

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026
4:00 P.M. – 511 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, LANSING, MI 48933
(FORMER GREYHOUND BUS STATION)

<u>PRESENT:</u> Nathan Triplett, Chair	Eric Tans
Phil Deschaine, Secretary/Treasurer	Chelsea Dowler
John Prush	Ed Rodgers
Derek Melot	Kellie Blackwell
Mark Grebner	Steve Vagnozzi

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL: Kellie Blackwell, Phil Deschaine, Chelsea Dowler, Mark Grebner, Derek Melot, John Prush, Ed Rodgers, Eric Tans, Nathan Triplett and Steve Vagnozzi were all present.

ABSENT: Shanna Draheim, Vice Chair

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

PUBLIC HEARING

On August 19, 2026, at 4:02 p.m., Chair Triplett opened the public hearing regarding CATA's proposed FY 2027 Budget and proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy.

Notice of this hearing was published on the CATA website on July 17, 2026; posted at CATA's Administrative Building, 511 S. Washington Avenue, the downtown CATA Transportation Center (CTC), MSU-CTC and the Capital Area Multimodal Gateway on July 17, 2026; distributed through CATA's social-media networks on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) @rideCATA on July 18, July 24, July 31, August 6, August 12, August 17, and August 19, 2026, at various times; mailed via United States Postal Service to 174 private agencies, human services organizations, and organizations that prioritize disadvantaged and underserved populations on July 17, 2026; emailed to 80 private agencies, human services organizations, and organizations that prioritize disadvantaged and underserved populations on July 17, 2026; emailed on July 17, 2026, to the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing; and the Townships of Delhi, Lansing and Meridian; emailed to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and Michigan State University on July 17,

2026; published in the Lansing State Journal on July 19, 2026, and August 1, 2026, as well as the Lansing State Journal online at lsj.com on July 19, 2026, through August 19, 2026; published in the Lansing City Pulse on July 22, 2026, and July 29, 2026, as well as online at lansingcitypulse.com on July 22, 2026, through August 22, 2026; published in The Chronicle in its August 1, 2026, and August 15, 2026, issues as well as online at the chroniclenews.com on August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026; published in the New Citizens Press in its August 11, 2026, through August 24, 2026, issue.

Chair Triplett stated that the proposed FY 2027 Budget would establish an operating budget of \$64,998,945. The proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy of 3.007 mills is to support the operating budget.

Chair Triplett asked if Bradley Funkhouser, Chief Executive Officer, and/or Staff had received any comments.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has not received any public comment related to the proposed FY 2027 Budget or proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy. Mr. Funkhouser reported that CATA has received over 800 comments on the Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA), approximately 14 emails and 22 public meeting attendees commented on the proposed August 24, 2026, service changes, and over 110 comments were received through Listening Bus sessions. He stated that all comments have been taken into consideration.

Chair Triplett then opened the meeting for public comment regarding the proposed FY 2027 Budget or the proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy. Chair Triplett stated he would call on those who wish to make comments and asked them to state their name and address for the record. Comments would be limited to five (5) minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dusk Blakenship commented on the importance of public transportation and voiced his disapproval over cutting service. He expressed his hope that the public will continue to engage and support the community and businesses downtown.

Chair Triplett closed the Public Hearing on CATA's proposed FY 2027 Budget and 2026 Property Tax Levy at 4:08 p.m.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chair Triplett requested a motion to excuse Shanna Draheim.

MOTION:

Chelsea Dowler motioned to excuse Shanna Draheim and Steve Vagnozzi supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Triplett shared that Jack Schmitt is no longer on the CATA Board of Directors and the East Lansing City Council has appointed Julie Rojewski as his replacement.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Roundtable Discussion

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Thursday, August 13, 2026, he attended the roundtable discussion with U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy. The event was hosted by the Fly Lansing team at the Capital Region International Airport. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the main topic was funding, safety and incorporating transit.

Committee of the Whole

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Monday, August 10, 2026, he and Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, attended the Lansing City Council, Committee of the Whole meeting, to give an annual update on CATA's service changes. Mr. Funkhouser reported that they took part in an extensive Q & A session where many of the questions revolved around public involvement and how CATA responds to the public comments they receive.

Canadian National (CN) Train

Bradley Funkhouser stated that on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, the American 250 Hometown Whistle Stop Tour stopped at the Capital Area Multimodal Gateway. Mr. Funkhouser noted that CATA representatives were in attendance along with Board member, Steve Vagnozzi. The event was to commemorate America's 250th Anniversary and honor MSU as a leading university.

Michigan State University (MSU) Service

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA is getting ready for MSU to be back in session. He explained that Fall service will begin on August 24, 2026.

Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA) 2026 Conference

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the Michigan Public Transportation Association (MPTA) Conference took place on Monday, August 17, 2026, where once again funding was the focus. He thanked Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, for attending on behalf of CATA.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 2026, BOARD MEETING
- B. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2026
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

C. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) 2027 TARGETS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan 2027 Safety Performance Targets to meet compliance with the FTA.

D. RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT TO LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Local Advisory Council to reappoint George Hanley to a three-year term through August 2029.

E. EXTENSION OF STUDENT HOUSING TRANSIT SERVICES AGREEMENT (ADDENDUM 21)

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute Addendum 21 to the Student Housing Transit Services Agreement for the period from August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027, for extended public transit services, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

Mark Grebner requested to move item E to discussion.

MOTION:

Mark Grebner motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with item E, Extension of Student Housing Transit Services Agreement (Addendum 21) moved to the Discussion Agenda. Steve Vagnozzi supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM - DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. EXTENSION OF STUDENT HOUSING TRANSIT SERVICES AGREEMENT (ADDENDUM 21)

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute Addendum 21 to the Student Housing Transit Services Agreement for the period from August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027, for extended public transit services, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Mark Grebner motioned to approve Discussion Item A, Extension of Student Housing Transit Services Agreement (Addendum 21), and Eric Tans supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Mark Grebner inquired about the contract process for the Student Housing Transit Services Agreement (Addendum 21).

Bradley Funkhouser stated that this is an annual contract where CATA negotiates with apartment owners/managers and agrees on the terms of the agreement in August. Mr. Funkhouser noted that he has suggested that contract negotiations begin earlier in the year.

Mark Grebner inquired whether the terms of the agreement are based on the number of beds and if CATA issues bus passes to the apartment owners/managers who then give them to their residents.

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO, for more details.

Andrew Brieschke stated that this is a long-standing Agreement that has been in place since 2002. Mr. Brieschke explained that Addendum 20 expired on July 31, 2026, and CATA is proposing Addendum 21 to continue the service for one year through July 31, 2027. He further explained that CATA reaches out to owners/managers early in the summer and confirms the number of bed counts for each apartment.

Mark Grebner inquired about how the cost is calculated.

Andrew Brieschke explained that the cost is calculated by the number of beds and the number of the service hours planned for the year. He noted that there are a number of people that use Route 26 that do not reside in the apartments. Mr. Brieschke stated that the contract brings in approximately \$499,000 per year.

Mark Grebner inquired whether CATA charges a higher dollar fare for those that are outside of the service area.

Andrew Brieschke confirmed that CATA does charge a slightly higher fare for those that live outside the service area.

Phil Deschaine inquired whether those that use the service are primarily students and if MSU staff members are included.

Andrew Brieschke stated that anyone living in the apartments can receive passes. Mr. Brieschke explained that all “30” Routes are free for students, MSU faculty, and staff on campus. Students who live off campus usually purchase semester passes if they plan on using other routes in the system.

Chelsea Dowler inquired about Route 26 service in the summer versus when classes are back in session.

Andrew Brieschke confirmed that route in the summer runs every 45 minutes compared to 7 to 10 minutes during peak times when classes are back in session.

Ed Rodgers inquired whether CATA provided passes for any student including Lansing Community College (LCC) students.

Andrew Brieschke stated that CATA does not differentiate between schools and students are able to buy various types of passes at the discounted rate.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

B. GRAND AVENUE BUS LANE

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 E.T. MacKenzie Company, Michigan, for the Grand Avenue Bus Lane. The contract includes the base bid of \$685,981, a bid bond of \$6,500, and a 10% contingency reserve of \$69,248.10, for a total price not to exceed \$761,729.10 of federal and state grant funds, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Phill Deschaine motioned to approve Discussion Item B, Grand Avenue Bus Lane, and Mark Grebner supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Bradley Funkhouser stated that this item pertains to fixing the façade of the CTC along Grand Avenue. He then deferred to Norm VanAlstine, Facilities Manager, for more details.

Norm VanAlstine stated that parking at the CTC has been an issue for a long time. He explained that CATA will coordinate with the new city hall. Improvements will begin this fall.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he has been in touch with Mayor Schor to discuss the increased traffic between the two buildings. Mr. Funkhouser noted the changing of Grand Avenue to two lanes and improving Lenawee Street to help with bus parking along the side of the street. He then thanked Mr. VanAlstine for his work on this project.

Mark Grebner inquired whether there was a sketch showcasing the updates.

Norm VanAlstine stated that he does not have a sketch of the proposed updates at this time.

Steve Vagnozzi inquired whether it was common for CATA to receive only one (1) bid for a project such as this.

Norm VanAlstine explained that it is uncommon for CATA to receive only one (1) bid; however, some contractors were too busy or did not have the materials to place their bid.

Bradley Funkhouser explained the legal process when issuing a bid. He also shared that CATA will also be using state and federal grant funds for this project.

Chair Triplett commented on the buses being able to park on the street and CATA improving the streetscape along Grand Avenue.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

C. CATA RURAL SERVICE FARE STRUCTURE MODIFICATION

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorize implementation of the proposed CATA Rural Service fare structure modifications, effective with the Fall 2026 service changes, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Ed Rodgers motioned to approve Discussion Item C, CATA Rural Service Fare Structure Modification, and Kellie Blackwell supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Andrew Brieschke for more details.

Andrew Brieschke stated that CATA's Rural Service (CRS) is funded by the Ingham County Special Transportation millage and the CRS fare is based on the distance of the trip. Specifically, the base fare on CRS for trips that are under 10 miles cost \$2.25 while trips over 10 miles cost \$3.25. Mr. Brieschke explained that after consideration and seeing that the vast majority of trips on CRS are under 10 miles, Staff recommend eliminating the additional cost based on distance and recommend a \$2.25 base fare for all CRS trips regardless of distance.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

D. CONNECTOR FARE MODIFICATION

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorize implementation of the proposed fare modifications for the Mason Connector and Williamston/Webberville Connector services, effective with the Fall 2026 service changes, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Phil Deschaine motioned to approve Discussion Item D, Connector Fare Modification, and Steve Vagnozzi supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Andrew Brieschke stated that this fare modification only refers to the Mason Connector and the Williamston/Webberville Connector service. He explained that connector service operates like a fixed-route. Mr. Brieschke noted that through the public meetings, many existing riders expressed their need for the Connectors, but they do not want to pay the higher fare. He further explained that CATA is proposing to reduce the Connector fare to \$1.25, the same as the fare on the Limiteds.

Derek Melot inquired about how the reduction will affect CATA's budget.

Andrew Brieschke stated that with the proposed fare reductions, CATA will lose approximately \$2,100 from the Mason Connector, \$900 from the Williamston/Webberville Connector, and \$5,700 from CRS.

Derek Melot summarized the loss to approximately \$9,000 from fare modifications.

Andrew Brieschke confirmed that CATA will lose approximately \$9,000 from fare modifications

Bradley Funkhouser noted that the loss in fares does not take into account the savings from wage and operation expenses.

Phil Deschaine expressed his approval for the fare modifications and simplifying the process.

Mark Grebner also expressed his approval.

Chair Triplett commended Mr. Funkhouser and Mr. Brieschke on how CATA has handled public comment.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

E. 2026 PROPERTY TAX LEVY

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes the levy of ad valorem property taxes for the year 2026 of 3.007 mills. The Board of Directors further directs staff to file the required Form L-4029 with the appropriate jurisdictions.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to approve Discussion Item E, 2026 Property Tax Levy, and Chelsea Dowler supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Phil Deschaine inquired about CATA's millage being renewed.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA's millage was renewed in 2024 and the next time it will be on the ballot is in 2030.

Mark Grebner commented on the high millage rate that CATA receives and the high support from the community. Mr. Grebner stated that CATA Staff and the CATA Board have an obligation to honor their trust.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

E. FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET APPROVAL

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors, as its general appropriations act, adopts the following resolutions:

1. The proposed Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, upon which public hearing was held at a regular meeting of the Board on August 19, 2026, is adopted as the general appropriation of total revenues of the Authority to defray expenditures and meet the liabilities of the Authority for its Fiscal Year 2027 (October 1, 2026, through and including September 30, 2027).
2. In accordance with the Truth in Budgeting Act, the Board states that the Authority's levy for 2026 of 3.007 mills of ad valorem property taxes as provided for in the Budget and authorized by resolution adopted on August 19, 2026, are for the purpose of defraying the expenditures and meeting the liabilities of the Authority in providing public transportation.
3. The CEO/Executive Director shall have authority within the overall budget to manage operations and the capital program, as well as to make transfers to and from invested funds, to facilitate daily operations and meet cash flow needs without further approval of the Board.

4. The annual goals and objectives and the organization charts as presented with the budget for Fiscal Year 2027 are approved.

MOTION:

Derek Melot motioned to approve Discussion Item F, Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Approval, and Chelsea Dowler supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Bradley Funkhouser commented on CATA's budget process. He then stated that Staff is present to answer any questions.

Mark Grebner expressed his role as a Board member and his obligation to keep CATA evolving. Mr. Grebner recognized CATA's improvements. He also hopes that CATA will keep improving at a faster pace and explore more options.

Steve Vagnozzi stated that CATA's Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) findings will play a big role in FY 2028. He noted that Board members will have more data to review.

Phil Descahine stated that he was not able to make it to either the COA public meetings or the Listening Bus opportunities and requested an overview.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has been changing service to become more efficient. He then deferred to Dustin Hagfors, Director of Planning and Development for an overview.

Dustin Hagfors stated that CATA did receive a lot of good feedback from the public pertaining to service changes. He explained that it was important for the public to be aware that this is only a discussion about proposed changes that may or may not occur.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has a big community following with a number of public members that share their comments on a regular basis.

Chair Triplett commented on approving the budget and thanked Staff and the Board for their comments. He noted that the budget represents preserving routes in the most efficient way.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Triplett introduced the Nominating Committee Report. Chair Triplett stated that Policy No. 411 requires the Board of Directors to appoint the committee in July and present recommendations in August, hold an election in September, and for new officers to take seats in October. Chair Triplett thanked Derek Melot, Kellie Blackwell, and Steve Vagnozzi for serving on the committee.

Nominating Committee Chair Melot reported that committee members discussed nominations. They received requests from Nathan Triplett, Shanna Draheim, and Phil Deschaine. The Committee recommended that Nathan Triplett serve as Chair, Shanna Draheim as Vice Chair, and Phil Deschaine as Secretary/Treasurer. He also thanked Kellie Blackwell and Steve Vagnozzi for serving on the committee.

On behalf of the officers, Chair Triplett thanked Nominating Committee Chair Melot and the Board for their recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Nolan, Sr. commented on an incident that occurred on Route 3 in July 2026 where he was arrested. He requested that CATA assist in speeding up his arraignment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned the Board meeting at 4:59. p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Deschaine
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary