



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday December 13, 2023
1:30 PM**

Board Present: Melissa Bilka
Katharine D'Angelo
Darrell Eickhoff
Lillie Jean Johnson
Marvin Keene
Elijah Metherd
Robert Sheehan
Bernard Silverman
Nicholas Twigg
Randal Wallace

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

Visitors: None

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 December 13, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:51 PM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Sheehan 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 minutes were approved unanimously.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: Dr. Twigg stated there will be a meeting on January 24, 2024, at 10am.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman stated there will be a meeting on January 24, 2024. In the upcoming year, the committee will be looking at the Authority's six-year plan, ridership, Ride IV Referendum, Grissom Parkway facility, budget, LGIP reserve, entrainment shuttles, and the Authority wide compensation plan.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Eickhoff stated there will be nothing new with the compensation committee until Spring 2024.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik stated that although he is no longer the President of TASC, he is still heavily involved in TASC's legislative efforts. TASC is planning a legislative reception at the USC Alumni Center on March 5th 2024. The agenda will include workforce transportation, senior transportation, and transportation to more rural areas. TASC members will also have a financial ask - \$20 million to start six pilot programs around the state focusing on workforce transportation. TASC will also ask to institute a capital program to help pay for things such as buses, maintenance facilities, etc. This will essentially be a state fund for capital projects. Additionally, TASC members have been working on Medicaid transportation issues. In the last six months, 41% of requested trips under the Medicaid program did not get performed because of lack of providers. The Medicaid program is driving providers out of business based on rates.

Mr. Piascik and other members of TASC will be working with DHHS on these issues. Mr. Piascik has a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor on January 24th, 2024, to discuss Medicaid issues.

Mr. Piascik stated that the Authority is close to initiating a pilot program for our Tap to Cap program. Visa is paying for the program and the Authority has engaged United Way, locally, to help identify 50 to 100 individuals to use in the pilot program. Future Card will be the credit card company and people in program will be able to use transit at a 100% discount if they use their Future Card.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Authority's newest Board member, Melissa Bilka, was sworn in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Kenne and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.