



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
d/b/a THE COAST RTA  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
10:00 PM**

**Board Present:** Katharine D'Angelo  
Darrell Eickhoff  
Lillie Jean Johnson  
Elijah Metherd  
Sarah Pope  
Bernard Silverman  
Nicholas Twigg  
Randal Wallace

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

**Visitors:** None

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the FY2025 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2025 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 January 27, 2025.

**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:** An additional resolution was added under the Consent Agenda section. A motion was made and Mr. Eickhoff moved to amend. Dr. Twigg second. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the minutes for October 2024 and December 2024 were approved unanimously.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:** None

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER:** Ms. Sarah Pope was administered the oath of office and is now officially a member of the Authority's Board of Directors.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Piascik explained all the resolutions under the consent agenda (below).

Resolution JAN2025-02 – Authorization to Request Local Funding

Resolution JAN2025-03 – Authorization to File FY25-26 5311/SMTF Grant Application

Resolution JAN2025-04 – Authorization to File FY25 5307 Grant Application

Resolution JAN2025-07 – Authorization to File FY25 Tribal/Rural Grant Application

There was a motion to accept the resolutions by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Dr. Twigg. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolutions passed unanimously.

**SERVICE/PACC COMMITTEE:** Mr. Piascik stated there during the meeting in January, the Authority's operational plan was discussed. In addition, a few results from the onboard survey were mentioned. There were over 300 usable surveys and good information obtained that is statistically valid for ridership. The Authority has a stakeholder meeting that needs to happen in Georgetown County, possibly in late February. Other products coming out of this process include, a human service transportation plan, fare collection and fare structure, financial plan (6 year), and transit development plan – year 1-6 on where the Authority plans to go moving forward. No growth is planned until summer of 2026. Also discussed was a Title VI Plan, which is a federal requirement and is designed to give employees and customers a path towards making a complaint or who to contact if they feel their rights are being violated.

**RESOLUTION:** JAN2025-05 – Authorization to Release the Title VI Plan for Public Input. There was a motion to accept the resolution by Dr. Twigg and a second by Mr. Eickhoff. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolution passes unanimously.

Dr. Twigg pointed out the report in the financial statement where committee members can find ridership information to compare from month-to-month and year-to-year. Mr. Silverman also stated that Sarah Pope will be a part of the Service PACC committee.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Silverman asked Mr. Piascik to provide an update on financials. At the last finance meeting, the Board agreed to release the new revised budget so that Mr. Piascik could present it to Horry County. Mr. Piascik stated the December income statement highlights budget numbers in green that have changed in the revised budget. He reviewed some of the line items affected by the updated budget numbers. The Authority provided raises in January 2025 in order to move employees to a more suitable rate. Mr. Piascik will deliver a compensation plan to the Board in March 2025. The income statement shows the Authority is \$142,000 under budget and the goal is to stay that way. Cash requirements are not included in the December financials as Mr. Piascik is still working on it. There will be more borrowing in the Authority's future until funding becomes available towards the end of this year. Mr. Piascik informed the Board that he instructed Mr. Prater to draw grant money for February 2025 even though we are in January due to the federal government grant money hold. Lastly, Mr. Piascik mentioned there is an existing note at Conway National Bank for \$146,000 due on March 16, 2025.

Mr. Piascik presented an overview of the revised budget.

**RESOLUTION:** JAN2025-06 – Approval FY25 Revised Budget. There was a motion to accept the resolution by Mr. Metherd and a second by Dr. Keene. A voice vote was taken; no nays were heard; the resolution passes unanimously.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:** None

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** None

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Piascik provided an update on TASC. The meetings and rodeo were cancelled due to legislative delegates not being present and the bad weather. The rodeo has been rescheduled to March 22, 2025 at the COMET. The board retreat agenda for TASC will include two items, one being trespass and the other is a unilateral increase in transit funds. SCDOT is in the midst of their financial management oversight which is the review with FTA on all transit programs they administer. On February 27, 2025, at the Myrtle Beach Train Station, the Authority is planning on hosting an industry day where architects, engineers, and construction management folks will be invited to come and ask questions about the RFP's we are putting out for design engineering and construction management for our facility. The Authority is now the official owner of the property on Grissom Parkway.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Silverman asked for nomination for Vice Chair of the Board. Marvin Keene was nominated. Mr. Eickhoff motioned with a second by Ms. D'Angelo. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; Marvin Keene was appointed Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ms. D'Angelo requested a trolley for the Saint Patrick's Day parade. Mr. Doug Herriott will arrange accommodations for this request.

Mr. Eickhoff motioned to provide Mr. Piascik with a 1.5% cost-of-living increase effective 01/01/2025 to align with the raises provided to all Authority employees. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the approval to provide Mr. Piascik with a 1.5% cost-of-living raise passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was a motion to go into Executive Session by Dr. Twigg with a second by Mr. Metherd at which time the recording session ended. A motion to come out of the Executive Session was made. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was a motion by Mr. Metherd to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Silverman adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM.