



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, August 28, 2024
10:00 AM**

Board Present: Melissa Bilka
Katharine D'Angelo
Darrell Eickhoff
Lillie Jean Johnson
Elijah Metherd
Bernard Silverman
Nicholas Twigg

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, CFO
Tom Burda, Maintenance Manager
Doug Herriott, Operations Manager
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects
Lauren Morris, Director of Strategic Communications
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Staff Accountant/Board Liaison

Visitors: None

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2024 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2024 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 August 26, 2024.

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 agenda was approved unanimously.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None

SERVICE/PACC COMMITTEE: Dr. Twigg provided an overview of what was discussed in the last Service/PACC Committee meeting. Highlights included a service and ridership update. There were no accidents in July, which is a commendable win for the Authority. Regarding the Entertainment Shuttles, Dr. Twigg states there needs to be more emphasis on marketing from the cities of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach. The customer service data provided showed about 150 calls a day, which includes calls that come in after hours. The sample showed most of the calls were “where is the bus?” There are 2 call centers – one in Conway and the Myrtle Beach Transfer Center. Both centers work together to ensure coverage for the phones. The Community Transit Partners Committee will meet on September 10, 2024, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm at the Chapin Library. This committee is still looking for about 15 members, to include riders - ideally 10 business partnerships and 5 riders. Send applications to Lauren Morris for review before making any commitments.

Brian Piascik provided a fleet update. The Authority has 3 new transits in operation and a 4th was delivered this week and needs to be wrapped before being put in operation. This makes the Authority’s 47th vehicle and is an expansion vehicle. The Authority has 2 cutaways on order, and these are being funded out of the flexed dollars for the parcel (5339). Maintenance is reporting that there are engine issues in some of the newer fleet. Those vehicles are getting about 80,000 to 120,000 miles before the engines need attention. Maintenance will be talking with Ford to see if there is any preventative maintenance that can be done to get more mileage out of these vehicles. Additionally, the Authority will be asking Ford for help with repair costs. One of the New flyer refurbishments has been completed in August and another one will be complete in September. The Authority still needs to replace 5 Nabis, 2 El Dorados and 5 Trolleys which is estimated to cost \$7.2 million.

Melissa Bilka stated that vanpools are overall going well. There is an issue with one of the vanpools that services two locations in that the vanpool may dissolve as one group has dropped

out. Ms. Bilka explains that Brittain Resorts will need more time to gather data to see if vanpool is producing a return on investment.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman highlighted financials for July. He stated in the income statement some items are over budget, but these variances are explained in the notes. Line items under budget include admin salaries (due to procurement vacancy), vehicle maintenance (due to timing), and travel and training. Line items over budget include transit salaries, transit overtime and facility maintenance which will be an ongoing issue, and tires. Passenger fares are down 9% for the year, ridership is up this month compared to this time last year. Overall fixed route ridership is down but paratransit ridership is steady. The Authority's LGIP balance is low and needs to be addressed. Cash requirements shows the CNB principal loan being paid off in September 2024.

Mr. Piascik provided a parcel update. The Authority received funding from the State mostly coming from flexed dollars. The parcel grant has been executed, \$3.5M in federal dollars and \$875K in local funds. The parcel has been appraisal at \$4.35M.

Mr. Piascik gave a budget update. He began by stating the FY25 budget doesn't come close to doing all he wants to do but it does balance. One issue that was pointed out was that there is not a lot of increase in the O&M reserve. Horry County expects 5% of the Authority's operating cost in this reserve and the FY25 budget does not meet the timeframe. Mr. Piascik will be talking to County officials as to why it has to be this way (stating that the FY25 budget does not consider RIDE IV). Mr. Piascik plans to propose to County officials to use the \$315K in road use fees that are currently being held due to legal issues. Leaving this money where it currently is with the County but counting this amount towards the Authority's O&M reserve balance.

Wage adjustments for Authority employees in October 2024 will be less than normal, averaging around 2.5%. Employee raises will be re-visited next calendar year in hopes that Ride IV passes. The Authority is looking at a budget revision after the election in November 2024 regardless of if Ride IV passes or not. Mr. Piascik also stated that he may consider a TIFIA loan, which is based on prime rate only.

The FY25 budget shows revenue at \$10,420,000 and expense at \$10,369,211. The FY25 Capital Program shows revenue total of \$1,690,451 and expenses of \$1,508,488. Expenses include facility development program, cutaways, tap to cap upgrades, small capital items, fareboxes, maintenance facility lease and bus refurbishments. Revenue includes 5339 Grant Flex from SCDOT FY24, FTA 5339 remaining formula dollars, Horry County capital, and 5339 SCDOT including SMTD local funds/ARPA/5307.

Resolution: Resolution No: AUG2024-09 – Approval of the FY25 Budget. A motion of the Board of Directors for the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority to approve the FY25 Budget. Mr. Eickhoff made the motion and Ms. D’Angelo seconded. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolution passes unanimously to approve the Approval of the FY25 Budget.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: GM evaluation forms and the GM list of accomplishments were mailed the week of Aug 19, 2024. Please mail back to Darrell Eickhoff by September 20, 2024.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Silverman noted that the Board has a vice chair vacancy and requested nominations.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. D’ Angelo requested a Coast RTA vehicle to be in the North Myrtle Beach parade on December 7, 2024.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT: Mr. Piascik stated the TASC conference begins September 4th, 2024. The TASC board has done good work on reshaping the boards mission and Mr. Piascik is looking forward to sharing this at the conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Silverman adjourned the meeting at 11:43 AM.