

## Minutes

### RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:07 a.m. December 19, 2023

**Board Members:** Lucas (Chair), Koomar (Vice Chair), Love, McPherson, Mersmann, Sleasman, Weiss, Welch

**Not present:** Biasiotta

**Staff/Other:** Birdsong Terry, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Ferraro, Fleig, Ford, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Hudson, Jenkins, Jupina, Kirkland, Lincoln, Miller, Peganoff, Schipper, Sutula, Talley, Togher, Walker Minor

**Public:** Gibbons, Jackson, Loh, Pacetti

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. There were eight (8) Board members present.

It was advised that notice of this meeting had been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification had been given the news media and other interested persons, and that all requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules and Bylaws of this Board regarding notice of meeting had been complied with.

### Minutes

President Lucas stated that the minutes from the November 28, 2023 Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed, and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no corrections. It was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved.

### Public Comments – Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

### Committee Reports

There were no reports.

### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

There was no report.

### Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There were no reports.

### Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

There were 20 new hires and one promotion. Their names are listed on the PowerPoint presentation.

Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2023-95 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-115 with HFT Management, Inc., DBA Gateway Outdoor Advertising, to provide Transit and Shelter Advertising Sales for a period of five years with two, one-year options (Revenue-Generating, amount variable based upon net sales), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- B. 2023-96 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-133 with Baycom, Inc. for the purchase of ruggedized tablets for non-revenue vehicles, as specified, in an amount not to exceed \$263,444.40 (RTA Development Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Mersmann and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2023-97 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-158 with Valley Ford Truck, Inc. for the furnishing of one (1) medium duty truck (plow/dump/spreader) at a price not to exceed \$121,870.00 (RTA Capital Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2023-98 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-170 with Greve Chrysler Jeep Dodge for the purchase and delivery of three (3) 2024 Dodge Durango trucks, equipment and accessories, as specified, through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, Cooperative Purchasing Program, in a total amount not to exceed \$226,608.00 (RTA Development Fund, Transit Police Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. McPherson, seconded by Mayor Koomar and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2023-99 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-184 with Access Information Management Corporation to provide records storage, management, and destruction services, as required, for a period of five (5) years, in an amount not to exceed \$425,000.00 (General Fund, Support Services Department Budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Mr. Love and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2023-100 – Authorizing Contract No. 2023-185 with Trapeze Software Group, Inc. DBA Vontas to provide computer aided dispatch and automated vehicle locator (“CAD/AVL”) maintenance and support services in an amount not to exceed \$4,559,274.00 for a period of five (5) years (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. McPherson and approved by unanimous vote.
- G. 2023-101– Approval of the Authority’s 2024 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (“PTASP”), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.
- H. 2023-102 – Authorizing the purchase of property insurance from Liberty Mutual and Evanston Insurance Company, through Aon Risk Services Northeast, Inc., for a period of twelve (12) months for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,469,243.00 (General Fund, Risk Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Mayor Koomar and approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Lincoln added that our insurance broker successfully negotiated a favorable premium which is \$24,266.00 lower than the amount presented in committee. Instead of a 13% rate increase which was the market average, we achieved a 10.2% rate increase.

- I. 2023-103 – Making appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority during Fiscal Year 2024, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Welch, seconded by Mayor Koomar and approved by unanimous vote.
- J. 2023-104 – Amending Chapter 465 Financial Assistance of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Mr. Love and approved by unanimous vote.
- K. 2023-105 – Amending Chapter 212 Definitions and Interpretation of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Ms. Mersmann and approved by unanimous vote.
- L. 2023-106 – Approving a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police/Ohio Labor Council, Inc. covering conditions of employment for Transit Police Lieutenants, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Ms. Welch and approved by unanimous vote.

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Rajan D. Gautam, Deputy General Manager of Finance and Secretary-Treasurer gave the report. This is a quick overview of the general economic conditions and the largest sources of unrestricted revenues in the General Fund. The FOMC met December 13-14. They decided to keep the interest rates unchanged. Since June of 2022, inflation has been steadily decreasing from its highest of 9.1%. Currently it is 3.1%. The FOMC is scheduled to meet in January 2024.

Through the end of November 2019, we had 29.63 million rides. As of November 30, 2023, we have 20.11 million rides, or a decrease of 9.5 million rides or 32.2%. November 2023 ridership was 10.6% above November 2022 levels. In 2019, passenger fares were \$39.6 million. In 2023, it is \$25.07 million or a decrease of \$14.5 million or 36.69%. For the month, the November fare revenue was 7.3% higher than November 2022 levels and 23.8% above budget. YTD passenger fares are 4.8% below 2022 levels.

Sales tax represents the largest source of our operating revenues. December 2023 receipts were 0.8% lower than December 2022. Year end they were 2.7% higher compared to 2022 or \$6.9 million. Fifteen of the 23 categories that make up the sales tax were positive in December 2023 compared to 2022. Online sales were 0.3% higher. Regular and statewide sales were 0.8% lower. Motor vehicles and watercraft were 9.1% lower. YTD 2023 compared to 2022, 12 of the 23 categories were positive. Online sales were 10.6% higher. Regular and statewide sales were 2.4% higher. Motor vehicles and watercraft were 4.1% lower.

#### General Manager/CEO Report

India L. Birdsong Terry, General Manager, CEO gave the report. The GM Holiday Visits with the districts run through December 20. Feedback and questions are received from employees. An employee survey is in progress. The Executive Leadership Retreat was held December 7 and 8 at Tri-C. Mike Nwankwa was the facilitator. The team participated in rowing and rigging team building

exercises on day two. The 2024 ATU leadership will commence in January. Current ATU President, William Nix will be retiring from RTA next month after 34 years of service. La Gran Parranda or Latin caroling was held December 14 in the Brooklyn and Parma neighborhoods all via transit. All Aboard Ohio toured the Rail District and saw a presentation on the Rail Car Replacement Program, December 1. Several state representatives were in attendance.

Upcoming 2024 events include RTA hosting the APTA Rail Conference, June 2-5. Engagement events will be held during the Solar Eclipse, April 8. Cleveland will host the 2025 Urban League Conference. As a board member, CEO/GM Terry will co-lead the conference planning. RTA attended the most recent Urban League Luncheon. RTA will celebrate 50 years of operation on December 28, 2024. A list of events is soon to come.

Public Comments – public transit related items

1. Ron Jackson – He is City Council President in Maple Heights. He has used paratransit and fixed route for 21 years since he became wheelchair dependent. December 7, the paratransit system crashed. He was unable to get through to dispatch. He was left at his location for two hours before he found a way home. There needs to be a backup plan going forward. There could be a robo call informing customers of the system issue. He never received a return call after being held in the queue as the 75<sup>th</sup> caller. Ms. Terry said plans are in place to have a back up plan for system failures.
2. Airric Stewart – He complained of static on the phone. Staff need to address the issues brought up by Mr. Jackson. He asked if his proposal about the 15A, 48A, 50 and 11 was forwarded to the Board and Staff. Mr. Freilich said a full analysis of Mr. Stewart’s proposal was presented to the Board explaining why the current network better serves the community. If another presentation is needed, it can be provided again to the Board. Ms. Terry said the proposal can be reviewed by the CAC.

Executive Session Requested

9:44 a.m. - It was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Mayor Weiss to enter executive session to enable the Board to conference with GCRTA attorneys for information gathering, fact finding, and to receive legal advice. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

10:01 a.m. – It was moved by Ms. Mersmann, seconded by Ms. Welch to come out of executive session. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January, 23, 2024**, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. This meeting will be live streamed on RTA’s Board page ([www.RideRTA.com/board](http://www.RideRTA.com/board)) by selecting the meeting date. The public is welcome to attend in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.



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President

Attest:   
Secretary-Treasurer