



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
12:00 PM**

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

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

Visitors: Mary Kate Morookian – Kimley-Horn
Paul Pattison – Kimley-Horn
Robert Pawlowski

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 January 25, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:15 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. Eickhoff and a second by Dr. Twigg 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 Ms. D'Angelo and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to approve the December 2022 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, Mary Kate Morookian and Paul Pattison.

Robert Pawlowski acknowledged Coast RTA's accomplishments and stated he hopes these accomplishments/projects advance in the future. He also acknowledge that a major issue is funding sources and he hopes to reach out to SC lawmakers to see if they can increase state funding and stay away from tax funding. Mr. Pawlowski will be providing an update to Brian Piascik in the near future to detail what has been done regarding speaking to lawmakers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman summarized the last finance committee meeting, which took place on January 25, 2023 prior to the Board Meeting. The committee reviewed December 2022 financials and spoke about Vanpool. Mr. Silverman asked Dr. Sheehan what, specifically; he would like to see in the minutes regarding the Authority's financial security. Dr. Sheehan would like a financial chart/form or measure that will show the Authority's financial security so that the Board will have a measure of reserves. Mr. Silverman would like to discuss the option of a Vanpool further at the next finance committee meeting.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: Ms. D'Angelo explained that the Service/Pac committee has not meet the last couple of months. There is a Service/Pac committee meeting scheduled for February 15th, 2023, which will cover what service changes and staff changes.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: None

AD HOC COMMITTEES: Ms. D'Angelo asked if there needed to be any changes to the by-laws. Mr. Piascik stated this would be reviewed spring 2023.

OLD BUSINESS: Paul Pattison from Kimley-Horn presented an update on facility development. Mr. Pattinson presented a plan for the vacant lot behind our Conway facility. He noted the parcel works better from a traffic perspective and would provide a public meeting space. Dr. Keene asked what is the long-term vision for this property once we move to the Myrtle Beach facility.

Mr. Piascik explained that when that move occurs, the Conway parcel would then work nicely as a park and ride. Additionally, the traffic flow and safety would be improved, as buses would not be stopping on Third Avenue. The cost estimate for Conway parcel is \$3.5 million. The passenger handling would be a part of this parcel plan and it would possibly include a driver's lounge. Mr. Silverman asked what, if anything, is holding us up from finding out the price of that parcel. Mr. Piascik stated we are not held up by finding out the price, we are just feeling things out right now.

Regarding the Myrtle Beach site layout; operations and maintenance will be in same building, passenger facility will be in their own building, and admin will be in their own building. Primary access to the Myrtle Beach site will be from Grissom Parkway, with a secondary access from Osceola Street. Regarding the wetlands, one runs under our operations building which will require a permit but is not a concern.

Kimley-Horn working on a financial plan for this project to see what the funding options are based on the funding thresholds year after year. This person is also making sure that we know what our gaps are, if any, so that we can continue to request funding to keep our current site operating.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mary Kate Morookian from Kimley-Horn presented the upcoming Coast RTA Organizational Plan. She explained this plan will look at our current system and figure out where can we go from here. In doing so; it will highlight any unmet needs. Ms. Morookian explained the Authority would need a dedicated funding source in order to grow a reliable system. Part of this project is educating the community, stakeholders, etc. that they can benefit from public transit. The plan will identify opportunity areas where demand is untapped. First, they will be starting with an indepth look at the system to identify needs and gaps. They are looking at ways to best utilize the funds on existing routes and how to best meet needs. There are several components of the plan. As it relates to fare structure and technology analysis, they will look at fare pricing to determine the best fare to charge passengers. The full transit development plan will highlight new potential services. The transit/human transportation coordination plan is a non-emergency transit plan that may highlight how much senior transportation is needed. The regional transit financial analysis will provide opportunities to help fund cost and help decide what is most probable and realistic.

Ms. Morookian stated this study will take about two years to complete and will start with data collection. They will look at employment density, population density, and demographics, land use, where service is most productive, frequency of services, existing ridership data, speak with operators and have departmental interviews.

- b. APTA Legislative Conference – Mr. Piascik plans to attend this conference in March 2023 as it poses a good opportunity to reach FTA and make contacts. Mr. Eickhoff will also attend this conference.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT: Mr. Piascik began his report by speaking about the Transit Retreat in Myrtle Beach on February 2nd and 3rd, 2023. He stated that one of the primary vendors who sponsored the event is the conglomerate of Littlepay, Kuba pay, etc. He offered an invitation to any of the Board members who may want to attend. Mr. Piascik stated he would also be speaking with FTA at the retreat. Mr. Piascik attended a Chambers Advocacy Council Meeting with the purpose to meet with the two new representatives from the State house. He discussed why the Grand Strand needs a better transit system and noted that Horry County seniors are growing at a rate of 93% (10% of entire state senior population live in Horry County). Mr. Piascik announced that Annual TASC Conference will be March 1st – 5th, 2023 in Columbia, SC.

Finally, Mr. Piascik providing an update on Bluejeans and roof repairs. He stated the Authority will have Bluejeans for another year and will then be switching to Teams. Bmore is moving slower than we would like but they are thorough and we are overall happy with their services. The Authority is still working on getting roof repairs. Mr. Prater noted the audit is going well and everything is looking good. He stated the auditors were on site for 1.5 days and will finish the remaining parts of the audit remotely.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was a motion to go into Executive Session by Ms. D’Angelo with a second by Mr. Eickhoff at which time the recording session ended. A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Eickhoff with a second by Mr. Wallace. No decisions were made and no votes were taken.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

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