



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
12:00 PM**

Board Present: Melissa Bilka
Darrell Eickhoff
Lillie Jean Johnson
Marvin Keene
Elijah Metherd
Robert Sheehan
Bernard Silverman
Nicholas Twigg

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, CFO
Doug Herriott, Operations Manager
Tom Burda, Maintenance Manager
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 2024 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2024 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 March 27, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 began by saying that at the last Service/PAC Committee meeting, members discussed Route 16 service changes and the Citizens Advisory Committee. The board voted to accept the executive committee's decisions to make the Route 16 changes. Mr. Piascik stated the Route 16 changes went into place on March 10, 2024, and changes have been going well.

The Organizational Plan is a big-ticket item for the committee and the first step will be an outreach type program which will help to implement the Citizens Advisory Committee. Anyone who the board would like to be a part of the Citizens Advisory Committee, please let Coast staff know. Dr. Twigg stated he would like passengers to be involved. The Citizens Advisory Committee would meet on a quarterly basis at a separate meeting than the board and committee meetings.

Coast RTA Staff will be working on data collection and analysis for customer service and hope to have this data for the May meeting. The Organizational Plan includes the public involvement process and the fare structure analysis. The plan will help identify what our priorities will be moving into a successful Ride 4 program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman recapped financials from the committee meeting and stated financials will be modified in the budget revision that will be discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Silverman recapped that cash requirements fall at the first of month but rise again quickly, fixed route ridership is down, but paratransit rides are up. Overall, expenses are 2% over budget. Mr. Silverman explained that there are two reasons we need a budget revision. First, to get the income statement items back in line and, second, is to satisfy the funding agreement with Horry County. Some of the budget changes include adding money to overtime transit and maintenance, telecommunication and cutting expenses in vanpool and transit salaries.

Mr. Piascik reiterated all that Mr. Silverman stated by sharing a slide presentation. Coast RTA's operating budget is increasing from \$8,428,975 to \$8,682,975, which is an increase of \$254,000.

The primary increase in expense is for engines and power train packages. The budget also shows an increase in the LGIP contribution of \$90,000, onboard survey expense of \$50,000, four transits and two cutaways which increase the budget by \$676,000 and parcel acquisition due diligence expense increase of \$25,000. Additional revenue includes FY18 5307 (NC)/5311 two-for-one in the amount of \$629,982, FY23 5310 (GSATS) of \$277,950 and FY20/21 5339 (Urban formula) of \$296,650. The total increase in expenses is \$1,095,000 with an increase in additional revenue of \$1,204,582, leaving a net surplus of \$109,582.

Resolution: Resolution No: MAR2024-02 – Approval of the FY24 Revised Budget. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolution passes unanimously to approve the Approval of the FY24 Revised Budget

Mr. Silverman quickly outlined upcoming events regarding the Finance Committee: members and staff will be working on the financial plan, transit plan, VISA program with future card, and the triennial.

The Board and Mr. Piascik discussed drivers, specifically CDL drivers. Starting pay, experience and school system driver comparisons were among the discussion. Mr. Piascik was asked to bring CDL costs to the Service/Pac committee meeting.

Dr. Sheehan requested that Mr. Piascik and the Board members discuss frequently the requirements set forth by Horry County regarding the LGIP balance. This will be to ensure Coast RTA is consistently and effectively working towards getting to the balance set forth by Horry County for June 2025.

Mr. Piascik shared the Ride IV Special Sales and Use Tax question for the upcoming vote. If the referendum is successful, the first release will be October 15, 2025.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: None.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Eickhoff asked about customer complaints. Mr. Piascik is working on a plan, and it will be discussed further in the May Service/PAC committee meeting. Melissa Bilka asked for more marketing for employers and stated bus passes would be a great topic as we are going to speak to those employers about Coast RTA.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik began by saying he will be working on providing Georgetown County Tax Commission a projects list for Coast RTA capital projects. This list is due

by April 1, 2024. Mr. Piascik would like to add in money for a transfer center in Georgetown County.

Update on TASC. Mr. Piascik states we are in the process of getting \$500,000 into this year's budget for an economic impact study for mass transit. The legislative reception was held in early March and was not as well attended as last year. During the reception, awards were given, one being the John Scott Transit Legacy Award. In addition, we paid tribute to a couple of Legislators coming out of Florence area, one being Mike Reichenbach.

Mr. Piascik shared the master project list and ran through updates. The marketing plan, on-board survey, customer service data collection plan/analysis, ridership by route added to board report, and annual report development (delivered to public annually on how we have used tax dollars). were all added and coded based on priority.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Piascik presented Dr. Sheehan with an appreciation plaque for his service and contributions to the Board of Directors as this was Dr. Sheehan's last Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 1:13 PM.