



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, April 30, 2025
10:00 PM**

Board Present: Darrell Eickhoff
Lillie Jean Johnson
Elijah Metherd
Bernard Silverman
Randal Wallace

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, CFO
Lauren Morris, Strategic Communications Manager
Ann-Martin McCall, Staff Accountant/Board Liaison

Visitors: None

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the FY2025 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2025 fiscal year, stating the date, time, and location. In addition, notice of this meeting was provided to the press and stakeholders, stating the date, time, and location on April 28, 2025.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Silverman called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Silverman gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM: Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the revised agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the minutes for March 26, 2025, were approved unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None

SERVICE/PACC COMMITTEE: Dr. Twigg began by updating the Board on what was discussed at the Service/PACC committee meeting. The update included discussion on the ridership report, which details trend data and how it relates to Coast RTA operations. The committee looks at any routes that may be of any concern and talks about what may need explanations. There was a briefing on route stats, vanpool, and facility update. Mr. Piascik stated he was grateful for Brittian Resorts as they were the Authority's "guinea pig" for vanpool. He noted that Brittian has faced an issue with vanpool regarding their off season. During this time, shifts are reduced causing some vanpools to shut down. In response, Enterprise wants to pursue the flex program which will adjust the vanpool rate based on how many times a passenger rides during the week. Mrs. Lauren Morris discussed upcoming changes in marketing by detailing some new marketing strategies to include ads on billboards, tear off 4x6 pamphlets for the entertainment shuttles, re-doing all signs in North Myrtle Beach and reels on social media.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman gave an overview of the March financials. He stated operating expenses are below budget, fares and salaries are below budget, the Authority's reserve fund is \$22,000, and ridership is up more this year than this time last year. Mr. Piascik commented that budgetarily, the Authority is in good shape. Additionally, Mr. Piascik informed the Board that the Authority will need to borrow money over the next few months. Although the County's funding agreement sets aside 5.45% of sales tax collection - \$3.1 million over next five months, the Authority will not see the money until mid to late October 2025. To bridge the gap, Mr. Piascik will be going to the bank to borrow funding. He estimates the Authority will need approximately \$350k to get through May 2025. He stated the Authority is also in between grants right now and that puts pressure on cash.

Mr. Piascik needed permission to sunset the old funding agreement on June 30th, 2025. The chair called a motion and there was a consensus.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Eickhoff recognized Pamlea Bellamy, Coast RTA's HR Manager, for doing a great job in helping with the GM's new evaluation form.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: It was noted that Ms. D'Angelo was planning a by-laws meeting after the May 2025 committee meetings. Marty McCall, Board Liaison, is to send the by-laws word document to Board Members for updates as well as schedule a meeting for Coast Staff to review the by-laws.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik received a letter from the Secretary of Transportation that states funding is at risk for any federal recipient that supports a DEI program or hires a vendor/contractor that supports DEI program. He stated he requested clarification on whether a DBE program constitutes a DEI program and is awaiting a response.

Mr. Piascik informed the Board that the TASC retreat is in two weeks in Clemson. He stated they have not heard from SCDOT for 6-7 weeks. During a call with SCDOT in early March, they told TASC that FY21 5311 allocation was sent back. A lot of the conversation will center on this. Mr. Piascik is not sure about when the 5311 contracts will be sent out and is not sure what Coasts' FY25 allocation of rural money will be.

Mr. Piascik gave an overview of what types of training the Authority offers its' employees. Programs include: defensive driving, passenger assistance techniques, wheelchair handling, drug and alcohol, first aid and CPR for supervisors, conflict resolution and active shooter, bloodborne pathogens, CDL certifications, and sensitivity training. These trainings are presented during orientation.

OLD BUSINESS: Meeting schedules were discussed. In May, there will be a Board Meeting and Finance Committee meeting but no Service/PACC Committee meeting. The June Board Meeting is cancelled but there will be Committee Meetings.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Dr. Twigg to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Silverman adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.