



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday September 27, 2023
12:00 PM**

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

Staff Present:

Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, CFO
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Board Liaison
Lauren Morris, Director of Strategic Communications

Visitors:

In accordance with the ^{None} 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 September 27, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:01 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: 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/PAC COMMITTEE: Mr. Piascik stated we did not have a Service Pacc Committee meeting but there are several items to discuss in the General Manager's report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman began the finance committee by reviewing August 2023 financials. Mr. Silverman pointed out that in the income statement overtime transit and maintenance expenses show overages which are primarily caused by employee shortages in those departments. Additionally, maintenance parts expense is over budget because parts are still difficult to procure. The balance sheet shows our LGIP balance is lower than what he would like. Cash requirements show a strain at the end of September 2023 but will resolve itself once we get retro state funds. KPI's shows fixed route ridership down 23% from last year. The 12-month rolling expense is continuing to trend upwards. Fare revenue is comparable to last year. Paratransit routes continue to do well.

Mr. Silverman ended the finance committee by noting that Mr. Piascik's Ride IV presentation to county council last week was well received. Additionally, he requested entertainment shuttle numbers from Mr. Piascik to be presented in a future meeting.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: Dr. Sheehan provided each Board Member with an evaluation form for the General Manager. He asked the members to complete the evaluation and have them returned by the next board meeting.

Dr. Sheehan also asked for any volunteers to take over chair of the Compensation Committee.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Prater explained to the Board the new Board Member Expense Report.

The proposed FY2024 board meetings and committee meetings schedules were presented. Dates and times were discussed and decided.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik informed the Board that the environmental documentation has been delivered to FTA for the Grissom Parkway parcel. The FTA has 30-45 days to comment on or provide acceptance that we have met all the requirements. Once we get clearance, we will then be able to purchase the site. We will need an updated appraisal. In October 2023, the Board will be presented with a resolution for a grant to purchase the property. This grant will also include additional monies to continue facility planning. The City of Myrtle Beach has decided they want to put a fire station on our parcel. This will provide us with an intersection at our entry point on the site. The City of Myrtle Beach has also said they will help with the construction of our temporary facility on this parcel.

Mr. Piascik stated that Coast RTA's presentation with the Ride IV commission was successful, and he feels like there is a consensus to have Coast RTA incorporated into the transportation tax. His hope is that Coast RTA's portion will be established as a percentage, rather than a dollar amount, so that growth is included.

Mr. Piascik provided an update on Kimley-Horn's recommendations. Mr. Piascik explained that while we serve a lot of the areas that need service, we need better frequencies and later services to cover our "2nd shift" passengers. Travel data shows the traditional morning peak followed by a downward trend and then a spike again around 11am to 9pm. Some corridors that need attention are Carolina Forest Blvd, HWY 544 (CCU to Surfside Beach), and Northern Georgetown County.

Mr. Piascik will be presenting an additional resolution to the Board in October 2023 for grant approval that will allow for 6 paratransit buses (4 replacements and 2 expansion). This grant will pull from 5310 funds, which are for elderly and disabled transportation funds. The grant amount will be approximately \$600,000.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Mr. Eickhoff requested an updated master project list at the next board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Mr. Metherd to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.