



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, October 30, 2024
10:00 AM**

Board Present: Darrell Eickhoff
Lillie Jean Johnson
Marvin Keene
Elijah Metherd
Bernard Silverman
Nicholas Twigg
Randal Wallace

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

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 October 28, 2024.

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: 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: None

SERVICE/PACC COMMITTEE: Dr. Twigg asked for an update on the on-board surveys. Mr. Piascik states we have four outside surveyors and Authority staff working on surveys. Last week, we received 96 surveys. Within the next two weeks, we should have enough to be statistically valid. Dr. Twigg asked what the on-board survey is measuring. Mrs. Morris stated the surveys will provide passenger benchmarking and route data.

Also, at the last meeting, the committee looked at ridership and a comparison from FY23 vs FY24 route statistics. The Authority will continue to look at these stats and report back to the Board. Marketing the entertainment shuttle needs attention. Mr. Piascik also stated that vanpool did about 5,000 passengers with five vehicles in operation at the present.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dr. Keene recapped the meeting. He stated the committee discussed how fares and ridership relate to finances, if at all. Ridership is important and plays a vital role but does not have a direct impact on Authority funding.

The Board discussed adjusting the fare and how this will affect the Authority and our passengers. The Authority is looking at many different options on how to deal with fares in the future and how that looks regarding cashless/card system.

Financials for September showed a lot of variances however the overall budget did not deviate much. There are some additional expenses that are shown in the present that will be reimbursed once the parcel is purchased. There have been two engine and transmission replacements and the third is in process. Each overhaul is approximately \$98,000. CNB loan is paid off as of October 2024.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: None

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None

OLD BUSINESS: The FTA visit will be held on December 11, 2024 at 11am at our Conway location. The visit will be held in the old maintenance bay. The Authority staff will send out save the dates and invitations in the near future. Mr. Piascik asked for Board Members to attend. On December 12, 2024, the visit will be held in Myrtle Beach. This date will be optional for Board Members. It will be important to get elected officials to attend this event.

Mr. Piascik reviewed upcoming Holiday/important dates:

11/12/24, 11/13/24, 11/14/24 – Tentative State of the Coast meetings

11/14/24 – Thanksgiving luncheon 11am

11/16/24 – Annual Regional Roadeo – Pelicans Stadium 8am-4pm – need judges

12/11/24, 12/12/24 – FTA visit

12/14/24 – Board retreat 10am-1pm

12/21/24 – Coast Holiday Party – Peanut Warehouse (Conway) 6pm-11pm – invitations to follow

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Piascik read the Advertising Policy, and the Board had a discussion. Ms. Johnson brought up a concern about wording in the policy. Mr. Piascik changed the wording so that it reflected the Board's wishes.

Resolution: OCT2024-01 – Approval of Authority Advertising Policy

There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Ms. Johnson to approve the amended resolution. A voice vote was taken; no nays begin heard; the resolution passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik gave an update on the Authority's triennial review. He recapped that there were four findings. He and staff are still working to correct the findings and corrective actions. Lot of work still to come on TRAMS. Ron Prater, CFO, currently working on open grants. The Authority has started the NTD process on the rural side and urban side is due Jan 31st, 2025. In general, there is a lot going on. The representative of the owner of Grissom Parkway has stated they want appraisal on their own. Regardless, on November 7th 2025, the Authority will be filing paperwork to move forward on acquiring the parcel the week following. All money is in place and the Authority has access to funds in order to put the total purchase price in escrow and then the Authority will be in control of the property. Part of the FTA tour will include a street view rendering of parcel made by Kimley Horn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was a motion by Dr. Keene and a second by Mr. Metherd to enter Executive Session at which time the recording session ended.

There was a motion and a second to come out of Executive Session. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Randal Wallace recognized Authority operator, Mr. Charles Shelton on how well he interacted with passengers during the Council of Government event which transported members throughout downtown Conway to view Halloween decorations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Dr. Twigg and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Silverman adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.