



## Minutes

### Greater Dayton RTA Board of Trustees Public Board Meeting

October 4, 2022

- Trustees: David P. Williamson, Chair  
Sharon D. Howard, Vice President  
Al Fullenkamp  
Sharon Hairston  
Adrienne L. Heard  
Belinda Matthews-Stenson  
Thomas Weckesser
- Excused: John Lumpkin, President
- Staff: Bob Ruzinsky, Chief Executive Officer  
Roland Caldwell, Director, Transportation  
Christopher Conard, Coolidge Wall, Co. LPA  
Cathy Garner, Sr. Executive Administrative Assistant  
Mary K. Stanforth, Chief Financial Officer
- Others: Interested citizens (see attached sheet)

### Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Williamson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present and proper notice of the meeting had been given.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Williamson led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Williamson stated Mr. Lumpkin cannot attend today's meeting and at the request of the Vice President, Ms. Sharon Howard, Mr. Williamson will preside over today's meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Fullenkamp	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Excused
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Yes

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Williamson stated Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) By-Laws require Board Trustees approval of today’s Board Meeting Agenda. The Agenda was mailed in advance, and Mr. Williamson asked if there are any changes to the Agenda? Upon hearing no requests or changes, Mr. Williamson DECLARED APPROVAL of today’s Board Meeting Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Williamson asked if anyone requests a reading of the minutes or if there are corrections to the minutes?

Upon hearing no requests or changes, Mr. Williamson DECLARED APPROVAL of the September 6, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

**FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (BELINDA MATTHEWS-STENSON)**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees held a meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> and as a result, the Finance/Personnel Committee is recommending four (4) Action Items for the Board’s consideration.

**ACTION ITEM #2 –FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDING SERVICES**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated RTA provides vending services to employees in dining areas as well as the public in our transit center passenger waiting areas. This procurement generates revenue for RTA that helps to fund the Employee Benefit Fund. Providing vending services to employees and customers is consistent with RTA’s core values of Quality Service and Our People.

The successful contractor will provide all food and beverage vending services, microwaves, utensils, plates, and all condiments using new or refurbished machines with encasements where necessary. All licenses, fees, and permits are at the vendor's expense.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Ms. Heard to AWARD a contract to AVI Food Systems, Inc. for a three (3) year period with a guaranteed annual commission rate of 24.7% from all RTA locations to be paid quarterly and a \$3,000 promotional fund annually.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Seven                      Nays: None

**ACTION ITEM #3 – COPIER EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the purpose of this procurement is to replace all copier equipment owned by RTA with updated machines of the same model and to provide a five (5) year maintenance agreement. A total of twenty (20) copiers will be purchased.

This project is consistent with RTA's core value of Quality Service; by upgrading and maintaining our technology-based equipment, RTA can continuously improve and expand the service capabilities to our internal and external customers.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Mr. Weckesser to AWARD a contract to Donnellon McCarthy Enterprises for the purchase of Copier Equipment for \$144,998 and a five (5) year Maintenance Agreement for \$82,918 for a grand total of \$227,916. This procurement will be funded with Capital Funds.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Seven                      Nays: None

**ACTION ITEM #4 – ON-SITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR NEXGEN TROLLEYS**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the purpose of this procurement is for RTA to obtain the services of the NexGen trolley manufacturer, Kiepe Electric, to provide On-Site Technical Support Services for the NexGen Trolley fleet. These services will allow RTA staff to continue to increase their technical capacity and troubleshooting skills for the long-term maintenance and repair of the NexGen Trolley fleet. This project is consistent with RTA's core values of Stewardship and Quality Service as the NexGen fleet is managed. These services will be supplied over a two (2) year term.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Ms. Howard to AWARD a contract to Kiepe Electric for On-Site Technical Support for a two (2) year period in the estimated amount of \$466,960. This procurement will be funded with operating funds.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Seven            Nays: None

**ACTION ITEM #5 – GROUP MEDICAL AND PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated this procurement is for group medical and prescription drug coverage for administrative employees of RTA. RTA provides health coverage in accordance with its' labor agreement with AFSCME and the administrative employee benefit plan. Keeping the cost of health care manageable for both RTA and employees supports RTA's core value of Stewardship.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Ms. Hairston to AWARD a contract to Medical Mutual of Ohio for the fully insured medical and prescription insurance in the total estimated amount of \$1,852,530 for one (1) year, based on the current census. In addition, to incentivize the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) option, the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to fund a \$75 per pay period (\$1,950 annual) contribution to HDHP participant's Health Savings Accounts. This procurement will be funded with operating funds.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Seven            Nays: None

**Discussion Items to Mention**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated August 2022 financial statements and the small purchases information are included in today's Board package.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (SHARON D. HOWARD)**

Ms. Howard reported the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees held a meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> and while there are no Action Items to bring forth, there are important updates to share.

At the meeting Mr. Brandon Policicchio provided a summary document of recent activities in the Customer & Business Development Department. The update included information on RTA ridership, which showed that August 2022 ridership was the highest since March 2020. Weekend ridership was up 58% since May, with Sunday ridership up 70%.

Mr. Policicchio also shared RTA continues to struggle with growing its driver workforce, despite on-going recruitment efforts. RTA needs 275 CDL drivers to operate at pre-COVID service levels. Today, RTA hovers around 200 actual CDL drivers, while continuing to lose ground.

Due to ongoing workforce challenges, Mr. Policicchio shared RTA will be making service changes beginning Sunday, October 16, 2022. Mr. Policicchio stated Route 14 will no longer run north of Wright Stop Plaza. Customers who currently use Route 14 north from downtown along Salem Avenue can utilize Route 8. The remaining section of Route 14 will be served by RTA's Connect On-Demand service, which is available for customers to use today. Mr. Policicchio shared RTA Staff is currently traveling on Route 14 within this area to provide information and assist customers in transferring to the On-Demand Service.

Ms. Howard concluded stating once RTA is able to see some sustained growth in driver employment, Staff will evaluate current service and these changes, and look at

ways to grow services in line with economic development in these areas.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

Mr. Ruzinsky stated in the Fall of 2021 you may recall we were forced to make some challenging decisions to deal with a lack of CDL drivers. We cut Route 3 which served east Dayton, Route 5 which ran from Oakwood to Children's Medical Center, Route 23 which ran from east Dayton to the Dayton Mall through Kettering and Centerville, Route 24 which ran from the Dayton Mall to Good Samaritan North, mostly through the western part of the County, X5 which ran from downtown Dayton to the South hub, X1A and X1B which served Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and Senior Easy Ride. These were very challenging decisions, and now unfortunately Staff is looking to make adjustments to Route 14.

Mr. Ruzinsky stated yesterday he had a very productive meeting with Mr. Quincy Pope, Sr., Trotwood City Manager, and Ms. Adrienne Heard. The three met with Trotwood’s Assistant City Manager, as well as the leader of the NAACP to talk about RTA’s driver shortage. City of Trotwood Officials were excited to share their growth and service opportunities for the future of Trotwood, along the Main Street corridor within their City. Mr. Ruzinsky explained to Trotwood Officials that RTA Staff would pledge to do everything possible to continue looking at what those services are and how RTA might best serve the community of Trotwood. Mr. Ruzinsky went on to say it may be a circulator service, or possibly a shorter fixed route from the hub, or possibly having community groups step up and assist. Mr. Ruzinsky stated Staff did make a commitment that as establishments begin to open we would look at additional service options for the area.

Mr. Williamson stated he appreciated Mr. Ruzinsky clarifying this for attendees and the Board. Mr. Williamson reiterated due to the ongoing driver shortage these service adjustments will hopefully be temporary and RTA can resume pre-pandemic service levels at some point in the near future.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 – RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10-1, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SEEK FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT FLEXIBLE FUNDING TO SUPPORT TRANSIT PROJECTS**

Mr. Williamson stated RTA has been notified by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) regarding the solicitation of new transportation projects under the category of Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ). Once submitted, applications for the proposed new projects are to be reviewed and evaluated for possible inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

In reviewing the region's transportation needs, Staff has developed the attached project that is eligible for flexible funding, and the proposal has been scrutinized in the context of MVRPC practices and policies.

Competition for these funds is expected to be substantial; applications are due on October 6th and require the Board's approval of the attached resolution.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Ms. Heard to APPROVE Resolution No. 2022-10-1, Authorizing the submittal of all necessary documents and the fulfillment of all other requirements, in order to obtain additional funding for project(s) approved by the MVRPC.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Seven            Nays: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Williamson stated anyone wishing to address the Board must speak on their own behalf. After you are recognized to speak you must come to the lectern or if you're physically unable to do so a handheld microphone will be brought to you. You must first state your name and address, after doing so, at that point you have 3 minutes to make your comments. A yellow light will come on when you have 30 seconds remaining, and the Secretary will say 30 seconds. When your three minutes are up, the red light will come on and the Secretary will say stop, and at that time you must stop talking and leave the lectern or surrender the microphone.

The following citizens expressed concerns with the elimination of service to a portion of Route 14. Several stated by eliminating service they would be cut off from work, doctor appointments, grocery, and other essential destinations.

- Ms. Tracee Browning – 5222 Big Bend Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45417
- Ms. Brenda Coleman – 434 Burman Avenue, Trotwood, Ohio 45426
- Mr. Paul Curtis – 3786 Nevada Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45417
- Ms. Ann Marie Johnson – 9 Belle Meadow Drive, Apt. B, Trotwood, Ohio 45426
- Ms. Mary Wyatt – 7010 Bellecreek Lane, Trotwood Ohio, 45426
- Ms. Penny Shackelford – 310 Madison Avenue, Trotwood, Ohio 45426
- Mr. Cecile Howard – 8 Belle Meadows Drive, Apt. B, Trotwood, Ohio 45426
- Ms. Francis Almond – 4264 Molaine Street, Trotwood, Ohio 45426
- Ms. Penelope Burnham – 7 Belle Meadows Drive, Trotwood, Ohio 45426

Ms. Candace Woods – 6215 N. Main Street, Apt. 106, Dayton, Ohio 45415 - Ms. Woods stated she's utilized Project Mobility since 2014. Yesterday she had an incident where she had a scheduled pickup at 1:30 p.m. from Walmart on Hoke Road. Ms. Woods stated the driver didn't show up until after 2:00 p.m., which was unacceptable, and that she didn't arrive home until almost 3:45 p.m. Additionally, Ms. Woods stated she has children with a RTA employee who has been in the hospital for nine months. Ms. Woods expressed that she would like to see Staff visit him.

The following citizens would like to see the Senior EZ Ride bus reinstated back into service as soon as possible.

- Ms. Mary Miller – 229 Colgate Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45417
- Ms. Sandra Smothers – 215 McDaniel Street, Apt. 207, Dayton, Ohio 45405
- Ms. Charlene E. Dawson – 6045 N. Main Street, Apt. 214, Dayton, Ohio 45415



Mr. Kevin Frazier – 555 Recess Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45404. Mr. Frazier expressed his concerns with the discontinuation of routes, employee work schedules, and his perception of employee morale.

Mr. Williamson thanked everyone for their comments and concerns. Mr. Williamson stated a couple of citizens mentioned they had some things in writing and input to this Board is not limited to Board meetings. Mr. Williamson stated guests may put their comments down in writing and send them via mail and the Board will review them.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS  
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Hairston commented that Route 14 has been an issue and a major concern and we have looked at it and are still considering options.

Mr. Fullenkamp stated that he totally agrees with Ms. Hairston and he has no further comments at this time.

Ms. Heard stated she had one comment about Route 14 and as mentioned earlier she and Mr. Ruzinsky met with Mr. Quincy Pope, Sr., and Trotwood's Assistant City Manager, yesterday. She and Mr. Ruzinsky were taken on a tour so we could see what was coming. Ms. Heard reiterated we're working together to come up with a win-win solution to provide transportation for Trotwood residents, however, please recognize that RTA is 75 drivers short of what we need, so we're trying to find a win-win solution and we haven't found it yet. In closing, Ms. Heard stated, we hear what you're saying, and Trotwood hears what you're saying and we are working to find a solution.

Ms. Howard stated for those with specific issues please stay after the meeting to talk with Mr. Ruzinsky or somebody on his team.

Ms. Howard stated it is very difficult and troubling when we have to cancel a route. Ms. Howard stated she works in healthcare, and her employer just went through a 90-day sprint to hire 900 people in 90 days! That's how many openings they had to fill, and they are not done yet. Ms. Howard stated we're getting ready to go through another sprint because we don't have enough people to take care of

patients in our hospitals without our staff being overworked. This Board will continue to work with Trotwood as we've heard everything said today, and we are committed to trying to find solutions.

Mr. Williamson stated he wanted to echo Ms. Heard's comments. The Board and our CEO, Mr. Bob Ruzinsky will continue to explore the best solution. We recognize the very legitimate concerns brought forth today.

The Board thanks those taking the time and making the effort to come in today to address the Board.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Williamson stated there is a request to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. No Action is expected today.

MOTION MADE by Williamson and SECONDED by Mr. Fullenkamp to RECESS into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation.

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Fullenkamp	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Excused
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Yes

The meeting recessed at 3:56 p.m.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Ms. Heard to RECONVENE into regular session.

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Fullenkamp	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Excused
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Yes

The meeting reconvened at 4:32 p.m.

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## ADJOURNMENT

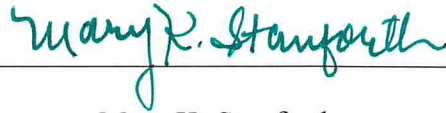
Hearing no objections Mr. Williamson ADJOURNED the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

ATTEST



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David P. Williamson  
Chair  
RTA Board of Trustees



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Mary K. Stanforth  
Secretary/Treasurer  
RTA Board of Trustees

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