



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
12:00 PM**

Board Present: Katharine D'Angelo
Darrell Eickhoff
Lillie Jean Johnson
Marvin Keene
Joseph Lazzara
Elijah Metherd
Bernard Silverman
Nicholas Twigg
Randal Wallace

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, CFO
Renee Ballard, Maintenance Clerk
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Board Liaison
Lauren Morris, Director of Strategic Communications

Visitors: James Toy

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2023 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2023 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 12, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Keene 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: There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Mr. Metherd to approve the agenda. Mr. Piascik asked to revise the agenda to remove Resolution #MAR2023-07 - Authorization Enterprise Contract – Regional Vanpool. Additionally, Mr. Piascik suggested adding the discussion of meeting dates to the Good of the Order. There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and seconded by Dr. Twigg to approve the revised agenda. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the revised agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. D'Angelo's pointed out that her name was not on the attendance list but was in the body of last month's minutes. There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Mr. Metherd to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes, to include the correction adding Ms. D'Angelo's name to the attendance list. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes was approved unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Mr. Piascik greeted and introduced James Toy.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: Ms. D'Angelo began by stating the discussions in the last committee meeting. The committee discussed route service adjustments, fare collection, fleet updates TASC agencies government coordination and the entertainment shuttle.

Mr. Piascik followed up by stating he was able to have a good conversation with North Myrtle Beach who agreed to fund Coast RTA \$200,000 for 90 days of service of two trolleys, similar to the entertainment shuttle provided in Myrtle Beach. North Myrtle Beach has already provided Coast RTA with the funds. Lauren Morris is working on putting out a marketing piece for the North Myrtle Beach shuttle and the city is also engaged in helping with marketing. The fare for this shuttle will be \$1.00.

Mr. Piascik also spoke on service changes. Coast RTA staff has held public meetings around the region. Staff is currently trying to reschedule Georgetown as the first public meeting there did not happen due to a scheduling conflict. Public response will be forthcoming and presented to the Board once all meetings are complete; however, there has not been a lot of push back during the meetings thus far.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman began by recapping the discussions from the prior finance committee meeting. Topics discussed were fares, budget revision, financials/expenses, and roof repair.

Regarding fares, Mr. Silverman was concerned that “Tap to Cap” usage may not increase quickly enough before Genfare boxes become an issue. Mr. Silverman also spoke on budget revision, stating that there would be changes in some departments but the overall amounts were not significant. He complemented Mr. Piascik on how well Coast RTA has adhered to the budget.

Mr. Silverman stated there has not been any movement on the roof repair for mold, although Mr. Piascik is working to remedy this issue. Mr. Piascik stated he would provide an update in the General Manager’s report.

Specifics on financials/expenses showed an increase in overtime in maintenance and facility and vehicle maintenance. Mr. Piascik stated Coast RTA has received \$684,000 in road use revenue, which is approximately \$94,000 more than what was budgeted. He stated most of this will be put in LGIP. Additionally, Coast RTA received a refund of \$28,000 from the offsite warehouse due to termination of contract. To note, the landlord may request parking lot rental fee.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: None

AD HOC COMMITTEES: The Board requested a meeting time to discuss by-laws.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Silverman would like to meet regarding a business continuity plan.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT: Mr. Piascik stated he will have the financial plan timeline ready for the next finance committee meeting scheduled for May 24th, 2023. Mr. Piascik reviewed the project listing and reported tasks that had been completed, to include, identifying a board liaison, implementing a new fare system/contactless fare and creating/updating employee performance reviews and job descriptions. Mr. Piascik updated the Board that the cost to develop barcodes on passes will be approximately \$20,000.

Regarding roof repairs, Mr. Piascik reported that the process is complicated at best as environmental clearance must be completed since federal funds are being used. The estimated cost for the repairs is \$50,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Piascik will present the Board with a plan by the May 3rd, 2023, board meeting and repairs are expected to be complete by the end of summer.

Mr. Piascik provided an update on several topics. The Board and Coast staff will be conducting an updated SWOT analysis for Sunshine Service; Motorola radios will begin installation the week of April 17th, 2023, and our website is not satisfactory and needs updating.

Mr. Piascik presented at the Infrastructure and Regulation Committee. During this presentation, Mr. Piascik spoke on Tap to the Cap, service changes, and ridership. Coast RTA is on track for an

8% increase in ridership and this does not account for rides on the entertainment services. Mr. Piascik touched on a bus shelter project. Coast RTA would procure the shelters and then hire a contractor to install. Coast RTA would own and maintain the shelters. Finally, Mr. Piascik gave an update on Coast RTA's facility project with the purpose of obtaining an extension on the \$500,000 which sunsets on June 30th, 2023.

Mr. Piascik closed the General Manager's report by speaking on the new facility. Mr. Piascik stated that Coast RTA is moving forward with the land acquisition at an estimated cost of \$3.3 million, expected to be purchased by the end of 2023. Mr. Piascik provided an updated design of the new operations and maintenance facility and transfer station.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: The Board and staff discussed the upcoming committee meeting and board meeting dates. Mr. Piascik suggested the committee meeting on April 19th, 2023 begin at 10:00am and adjourn at 12:00 noon. This would allow sufficient time to discuss budget revision and conduct a SWOT analysis (Eileen Soisson to present). The next Board meeting will be May 3rd, 2023 and will include April financials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Wallace and a second by Mr. Metherd to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 1:43 PM.