



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
d/b/a THE COAST RTA  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
12:00 PM**

**Board Present:** Darrell Eickhoff  
Marvin Keene  
Bernard Silverman  
Rob Sheehan  
Joseph Lazzara  
Nicholas Twigg  
Randal Wallace  
Katharine D'Angelo

**Staff Present:** Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO  
Ron Prater, CFO  
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects  
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Board Liaison  
Tom Burda, Maintenance Manager  
Doug Herriott, Operations Manager

**Visitors:** Robert Pawlowski  
Elijah Metherd

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 February 22, 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. Silverman and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to approve the agenda. Mr. Piascik asked to revise the agenda to add Resolution #FEB2023-07 - Authorization to Initiate Vanpool Program to initiate vanpool under the Finance Committee section. A motion by Mr. Eickhoff and seconded by Mr. Silverman to approve the revised agenda. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the revised agenda was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Mr. Silverman to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes was approved unanimously.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:** Mr. Piascik greeted and introduced the visitors, Robert Pawlowski and Elijah Metherd.

Robert Pawlowski spoke about Vanpool discussion. He stated that Vanpool would benefit Coast RTA, especially the south strand of Myrtle Beach as it would allow tourist to maneuver around downtown to help connect to bus routes as well businesses/attractions.

Elijah Metherd stated he was glad to be a part of the Coast RTA board. He spoke of his background as a State Trooper. He held that position for almost ten years and is very familiar with roads in Georgetown and Horry County. He looks forward to working with Coast RTA as the newest board member.

**SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE:** Mr. Piascik began the committee update by speaking of proposed upcoming route and service changes. The goal is to implement these changes in April 2023. The changes include:

- Route 7 & 15S will change to a 75-minute frequency in order to improve on-time performance;
- Route 15S Ext to 15 will be re-attached. This will reduce frequency to Myrtle Beach Airport and Market Common;
- Reduction of trips to International Drive on 15N;
- Reduction of trips (12 to 6) to Sandy Island on Route 16;
- Alignment modifications to service hours on Route 14 - saves 45 minutes on front end and about an hour on the back end.

The public involvement process for these services changes will begin the week of February 27, 2023. Notifications to the public will include online announcements; face-to-face as a table will be set up at each transit center with information; there will be notifications on the buses; and

social media opportunities. Proposed changes will be presented at the committee meetings on March 22, 2023 and request to approve the changes will be at the March 29, 2023 board meeting. Mr. Piascik will be attending the City of Georgetown's Council Workshop on February 22, 2023 to speak about service issues and will report to the Service/Pac on how that meeting goes next month.

**Motion:** A motion by Ms. D'Angelo and seconded by Mr. Eickhoff to approve Resolution #NOV2022-02R – Authorization to Release Proposed Route Changes to Public (revised). A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the resolution passes unanimously to approve the Route Changes to Public (revised).

Ms. D'Angelo reviewed what was discussed regarding the fleet update. Coast RTA will be looking into bus procurement using money from 5310 funding. Mr. Piascik stated that was the case and that Coast RTA will also be using Kimley-Horn to update our Transit Management Plan as it is due an update every four years and we have reached that mark. Ms. D'Angelo spoke of current buses that need mid-life rehabs to which Mr. Piascik stated these buses will be taken rotated in and out for maintenance over the course of the next two years. The estimated cost for these rehabs is \$100,000 to \$150,000 per bus, as they will need new engines and new transmissions, etc.

Ms. D'Angelo and Mr. Piascik provided an update on the upcoming Roadeo, which is scheduled for March 4, 2023 in Columbia. Coast RTA will have entered three operations (one for each category) to compete; as well as, two maintenance employees.

Mr. Piascik has been preparing for the Legislative reception on March 1, 2023 and has received good response for supporters who will be in attendance. AARP will have representatives at the event, to include Mr. Eickhoff. Additionally, AARP has agreed to contribute around \$1,500 per year for the next three years to TASC.

Ms. D'Angelo asked for an update on upcoming meetings Mr. Piascik planned to have with surrounding cities/counties. Mr. Piascik stated he had a meeting with the City of Georgetown on February 23, 2023; he is working on a time to meet with North Myrtle Beach but plans for it to take place the week of February 27, 2023; no meeting time with Georgetown County as of yet.

Lastly, Mr. Piascik spoke about the meeting with Ride IV Committee that was held the week of February 13, 2023. Coast RTA was on the agenda and was able to have a good conversation with the committee who in return received us well. Mark Lazarus put a motion on floor for the committee to consider granting us \$10 million to help fund for new facility. This motion was received well but it will have to go through project evaluation.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Silverman began by pointing out that the "Financial Plan Timeline" in the board packet highlights financial plans and timelines. The FY24 budget will be presented

earlier than in years past allowing the County and other funders more time to review. Additionally, there has been a new financial report added to the financials, “Net Working Capital” which is a snapshot that board members can use to measure the Authority’s financial security. Mr. Silverman thanked Brian and staff for putting together this form in one month as it is a starting point to what was requested by board members. Lastly, shown on the “Financial Plan Timeline” is the date (March 29, 2023) the O&M Reserve Rejuvenation Plan (OMRRP) will be presented to the board. This report is critical to keep board abreast of reserves.

Dr. Sheehan began a discussion concerning vanpool and how the funding relates to pick-ups that originate in Horry and Georgetown Counties but may have destinations within or outside of these service areas. Mr. Piascik explained that vanpool is a coordinated effort and that the Authority cannot dictate service areas. The program is intended to be borderless and “cast a net” across rural areas in an effort to get people to work. He also explains that although the vanpools will have our logo, we will be covered under Enterprise’s insurance and legal protection. The vanpool program will have an origin based set-up in that if the passenger originates in our service area, then CoastRTA will pay for that vehicle and will get credit for that ridership.

Mr. Silverman reviewed the January 2023 financials. He explained the first thing he looks at is budget review, pointing out that Mr. Piascik is within 1.5% of the overall budget. Secondly, Mr. Silverman pointed out the cash requirements and states cash appears to be in good shape. Cash requirements in LGIP shows no ins-and-outs this month. Ridership is up from 2020 and appears to be on track. In addition, demand response (paratransit) is “off the charts.” This service is expensive but is mandated. In reviewing the income statement; fuel and oil, vehicle maintenance and transportation salaries and benefits are over budget. The telecommunications budget is also over because the Authority had to purchase new GPS units. Lastly, Mr. Silverman brought up stop enunciation and how it is required by FTA but is not currently being done electronically or manually on Authority buses. Mr. Piascik states this is a service that we must address and until the Authority can find a program to correct it electronically, the driver’s will be required to do it manually.

**Motion:** A motion by Dr. Sheehan and seconded by Mr. Wallace to approve Resolution # FEB2023-07 – Authorization to Initiate Vanpool Program. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the resolution passes unanimously to approve the Vanpool Program.

**Motion:** A motion by Mr. Eickhoff and seconded by Mr. Silverman to approve the following funding resolutions:

Resolution #FEB2023-02 Authorization to Request FY24 Funding From Local Governments  
Resolution #FEB2023-03 Authorization to File FY24 5310 Grant Applications  
Resolution #FEB2023-04 Authorization to File FY24 5311 & SMTF Grant Applications  
Resolution #FEB2023-05 Authorization to File FY24 5307 & 5339 Grant Applications

A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the resolutions passed unanimously to approve all resolutions.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:** None

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Silverman asked to re-visit Mr. Piascik's succession plan. The board would like reassurance that if anything should happen to any leaders of the Authority, to include the GM that Coast RTA will continue to run smoothly. It was decided this was to be updated and discussed further at next month's meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Piascik is currently focusing on TASC as the conference is next week – March 1-4, 2023. Mr. Piascik was also able to attend the Chamber Legislation Reception last week. He has been able to make good connections and have good conversations that will ultimately be for the good of the Authority. Ms. D'Angelo recommended members of the board attend TASC yearly. Mr. Piascik agreed and stated this year Mr. Eickhoff will be attending and board members are welcome to attend this conference.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Coast RTA recognized Joseph Lazzara for his many years of service as a board member. This will be his last meeting in a formal capacity; however, he has been asked to continue serving the board in an emeritus position.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was a motion by Mr. Silverman and a second by Mr. Lazzara to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 1:28 PM.