



Minutes

Greater Dayton RTA Board of Trustees Public Board Meeting

November 4, 2021

- Trustees: David P. Williamson, President
Al Fullenkamp
Sharon E. Hairston
Adrienne L. Heard
Sharon D. Howard
Thomas Weckesser
- Excused: John A. Lumpkin, Jr., Vice President
Vince Corrado
Belinda Matthews-Stenson
- Staff: Bob Ruzinsky, Chief Executive Officer
Daron Brown, Director, Maintenance
Roland Caldwell, Director, Transportation
Christopher Conard, Coolidge Wall, Co., LPA
Cathy Garner, Senior Executive Administrative Assistant
Brandon Policicchio, Chief Customer & Business Development Officer
Mary Kay Stanforth, Chief Financial Officer
- Others: See attached attendance 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.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Excused	Mr. Lumpkin	Excused
Mr. Fullenkamp	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Excused
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	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. Mr. Williamson stated the Board Agenda was mailed in advance. Mr. Williamson stated there is one revision and one comment that needs to be added regarding the agenda. Mr. Williamson stated the revision is that he will present the Finance, Personnel and Planning report in Mr. Lumpkin’s absence and the comment is there are four (4) Action Items on the Agenda today, numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5. Mr. Williamson stated Action Item #5 falls under the scope of the Finance and Personnel Committee, therefore this Action Item will be presented after Action Items #2 and #3 and before Action Item #4, which will be presented during the Planning Committee Report. Mr. Williamson then asked Board members if there were any additional changes to the Agenda?

MOTION MADE by Ms. Hairston and SECONDED by Ms. Howard to APPROVE today’s Board Meeting Agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Six Nays: None

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

Upon hearing no corrections to the minutes Mr. Williamson DECLARED APPROVAL of the October 5, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVID P. WILLIAMSON)

Mr. Williamson stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees held a meeting on October 19th and as a result the Finance/Personnel Committee is recommending three (3) Action Items for the Board's consideration.

ACTION ITEM #2 – WRIGHT STOP PLAZA RENOVATIONS ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY

Mr. Williamson stated on November 10, 2020, Board Trustees approved a contract with ARCON Builders, Inc. in an amount up to \$2,308,194 for necessary renovation and improvements of RTA's Wright Stop Plaza Campus. During the project several unknown issues were uncovered including water infiltration damage to structural concrete under the storefronts, a major problem with the subfloor structure under the main lobby, and the need to update some structural steel to support the project. In addition, all existing interior concourse storefront systems were removed to better facilitate the exterior work and all the concourse flooring tile was removed. Contract change orders to date are just over \$300,000.

At this point in the project, the majority of the Board approved contingency funds have been used. RTA would like to have the concourse flooring ground down and sealed, some abandoned plumbing lines removed and sections of the concrete flooring repoured, some interior storefront walls rebuilt, some lighting updates made, and other project related items that may arise as the project is completed. It is requested that \$350,000 in additional contingency funds be added for a new total project award of \$2,658,194. This includes all renovation related to unplanned and unsafe flooring issues in the Concourse and Lobby areas.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Ms. Heard to AUTHORIZE an increase in the Contingency for the Wright Stop Plaza Campus Renovations project in the amount of \$350,000 for a grand total award of \$2,658,194 and that it be available as needed to handle any costs associated with changes to the project previously awarded to ARCON Builders, Inc. This procurement is being partially funded with Federal grant funds and federal funding is available to support this request.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Six Nays: None

ACTION ITEM #3 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION GUIDE

Mr. Williamson stated RTA has an Administrative Employee Compensation Guide for non-union employees. Periodically, if not annually, the Compensation Guide is reviewed and adjusted. A recommendation has been made to adjust the current Compensation Guide across the board by 2%. There are no implied or expressed guarantees on wage increases.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Ms. Hairston to APPROVE the 2022 Administrative Employee Compensation Guide.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Six Nays: None

ACTION ITEM #5 – SELF INSURED RETENTION AUTHORIZATION

Mr. Williamson stated at the Committees meeting, two separate liability claims were discussed in Executive Session. The legal processes related to the two separate claims are not yet final or complete.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Mr. Fullenkamp to AUTHORIZE Mr. Bob Ruzinsky, Chief Executive Officer, to take all appropriate steps to protect the Board's interest in connection with both claims discussed in Executive Session on October 19, 2021. Mr. Ruzinsky is now authorized to exercise his discretion with regard to both claims and may make any expenditure necessary up to the self-insured retention in furtherance of his responsibilities to protect the interest of the Board and the Greater Dayton RTA.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Six Nays: None

Additional items to mention:

At the Committees meeting, Ms. Stanforth reported year to date September 2021 financial performance and current sales

tax receipts. All details of which are included in today's Board package. The continued positive financial results will position RTA for a smoother economic recovery post Covid. RTA is positioned to restore the unrestricted net position shortfall which was caused by the state pension system funding liability.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (SHARON HOWARD)

Ms. Howard stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees met for a jointly held meeting on October 19th and as a result, the Planning Committee is recommending one (1) Action Item for the Board's consideration.

ACTION ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF TITLE VI PROGRAM AND SERVICE EQUITY ANALYSIS

Ms. Howard stated at the Committees meeting, Mr. Policicchio explained that as a recipient of U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration funding, the RTA must comply with Title VI and Environmental Justice regulations. This is to insure RTA provides fair and equitable service and amenities delivery and installation, meaningful customer outreach plans, and periodic service equity review processes.

While the RTA is in compliance with the Federal Transit Administration Title VI program through November 30, 2021, it is required that the Board review and approve the Title VI program and service equity reviews since the last submission on October 1, 2018.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Howard and SECONDED by Mr. Weckesser to APPROVE and submit the RTA Title VI Program by November 30, 2021 when the current policy is due for submittal to the Federal Transit Administration. This is supported by the October 8, 2021 Title VI Program Report, included in today's Board package.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Six Nays: None

Planning Update:

Ms. Howard stated at the Committees meeting Mr. Policicchio also provided a summary document of recent activities in the Customer & Business Development Department.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruzinsky stated he was happy to report RTA's vaccination incentives have had a major impact on Staff vaccination rates. Mr. Ruzinsky commented about 3-months ago Staff lingered around 53% being vaccinated. However, as of yesterday, as a company RTA Staff is now at 81% vaccinated, which is a significant increase. This breaks down by work group as follows:

- Bus Drivers - 82%
- Fleet/Facility Maintenance - 64%
- Administrative Staff - 90%

Mr. Ruzinsky stated Staff is aware that others are in the process of getting their vaccines especially since the incentive program is ending October 31, 2021. To take part in this incentive Staff must have a first vaccination shot by October 31, 2021.

Mr. Ruzinsky stated Staff sent out a press release earlier this week regarding RTA's Contingency Plan should a vaccine mandate go into effect. RTA is putting into place a operating contingency plan to run the current Saturday schedule, Monday – Saturday (6 days a week). Sunday service will not be impacted. This will ensure we have enough vaccinated drivers to provide limited services, as well as be the easiest for our customers to navigate. Mr. Ruzinsky commented that it is still unclear how RTA will be impacted by a Federal mandate. The only item that is clear with today's news regarding mandates is that the date changed from December 8th to January 4th. Mr. Ruzinsky stated Staff will continue to keep everyone informed of any new developments as we learn more.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williamson stated that he wanted to make some comments regarding last month's Board meeting to everyone here today. Mr. Williamson continued there were several citizens who expressed their concerns with the temporary elimination of specific routes. Mr. Williamson read a statement as follows: The RTA takes its Mission very seriously and is doing everything it can to hire, train, retain and deploy bus drivers. As most everyone is aware the shortage of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) drivers is a nationwide problem impacting public transit systems, school districts and shipping companies. Recent COVID cases lately have only made the situation worse. RTA is working diligently to hire and train CDL drivers. Mr. Williamson further stated only CDL drivers are allowed to drive the big buses. Unfortunately, RTA is not able to keep up with those CDL drivers who are leaving due to retirement, job changes, or in several cases those who continue to refuse vaccination. Since June, 2021 RTA has made many temporary route adjustments, which has impacted thousands of monthly riders who depend on those services. Recently RTA was forced to reduce service hours which impacted riders that depend on RTA for work, trips and other late night needs. Mr. Williamson stated "temporary" and he repeated "temporary" eliminations of routes 64, 65 and 66 were necessary to maintain a balance of services throughout the system. The limited number of housing complexes served by those routes are also served in most cases by other RTA routes. The Board understands that not everyone may be able to travel a few blocks to a bus stop that is served by a remaining RTA fixed route, but RTA has continued to work diligently to obtain funding and greatly lower the cost of door-to-door service for Seniors. Currently, RTA's fleet of small white buses are operated by drivers without a CDL. These buses have been making door-to-door trips and those qualified for the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit services can ride for just \$3.50 per one way trip. It may cost less with discounts. RTA has also been providing door-to-door trips for those not approved for the ADA Service for \$5 per one way trip. The grant funding Staff lined up allows RTA to offer discounts to all Seniors across Montgomery County and the new services allow a door-to-door option for those who cannot travel to the closest fixed route bus stop. It also

offers opportunities to Seniors that previously lived in a complex served by routes 64, 65 and 66.

As RTA is able to attract, train and retain CDL drivers, Staff will look at changes to improve fixed route service. As Staff is able to hire, train and retain small bus drivers, RTA plans to look at programs and services to improve service offerings to Montgomery County Seniors. Mr. Williamson stated based on current, national, state and local hiring trends and projections, Staff does not believe that the current driver shortage will turn around quickly. Staff is looking at the current situation to impact riders another six to eighteen months. Mr. Williamson reiterated as other Board members have previously stated, if you know of anyone looking for a career as a bus driver, who is willing to have us train them and get them their CDL, send them our way. We are desperate!

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Williamson reminded attendees that anyone who wishes to speak must speak on their own behalf and not someone else's and one must address comments and/or concerns to the full Board and not directly to any individual in management. Mr. Williamson further stated that if you don't have enough time to speak during the three (3) minute time limit that one may remain after the meeting to discuss any concerns further with RTA Staff.

The following citizens communicated they will continue to attend RTA Public Board Meetings and draw attention to their displeasure with certain routes being temporarily removed from service due to the current driver shortage at RTA. The Citizens communicated prior to the changes they utilized Routes 64, 65 and 66 weekly and by eliminating these routes it creates a financial hardship. The Citizens stated they would like the service of the above routes reinstated immediately, as the weather is beginning to change making it more difficult for them to maneuver without having a dedicated bus to travel to the grocery stores and other essential destinations. Additionally, they stated Tapp Pay is an extra financial burden and having to

pay \$5 to and from their destination is unfair. Several citizens have also contacted the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and spoke with a representative in regards to having a traffic sign placed on Main Street near where they now have to catch the bus and was told that it was not feasible for ODOT to accommodate their requests.

- Sandra Mae Smothers – 215 McDaniel Street, Apt. #207 – Asbury Apartments, Dayton, Ohio, 45405.
- Ms. Charlene Dawson – 6045 N. Main Street, Apt. 214 - Siena Village Apartments, Dayton, Ohio 45415.

- Ms. Mary Miller – 229 Colgate Avenue, Dayton Ohio, 45417. Ms. Miller expressed her concerns with the temporary loss of Routes 64, 65 and 66 and would like the routes reinstated as soon as possible. Additionally, Ms. Miller asked the RTA Board the following question - What was the criteria in determining how Mr. Bob Ruzinsky was selected as the Chief Executive Officer of RTA and what predetermining factors were given in his selection?

- Ms. Roberta Johnson – 3360 Valerie Arms Drive, Apt. #415, Dayton, Ohio 45405 – Ms. Johnson stated the public bathrooms at various RTA hubs no longer has seat and the toilet paper is very thin.

- Ms. Althea Assadulah – 6006 Channingway Court – Huber Heights, Ohio 45424. Ms. Assadulah stated since the temporary change of eliminating routes 64, 65 and 66 and with the recently added Tapp Pay program, other regular Paratransit riders cannot adequately utilize the service due to the overflow of demand by those temporary route eliminations and the surge of new Tapp Pay customers. Ms. Assadulah feels there should be other sources of transportation available to customers such as Uber, Cabs, etc., if Tapp Pay paratransit reservation services are full. Ms. Assadulah also stated the fixed route buses do not make consistent stop announcements with regards to street locations.

Mr. Williamson thanked all of the customers who made public comments today.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Williamson stated there is a request to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Labor Negotiations and no action will be taken today.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Ms. Heard to RECESS into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Labor Negotiations.

Roll call was taken:

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

The meeting recessed at 3:36 p.m.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Howard and SECONDED by Mr. Fullenkamp to RECONVENE into regular session.

Roll call was taken:

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

The meeting reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

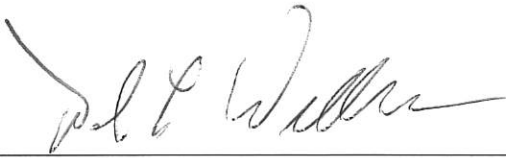
Mr. Williamson mentioned upcoming RTA meetings:

- Board Meeting – December 7, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.
- Jointly Held Finance/Personnel & Planning – November 16, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections Mr. Williamson ADJOURNED the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

ATTEST



David P. Williamson
President
RTA Board of Trustees



Mary Kay Stanforth
Secretary/Treasurer
RTA Board of Trustees

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