Minutes

RTA Operating Budget Public Hearing

9:40 a.m. November 16, 2021

Committee Members: Moss (Vice Chair), Byrne, Pellot, Serrano

Other Board members: Duarte, Koomar, Lucas, McCall, Weiss   **Not present:** Joyce

Staff: Benford, Birdsong, Caver, Dangelo, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Johnson, Kirkland, Krecic, Miller, Mothes, Petit, Schipper, Sutula, Talley, Togher, Walker-Minor,

Public: Gibbons, Loh, Pinkney-Butts, Rodriquez

Ms. Moss called the Public Hearing to order.

This is the first of two official public hearings on the proposed 2022 Budget for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The information for the 2022 Budget has been made available for public inspection in the Office of Management & Budget and on the Authority's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Public notice of this hearing has been given by publication of legal advertisements in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on October 22nd, October 24th, November 2nd and November 5th and the Call & Post on October 20th and October 22nd, November 2nd and November 3rd, as well as by posting of notice in the first floor lobby of the Authority's Main Office Building, the Authority's Facebook page, and Twitter page.

The Proposed 2022 Budget was presented to the Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee of the RTA Board of Trustees on November 16th. The Proposed 2022 Budget estimates revenues at $354.4 million. Sales and Use Tax receipts are projected to increase by 2%. Total Passenger Fares are projected at $21.7 million.

Reimbursed Expenditures includes reimbursements for preventive maintenance, force account labor, fuel tax and other miscellaneous reimbursements. For 2022, reimbursed expenditures are projected at $5.0 million, of which $1.0 million is for preventive maintenance reimbursements. The formula funds normally used for PM reimbursement will be used for unfunded or underfunded capital projects.

In 2021, the Authority was awarded approximately $67.4 million of Federal Funding through the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and an additional $136.0 million through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This funding is to help supplement the decline in passenger fares and added expenses due to the pandemic. Through October, we have drawn down the entire $67.4 million of CRRSAA and $54.8 million of ARP. The remaining funding of ARP will be drawn down in 2022. This funding will help carry us through Fiscal Year 2024 and beyond.

Total expenditures for the Proposed 2022 Budget are projected at $399.9 million, which includes $274.8 million for Operating Expenditures and $65.1 million for transfers to other funds to support expenses and maintain the recommended fund balances. The awarded Federal Stimulus funding will help the Authority recover from the loss of passenger fares due to the COVID pandemic through December 2024.

<u>Public Hearing</u> (comments were made in person and on the phone)

1. <u>Rev. Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH</u> – She opposes the budget because it is based on white privilege. The stimulus process has made people not want to work and increased the prisons. The budget promotes slavery.

2. <u>Loh</u> – The budget is not too bad but this is a public service organization. Has RTA considered that certain funding should benefit riders instead of meeting quotas? For example the Transit Ambassador Program. Will this budget support this? How will RTA have constant revenue to support these programs. Transit Police has too much funding. If they do not function to protect and serve riders should they receive this type of funding.

3. <u>Hayes Rowan</u> – (there was some audio issue) The Board Executive Assistant interpreted that he emailed earlier about busses idling and RTA's public records request process.

It was moved by Mayor Byrne, seconded by Ms. Duarte to close the Public Hearing.

The public hearing was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

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Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer

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Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Assistant