



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
d/b/a THE COAST RTA  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, June 23, 2022  
12:00 PM**

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

**Staff Present:** Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO  
Ron Prater, Chief Financial Officer  
Tom Burda, Maintenance Manager  
Lauren Morris, PIO

**Visitors:** Robert Pawlowski  
Amy Barrett, President, MB Downtown Alliance

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 June 23, 2022.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Dr. Keene gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SWEARING IN: Dr. Twigg:** Mr. Piascik swore in Dr. Nicholas Twigg, who was retroactively to the May 2022 Meeting.

**ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM:** Roll call was taken. A quorum was present. The Board Chairman and Past Board Chairman asked that those absent from board meetings be recognized as “Excused”, only if that board member informs the Board Liaison, in advance, that they are unable to attend. Board members who do not attend the meeting and do not inform the Board Liaison that they will be absent will be recognized as “Absent”.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Mr. Eickhoff that the revised agenda with the corrected date be approved. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard the agenda was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Ms. Johnson Sheehan to approve the April meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes as amended.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:** Mr. Pawlowski’s congratulated Dr. Twigg, the new Board member. He then commented on fare collection and that he supported the new fare system and that the Authority should expand the outlets where passengers can obtain fare media.

Ms. Barrett then spoke about the MB Downtown Alliance, which is a member of the SC Main Street Coalition. She referenced the Alliance as a “Place Management Organization”, which is focused on two primary objectives: To improve Downtown District management to keep it clean and attractive for visitors and residents; and, to make it easier to operate a business in the Downtown District. She mentioned that transit is very important to the Downtown District.

Mr. Piascik said that the timing of Ms. Barrett’s visit was very good as Coast RTA continues to develop facilities (both Operating & Maintenance and a new Transfer Facility) in close proximity to the Downtown District. He then welcomed Ms. Barrett to the Region.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Silverman summarized the proceedings of the last Finance Committee meeting which centered on the FY 22 Budget Revision. He cited issues with facility maintenance and fuel costs, but went on to say that the Authority’s acquisition of trolley buses was very good and that system ridership has been steadily improving. The Committee discussed fare collection implementation. There was consensus on the Committee for the Board to approve the FY 22 Budget Revision.

Mr. Piascik went through a number of slides (attached) to give the Board some additional details about the Budget Revision, above and beyond resolving some issues with some line items, including labor costs and fuel. He mentioned the remote possibility of providing a short pilot program on a entertainment shuttle in N. Myrtle Beach, if the trolleys can be put into service.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about the differences between Coast RTA providing the shuttle versus a private entity.

Mr. Silverman asked about ridership on the Entertainment Shuttle. Mr. Piascik did not have ridership numbers but would get back to the Board with that information. J1 visa'd passengers are out there but Coast RTA is not doing any special trips to get them to work. Mr. Piascik also responded to and elaborated on a question (Mr. Silverman) about the time it takes to put a newly acquired bus into service.

Mr. Piascik further elaborated on the revised budget related to capital grants will be used to cover items like leases (split operations) and credit card fees (fare collection ARPA grant). He added budget to cover price increases in fuel. He then elaborated on some changes in revenue in the revised budget including road use fees, how the authority uses County ARPA funds and the trolley payment coming out of savings. Five trolleys will be purchased for \$487,000.

Mr. Piascik displayed the changes to the Income Statement as a result of the revised budget, which showed 6.77% increase with the bulk of the changes in fuel costs. There are \$2.7M in spending left in the fiscal year and approximately \$3.5M in remaining revenue. Dr. Twigg asked about the individual municipality's contribution and Mr. Piascik went through the amounts.

**MOTION:** A motion by Mr. Silverman seconded by Dr. Sheehan to approve the amended Resolution # JUN2022-07 Approval of the FY 22 Revised Budget. The amendment (Motion from Ms. Johnson/Seconded by Mr. Eickhoff) added notation to more detail attached to the resolution into the background section. The Board also voted unanimously (motion Mr. Silverman/seconded by Mr. Eickhoff) to allow Dr. Keene to sign the resolution on behalf of the Board. Each motion was approved unanimously.

**SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE:** Ms. D'Angelo asked Mr. Piascik to run through his slides on topics typically covered in Service/PAC. Mr. Piascik discussed fare collection implementation including delays in contracting with LittlePay, installation of the validators, and development of marketing materials by T2H. Elavon, the acquiring bank, is setup and ready to go. Coast RTA will also be adding full-blown internet on the buses as a part of the program. This will allow communication with validators and other systems on the bus (except engine diagnostics) and eventually provide internet access to our passengers. Staff has been in contact with VISA (the credit card company) to help provide video and other marketing materials for the program. We also are talking to them about CashApp which may be a tool for those passengers without bank accounts to pay their fare. Still working on the impact on those who are paying cash because we will not be able to provide change cards and the team is working on a method to provide bulk single ride passes. It is still the goal of the program to eliminate cash on the buses. Mr. Piascik fielded a number of questions from the Board on details of the program.

Mr. Piascik updated on the RAISE Grant and 5339/Lo No Program applications. Mr. Piascik lauded the efforts of the Kimley-Horn team on the applications, including the Zero-Emission Transition Plan, which outlines the development process from diesel to electric buses. Mr. Piascik talked about all of the products that were developed in order to submit applications. The project cost has been updated for the facilities (MB and Conway) to \$44M (6 times our annual budget). The consultant is working on site evaluation for the MB transit center to bring that facility up to the same level of planning of the facilities, project management plan (FTA requirement) and planning documents for the MBTC to clear the facility environmentally.

Mr. Eickhoff asked about staff concerns about the leased facility to support split operations. Mr. Piascik said that the process is ongoing but slowly. There is a possibility in other options.

Mr. Piascik then went through IT issues at Coast RTA but asked the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES** – The Board asked Mr. Piascik to submit his accomplishments and goals to the Compensation Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Board discussed the Master Project List. Mr. Eickhoff asked for a revision of moving stop annunciation back to category A on the list.

The Board decided on the schedule for the remaining meetings for the summer, including committee meetings in July and no full Board Meeting in July. Committees and full Board meeting in August. A Compensation Committee on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Silverman made some comments on the Coast RTA Website and was worried about a lack of updates. Mr. Piascik said that staff would go through the website and make updates.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dr. Keene appointed Dr. Twigg to the Service/PAC and the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committees.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Piascik said that he had given the Board a full update and did not need a GM's Report.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** A motion by Dr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Eickhoff to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter was approved unanimously.

A motion by Dr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Eickhoff to come out of Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and no votes were taken.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to adjourn the meeting.  
Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 2:08 PM.