



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

Board Present: Melissa Bilka
Katharine D'Angelo
Darrell Eickhoff
Marvin Keene
Elijah Metherd
Robert Sheehan
Bernard Silverman
Nicholas Twigg

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

Visitors: Tommy Cardinal – My Horry News

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 October 25, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 12:07 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: Dr. Robert Sheehan asked to revise the agenda to move Resolution No: OCT2023-01 to The General Managers Report and move The Compensation discussion to Executive Session. There was a motion by Mr. Bernie Silverman and a second by Mr. Darrell Eickhoff to approve the revised agenda. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the minutes were approved unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Dr. Sheehan introduced and welcomed Tommy Cardinal from My Horry News.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: Dr. Sheehan stated that Nicholas Twigg will be the new chair along with members Elijah Metherd, Katharine D'Angelo, and Randal Wallace.

Dr. Twigg states he will use the by-laws to lead the committee. He outlined the details involved in leading this committee. Mr. Piascik will have Coast staff contact Dr. Twigg with customer complaints and concerns. Next Service/Pac committee meeting will be discussed in the General Manager's report. Additionally, Mr. Piascik will share ridership figures in the General manager's report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman began by reviewing discussions from the finance committee meeting. Mr. Piascik to decide when an authority wide compensation plan will be needed and the board members will look at the plan annually, if needed. Mr. Piascik stated an authority-wide compensation plan would be brought to the board next year. Mr. Silverman stated that September 2023 financials will be year-end financials. Budget is 4% over but there are overages in revenues to cover. Fares are down 17% partially due to Genfare issues when we were not collecting fares. The admin salary is below budget while other departments are over. Vehicle maintenance is over 66% because of availability of parts and older fleet. The balance sheet shows about \$34k in the LGIP, we will begin to add \$10k a month beginning in Oct 2023 to build this account up. LGIP goal is to reserve enough to cover a pay period. Waiting on GSAT study to prepare a 6-year plan.

Mr. Silverman states cash requirements show an \$11k balance on November 11, 2023, however; this is not a concern as the county will have a payment on November 15, 2023. The month of September 2023 was very tight due to three pay periods and delays in South Carolina payments.

Mr. Silverman asked when will Coast begin looking at next year's entertainment shuttles. Mrs. Lauren Morris and Mr. Piascik answered now. Mr. Piascik will be meeting with the Myrtle Beach

Chamber next Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Additionally, Mrs. Morris stated having proper signage for the Entertainment Shuttle is in the fore front of planning. Also, getting materials into pre-trip planning documentation so tourists will know what is happening before they arrive for vacation. Coast will also be putting materials in hotel rooms and spreading the word with Chambers.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: Moved to Execution Session.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Piascik provided an update on the project listing. Financial Plan/High Level Ride IV Plan moved up as it is very critical.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik presented Marvin Kenne with a recognition plaque for his service as Chairman of the Board.

Fleet update: Coast has applied for 4 transit buses and 2 cutaway buses under the 5310 Grant Application into GSATS, this cost is approximately \$729,000. Waiting to hear from GSATS if we will be getting funding. SCDOT is working on a round of vehicle purchases. We will be requesting replacements for 5 NABI buses and 2 El Dorado buses. This cost is approximately \$42 Million. Coast will be using some 5339 dollars and asking SCDOT to fund some from their vehicle purchase program.

Future funding: Ride IV Commission has been given more direction to pursue the 25-year program, estimated at \$5.5 billion for the region to put towards transportation projects and assures a 4% growth. This program will be 60% tourist paid. This transportation tax would replace RIDE III Capital Projects Tax and will not increase in annual taxes. Taxpayers will keep paying the same amount of taxes (since it is a replacement). Mr. Wilfong submitted Coast RTA officially into the project listing. Mr. Piascik will be presenting in November 2023. Mr. Piascik will be asking is for \$18 Million annually plus growth (1/7 of penny). Decision for inclusion will be in the Spring of 2024 (March/April) and that is when Coast will know if we are included in the referendum. This program would begin in July 2025.

Facility development: Coast's maintenance department is moving to a new location. The new facility is 22,000 square feet and will allow for parking some of our buses inside. We will be planning a hygienic cleaning in the Conway maintenance area to convert the inventory room into an employee's lounge. There is more plumbing work scheduled for the Conway maintenance bathroom. Healthcare Partners is moving forward without Coast RTA but they offered us a lease for the parking lot. Mr. Piascik states parking should not be an issue since we have split

operations. Coast did receive FTA concurrence on CatEx for the Grissom Parkway parcel. We are working towards the acquisition of this parcel. We are working with the City of Myrtle Beach in coordination of placement of the fire station. Mr. Piascik presented a layout of the current site plan. There are three different grant applications that Coast will be producing next year (2024) regarding Long Term Facility Development: RAISE-USDOT, 5339/Low No-FTA and Protect-USDOT. Once Coast acquires the property on Grissom Parkway, we will be working with Kimley Horn in releasing an RFP for construction management /general contractor.

Resolution: Resolution No: OCT2023-01 – Authorization to Pursue Acquisition of Grissom Parkway Parcel. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolution passes unanimously to approve the Authorization to Pursue Acquisition of Grissom Parkway Parcel.

Coast RTA organizational plan: Mr. Piascik would like to have a board retreat instead of the normal December board meeting. During this meeting, we will discuss GSAT study in detail. Some highlights include: service later into the evening, higher peak frequencies, introduction of micro transit region wide and expansion of paratransit, adding service to North Myrtle Beach, Carolina Forest, SR544 and Burgess/Socastee. Upcoming products include delays in fare structure analysis, assisting in presentation for RIDE IV, recommendation report, financial plan – status quo/RIDE IV.

Ridership stats: Ridership is down from FY2022 to FY2023. Stats show more revenue hours from FY2022 to FY2023, costs have increased substantially due to inflationary costs (wage rates, etc). O&M costs per revenue hours went down \$5 because we were collecting fares. Paratransit accidents have increased but fixed route accidents have decreased.

System ridership: In July 2023, our ridership dropped substantially. This could be due to inclement weather (rain) but also because our ridership on the entertainment shuttles was not as high as expected. Route 10, the Myrtle Beach Local ridership dropped and there was a big drop in Route 1, the Conway Local. We saw a 10% increase on Route 16, Myrtle Beach/Georgetown. Route 7, Myrtle Beach/Conway stayed about the same.

FY2024 goals: Fare structure implementation with public involvement, acquire Grissom Parkway parcel, develop new financial plan, inclusion in Ride IV referendum, increasing ridership and technology plan (fare collection, ride tracker app, consolidation of data plans, passenger counting, bus stop annunciation).

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: New committee chairs were announced. Dr. Twigg will head the Service/Pac Committee; Mr. Eickhoff will chair the Compensation Committee; and Mr. Silverman will continue to chair the Finance Committee. There will be no committee meetings or board meeting in November 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Silverman and a second by Dr. Keene to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.