

LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026
3:30 P.M. - ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deb Wiese, Chair
Erin Shannon, Vice Chair
Leah March-Pons
Diana Paiz
George Hanley
Doug Lecato

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gloria Johnson-Cannon, Jeffrey Allshouse, Geneva Smith, Darrin Fowler, Gill Lemonde, and Caleb Adams

CATA BOARD MEMBER: Kellie Blackwell

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

TRANSDEV PERSONNEL: Simone Moore and Corinne McCullem

GUESTS: Krista Abdallah and Katie Corr

CALL TO ORDER:
Chair Wiese called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
None

APPROVAL OF JUNE AGENDA

MOTION:
A motion to approve the June 2026 agenda was moved by Diana Paiz and supported by Erin Shannon.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

MOTION:
A motion to approve the April 2026 minutes was moved by Leah March-Pons and supported by Doug Lecato.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

LAC CHAIR COMMENTS – Deb Wiese
None.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT – Kellie Blackwell

See attached report.

Doug Lecato inquired about the capacity of the full-size vans.

Craig Frazier stated that the capacity of the full-size vans seat approximately nine (9) passengers while the cutaway buses seat between nine (9) to 17 passengers.

CATA CEO REPORT – Bradley Funkhouser

Budget

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's operating budget FY 2027 will be presented to the CATA Board of Directors, per policy by June 30, 2026. He explained that over the past six (6) months, CATA has been reviewing service efficiencies and does not expect to have any major cuts.

Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA)

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's COA is currently in Phase II of the extensive study. He explained that Phase II will end on June 12 and Phase III will begin this fall. Mr. Funkhouser shared the survey link online and welcomed everyone to participate if they have not done so already.

511 S. Washington Avenue

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA held their May Board meeting at the new downtown building located at 511 S. Washington Avenue and will continue to have future Board meetings there as well. Mr. Funkhouser explained that some of the IT staff have already been working at the new location. He noted that renovation plans will continue through the summer and into the fall and hopes that the community center on the rear side of the building will be ready to open by spring.

CATA DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT – Todd Brooks

Holiday Service

Todd Brooks reminded everyone that CATA offers limited service on the following holidays including Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

CATA Community Partnerships

Todd Brooks stated that CATA will continue their relationship with the Saturday Breakfast Outreach group. He shared that the group comes into the CTC every Saturday between 11:00 a.m. and Noon to serve breakfast to anyone in need.

East Lansing Art Fair

Todd Brooks stated that CATA provided transportation to over 1,200 riders to the East Lansing Art Fair this year which took place on May 15 and 16.

All Operator Training (AOT)

Todd Brooks stated that CATA is in the middle of AOT which includes operators, supervisors, and CXR representatives. He explained that various departments take part to provide continual yearly training.

PARATRANSIT OPERATIONS MANAGER – Craig Frazier

New Website

Craig Frazier stated that an accessibility audit was conducted on CATA's new website. He shared that the new website was found to be 100% compliant with WCAG 2.2 AA standards.

CATA Rider Experience (RX) APP

Craig Frazier stated that the LAC will be testing the RX app once it goes live. He explained that CATA's IT department, and a representative from Trapeze have been meeting weekly to reconfigure the entire app.

TRANSDEV – Simone Moore

Simone Moore welcomed Corinne McCullem, Operations Manager from Transdev, to the LAC meeting.

Simone Moore shared that Transdev continues to make safety a priority by implementing a "Perfect Safety Day" program. She also stated that Transdev's Human Resources department has had success in their recruiting efforts. Ms. Moore noted that they are near to reaching full staffing levels for operators and will continue to recruit certified mechanics.

Diana Piaz expressed her appreciation for Transdev's efforts in providing better service. She noted that there does seem to be some disconnect between the operators and payment through the CATA Rydz mobile app.

Simone Moore stated that the issue was addressed and Transdev will continue to provide more training to their operators.

SERVICE QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE (SQS) – Erin Shannon

See attached report.

Chair Wiese stated she spoke to Hannah Kindree about having some LAC members review CATA's new website. Chair Wiese explained that she offered some suggestions that Ms. Kindree is reviewing.

Diana Piaz inquired whether the new website offers turn-by-turn directions in text form.

Craig Frazier confirmed that the new website offers turn-by-turn directions in text form.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Diana Paiz stated that she is a member of the East Lansing Senior Commission. She shared that one of the goals of the commission is to inform the senior community about transportation alternatives to driving personal vehicles. Diana Paiz connected CATA with the director of the senior program, and as a result, CATA will be participating in the transportation fair and the transportation speaker series planned for this fall.

George Hanley stated he would like to thank CATA's staff and operators who reached out to inquire about his brother's health condition. He also inquired about the status of his request for a wheelchair for his neighbor who will be participating in an upcoming marathon.

Craig Frazier stated that he was sorry to hear about his brother's health condition and he will pass the information on. He also inquired whether Mr. Hanley had reached out to Disability Network Capital Area about a wheelchair for his neighbor.

George Hanley confirmed that he had reached out to Disability Network Capital Area.

Kellie Blackwell suggested reaching out to Programs Educating All Cyclist (PEAC) as a possible resource.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Katie Corr shared her concerns about some issues with Spec-Tran.

Chair Wiese invited Ms. Corr to participate in the next LAC's Service Quality Sub-Committee (SQS) meeting on July 1, where she can share her ideas on how to improve service for people with autism.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

A motion to adjourn was moved by George Hanley and supported by Diana Paiz.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wiese adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Horn
Paratransit Operations Supervisor

Victoria Joseph
Operations Administrative Assistant