



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, December 15, 2022
12:00 PM**

Board Present: Darrell Eickhoff
Marvin Keene
Bernard Silverman
Rob Sheehan
Katharine D'Angelo
Nicholas Twigg
Randal Wallace
Joe Lazarra

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, CFO
Lauren Morris, PIO
Doug Herriott, Transportation Manager
Tom Burda, Maintenance Manager
Kevin Parks, Grants/Procurement Manager
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Board Liaison

Visitors: None

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2022 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2022 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 December 15, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:06 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. Silverman and a second by Ms. D'Angelo to approve the agenda. Under the For Good of the Order report, the Board is to make a decision on the FY23 board meetings and committee meetings. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Mr. Lazarra to approve the October 2022 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes was approved unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman summarized the last finance committee meeting. Topics included split operations, the pros and cons of continuing maintenance operations at the existing Conway location versus moving to the warehouse in Red Hill, the possibility of buying the lot across street from the existing Conway location, and purchasing the local preferred option. Also discussed were route changes and the savings we would get from those adjustments, which is estimated to be about half a million dollars. It was noted that after the route changes are taken out for public comment/involvement that savings number might change. In addition, we would not see those savings until FY24. The committee discussed entertainment shuttle fares being \$1.00 (kids of a certain age to ride free) and that Marketing will need to provide this new information to the public via brochures. Brian Piascik stated that Coast RTA is currently working with Little Pay to resolve the limitations in Little Pay technology in order to implement tap to the cap for the entertainment shuttles as well as tapping for multiple people in same family. Adjusting fares mid-day to capture fares for seniors who are currently riding free was also discussed in the committee meeting. Mr. Silverman stated that Coast RTA had an upcoming audit in January 2023. Mr. Silverman also stated he would begin talking about FY24 budget early next year so that budget could be given to Horry County in a timely manner.

Mr. Piascik provided the financials for November 2022 and noted that vehicle maintenance is over budget. He stated that although not alarmed about this added expense, that we are keeping an eye on it. Some of this extra expense is stemming from emissions on New Flyer buses that are going bad. This has caused a lot of downtime because New Flyer has to coordinate with Cummins to override emissions detection. This requires a large amount of paperwork that has to be reported. Mr. Piascik stated we are still learning about the Trolleys although they have been sitting for a little while. Mr. Eickhoff suggested saving the trolleys for the entertainment/tourist industry rather than using them on regular fixed route service.

Continuing with the November 2022 financials, Mr. Piascik states we have many more expenses, including replacing the roof and removing the mold in the building. Dr. Keene asked about fuel, as he was concerned about how we are affected by pricing. Mr. Piascik is hoping the reduction in miles will help offset the fuel price increase.

Mr. Piascik stated the number of fares have increased by 6%. Looking at the balance sheet, the LGIP is lower than we like but this is mostly due to purchasing the trolleys. Mr. Piascik stated the LGIP account will be replenished next month (Jan 2023). The Board asked Mr. Piascik to provide information on why the 12-month rolling expense trend graph is trending up. They asked this information be provided at the next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Prater stated that Coast RTA's current ratio (short-term assets/short term liability) of about 2.0 is in line with the standard for transit.

Lastly, Mr. Piascik stated we received the Horry County Road Use fee for October 2022 this morning and that the amount received was more than expected, \$219,000 rather than \$175,000. Additionally, we should see grant money by the week before next payroll. Mr. Piascik stated ridership is growing. Paratransit ridership showed 2374 rides in November 2022, which is peak for us. Mr. Silverman ended by stating he appreciates the finance committee members for their input this year.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: Ms. D'Angelo began the meeting by saying they met the prior Thursday. The meeting discussions included changes in routes, facility updates, entertainment shuttle fares, and the upcoming meeting in Georgetown. The Committee took a vote to put fares on the entertainment shuttle. Also discussed were the reasons for route changes, which include improving on time performance on route 7 and 15N, combining the Socastee portion back with Market Common portion on 15S, and having seasonal adjustments to save on mileage, gas, and wear and tear on route 14, route 2, and route 7.

Resolution: Resolution # NOV2022-02 – Authorization for Service Changes Public Release. The resolution was read; two oppose, Dr. Twigg and Dr. Sheehan. The resolution passed.

Ms. D'Angelo thanked the committee members for their contributions for the year.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: None

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik began his report by talking about the existing Conway location. He stated there are serious roof issues that need to be resolved and will not be covered through insurance, resulting in about \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of expense. These numbers do not include mold abatement. The roof repair will be a permanent fix as there is no timetable of when we will be able to move from the building. Mr. Piascik explained that the money from the 5339 grant that was originally going to be used for split operations in Red Hill could be used for any offsite location. There will be a grant amendment with FTA but not before the radio system is purchased. The new radio system includes putting radios on every piece of equipment, one in customer service, one in maintenance, and one at the Myrtle Beach Transfer Center, and six to eight handhelds. This new system will replace the Verizon Wireless Push-to-Talk phones.

Mr. Piascik stated that there is about \$350,000 allotted for lease payments for the split operations warehouse. With the Red Hill site not working out, Mr. Piascik would like to pursue the two parcels across the street from the existing Conway location. He states that the two lots have two different owners and that he would like to talk to the City of Conway regarding zoning changes. Should the two parcels work for us, we can build the transfer center prior to departing the existing Conway facility. In order to buy the parcels, an environmental study will have to be conducted as well as a new site plan. Kimley Horn is working on both, the new site plan and environmental study for these parcels. Mr. Silverman asked what the existing Conway building is worth. Mr. Piascik quoted \$300,000 to \$400,000 range.

Mr. Piascik talked about South Carolina Department of Transportation's plan to award Coast RTA \$6 million over a three-year program for facility improvement. With these funds, \$2 million would buy the parcel on Grissom Parkway and \$4 million would be used to build the new Myrtle Beach Transfer Center. These funds are not available until commission approves it, which is scheduled for March 2023. Mr. Piascik has spoken with two attorneys and both have stated that Coast RTA can obtain the Grissom Parkway parcel through eminent domain, if necessary. Mr. Piascik plans to ask the attorney general's opinion on this issue within the next 30-45 days. Mr. Piascik reiterated that owning the Grissom Parkway parcel is only way to strengthen federal funds. Kimley Horn is still working on completing clearance for this parcel. The site plan for this parcel has not changed much, but does move the transit facility up to road at Grissom Parkway and creates more opportunity in the back of the parcel to do a land swap with the exiting storage facility.

Mr. Piascik explained how the 5311 grant formula will be changing as it relates to increased funding coming from the federal government and TASC's request that we do a better job with small transit systems with local match. Essentially, this change will help us put money in the bank and, long term, it will allow us to add more service. With the new formula, we can forfeit our

SMTF (5307) funds, losing state match but in return, we would get twice those funds back in federal dollars through 5311. This will be a three-year program.

Mr. Piascik ended his report by listing all the upcoming meetings he plans to attend in the next three months. He also provided his holiday schedule and invited Board members to Coast RTA's Holiday Party.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Board members signed Resolution # NOV2022-02 – Authorization for Service Changes Public Release.

Mr. Piascik reviewed the thank you letter to Horry Councilman with the Board members.

Ann-Martin Buffkin provided a Coast RTA Staff and Board Member contact information sheet to Board members.

The Board members reviewed the committee meetings schedule and the board meetings schedule for FY23. The Board decided to change the committee meetings to the Wednesday before board meetings, with SERVICE/PACC committee to begin at 10am and Finance committee to begin at 11am. The Board also decided to change the board meetings to the last Wednesday of each month.

Mr. Piascik ended by showing Coast RTA's new video commercial.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Wallace and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 1:53 PM.