chelsea Dowler
Ed Rodgers

CALL TO ORDER:
Chair Triplett called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Phil Deschaine, Chelsea Dowler, Derek Melot, John Prush, Ed Rodgers, Nathan Triplett and Steve Vagnozzi were all present.

ABSENT: Kellie Blackwell, Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair, Jack Schmitt, and Eric Tans

LATE: Mark Grebner

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:
None

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:
Chair Triplett stated that under CATA's Policy No. 411, in July, the Board is required to appoint a Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating members who wish to serve as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. Chair Triplett announced that three (3) Board members have graciously agreed to serve in this capacity with Derek Melot chairing the committee along with Kellie Blackwell and Steve Vagnozzi.

MOTION:
A motion to approve the appointment of Derek Melot, Kellie Blackwell, and Steve Vagnozzi to serve as the Nominating Committee in the upcoming year with Derek Melot chairing the committee was moved by Phil Deschaine and supported by Ed Rodgers.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Bradley Funkhouser introduced newly elected Mike Beech, ATU President, Local 1039, who will be replacing Steve Soliz, former ATU President, Local 1039. Mr. Funkhouser stated that Mr. Beech has been a CATA operator since 1993 and welcomed him to the Board meeting.

2026 Community Report

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA sent out postcards for the 2026 Community Report and copies have been handed out to Board members. Mr. Funkhouser stated that he is very pleased with the report and recognized the interviews, testimonials and partnerships within the pages. He encouraged everyone to read it and share it with their constituents.

Uber Transit Innovation Fund Award

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA was awarded a $50,000 grant through the Uber Transit Innovation Fund. Mr. Funkhouser explained that CATA will explore and test various options most likely starting next month. Once completed, an update will be provided to the Board.

Passing of CATA Operator

Bradley Funkhouser stated that longtime operator, Joe Nosal, passed away on June 30, 2026. Mr. Funkhouser stated that Mr. Nosal touched a lot of people and will be deeply missed.

Phil Deschaine inquired about the Uber grant being integrated with CATA Rydz.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the Uber grant will help fill in service gaps. He explained that this is new territory and CATA still needs to work out all the details.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Bradley Funkhouser stated that part of CATA Board Policy No. 202 requires that after the budget is sent to Board members, the first item in July is to have an open discussion placed on the agenda. Mr. Funkhouser explained that CATA and the Board have had extensive conversations over CATA's 2027 budget and there are no surprises. He explained that since January 2026, CATA proposed a couple different scenarios to improve efficiency through service cuts. Mr. Funkhouser shared that this has been the hardest budget during his tenure. He then deferred to Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, to go over proposed service cuts.

Andrew Brieschke shared CATA's proposed service cuts directed by the Board. He explained that the proposed service cuts will begin with fall service which starts on Monday, August 24, 2026. He stated that there will be a series of four (4) public meetings. The first meeting will start on Tuesday, July 21,2026, in Meridian Township with additional meetings following in Mason, East Lansing and Lansing.

Steve Vagnozzi inquired about rural service operations.

Andrew Brieschke stated that rural service operates similar to Spec-Tran and Redi-Ride service where riders book their rides online or by calling CATA.

Phil Deschaine inquired about the percentage of rural service rides.

Andrew Brieschke stated that there were approximately just over 300,000 trips from Spec-Tran and all CATA Rural Services, combined, and the Rural Services account for about 10% of that number.

Steve Vagnozzi pointed out that CATA lost over $14 million in federal funds which explains the budget deficit for 2027. He commented on the microtransit budget dropping $900,000 and inquired about the effects that it has on CATA.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that the microtransit service operates on a grant and it does not directly affect the budget or other services. He noted that once the grant expires, the service will likely end. Mr. Funkhouser then deferred to Dustin Hagfors, Director of Planning and Development.

Dustin Hagfors stated that he is currently working with the state to reallocate initial funds for microtransit to extend the service where possible.

Steve Vagnozzi pointed out the significant increase in fuel costs.

Bradley Funkhouser recognized and thanked Dan Hodges, Director of Maintenance, and Bill Frarey, Maintenance Superintendent, for managing fuel costs.

Mark Grebner arrived at 4:27 p.m.

Steve Vagnozzi inquired about CATA's projected 2027 budget regarding fringe benefits.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that the variance in the five-year projection is based on CATA's OPEB obligation, which is difficult to predict.

Phil Deschaine commented on CATA's lean budget and fuel costs. Mr. Deschaine also recognized CATA's carefully managed service cuts while pointing out that a majority of CATA's service remains untouched and operational.

Mark Grebner inquired about servicing Spartan Village.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA will be pulling Route 20 from Spartan Village and Route 18 will now service the area.

Chair Triplett expressed his appreciation to the Board for providing direction on CATA's fiscal year 2027 budget and Staff for being able to facilitate. He also reminded Board members of the series of public meetings that will be starting next week.

Phil Deschaine requested location and dates for the series of public meetings.

Andrew Brieschke provided the location and dates for the upcoming public meetings.

Tuesday, July 21 – Meridian Township Central Fire Station #91, Okemos, MI
Wednesday, July 22 – Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub, Mason, MI
Thursday, July 23 – East Lansing Hannah Community Center, East Lansing, MI
Monday, July 27 – CATA Transportation Center (CTC), Lansing, MI

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 2026, BOARD MEETING

B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2026

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

C. PURCHASE OF UP TO SIX (6) LOW-FLOOR MINIVANS

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 six (6) accessible, low-floor minivans from Hoekstra Transportation, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan, through the State of Michigan, MDOT contract, for a total amount not to exceed $480,000 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. CATA TRANSPORTATION CENTER (CTC) RENOVATIONS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a contract with Gordon Construction Services, Inc., for the CATA Transportation Center (CTC) renovations. The contract includes the base bid of $1,320,000, a performance assurance bond of $18,000, a fire system modification of $20,000, and a 10% contingency reserve of $135,800, for a total not to exceed amount of $1,493,800 of federal and state grant funds, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:
Derek Melot 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

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Kellie Blackwell, Shanna Draheim, and Eric Tans.

MOTION:
Derek Melot motioned to excuse Kellie Blackwell, Shanna Draheim, and Eric Tans. Chelsea Dowler supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Krista Abdallah complimented CATA for providing so many service options. She also expressed her love for CATA and the CATA Rydz App where she can follow the bus to see when her ride will arrive.

Mark Grebner commented on working with TNCs. He suggested that CATA redefine their role in ongoing transit and how it will adapt to ever-changing individual lifestyles sooner rather than later.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned the Board meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine	Tina Orlando
Secretary/Treasurer	Recording Secretary