



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, September 25, 2024
10:00 AM**

Board Present: Katharine D'Angelo
Darrell Eickhoff
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
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Staff Accountant/Board Liaison

Visitors: Carol Jayroe – City of Georgetown Council

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 September 25, 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: There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Dr. Twigg to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the agenda was approved unanimously. An executive session was added.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion by Ms. D'Angelo and a second by Mr. Metherd to approve the minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the minutes were approved unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Mr. Silverman acknowledge our visitor, Carol Jayroe, with the City of Georgetown Council.

SERVICE/PACC COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman stated the Service/PACC committee did not meet, and Mr. Piascik stated there are a few items that will be discussed in the Mangers Report related to Service/PACC.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman stated that the Authority's FY25 budget was approved by Horry County. Mr. Silverman gave an overview of August financials. The income statement shows that fares are down due to ridership being down. Expenses that are over budget include transit salaries and overtime, facility maintenance (due to the Conway building condition), and office and professional services (due to payroll). Mr. Piascik stated that August was a three-paycheck month which contributed to expenses being higher than usual. Expenses that were under budget included fuel, advertising/marketing, and vehicle maintenance. It was noted that although vehicle maintenance is under budget in August, this category will end up being over budget by fiscal year end due to overhauling of buses. Overall, the total budget is 3.1% over. The balance sheet shows a balance of \$22,000 in the LGIP account which is lower than expected. Cash requirements shows the CNB loan and interest will be paid in the next month.

Mr. Piascik stated a letter of intent has been delivered to the owners of the Grissom Parkway Parcel. The parcel is currently appraised at \$4,425,000. The owners will have until October 24, 2024, to accept the offer. If the offer is accepted, a closing date will be set. If the Authority has to take imminent domain, court documents will be filed after October 24, 2024. Once the documents are filed, the Authority will control the property. FTA ties the Authority to the appraisal amount plus fees. If going through the court is necessary and there are adjustments, the Authority does have about a 4.5% contingency.

Mr. Silverman ended by suggesting scheduling an entertainment shuttle review in order to decide what can be done to decrease expenses or increase ridership.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: None

AD HOC COMMITTEES: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Silverman noted the Vice Chair Board vacancy. He also stated the new Vice Chair would become the Board Chair in 1 year.

Mr. Piascik stated that the Authority will have an FTA visit in the first or second week of December 2024. FTA staff will do a site tour in Conway and will meet for about two days to discuss goals. The Chamber is on board and willing to provide meeting space, if needed. Mr. Piascik states the Authority will host the event in the old maintenance garage.

The Board and staff discussed scheduling for board meetings and committee meetings for October, November and December 2024.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik stated Georgetown County has a sales tax initiative that has money for Coast RTA to have a transit center in Georgetown. If the initiative passes, the Authority has the funds in place for Kimley Horn to do the site evaluation for this project. Hopefully after the first of the year we will have some results.

Mr. Piascik shared the TASC strategic plan with the Board. The primary focus for this plan has four goals: Communicate, Educate, Motivate and Train. This program was designed to help pump up the volume on generating education materials and be a one stop shop for transit issues. Mr. Piascik will keep the Board up to speed on what TASC members are working on.

Mr. Piascik also shared a project listing. He stated that Kimley Horn is supporting us with all projects under the organization plan and facility development program. On-board surveys are at the top of list. We now have three different sources for surveyor temps; CCU, Marvin Keene's (board member) new temp agency, and a few from AmeriCorp. Kimley Horn will analyze the surveys when they are completed. The cost of the surveys have gone up as we have to pay the majority of the temps. Secondary to the survey is a technology plan. Website development is in process and will replace the current app and save the Authority \$4,000 a month. T2H has been working on the website and has put together our connection to google transit. Dr. Twigg stated that once the website/app is up and running, it is important to make sure we have someone who maintains and updates both sites. The improvements will cost us capital money but will hopefully save us operational money.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was a motion by Dr. Twigg and a second by Mr. Eickhoff 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: N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Silverman recognized that Darrell Eickhoff was awarded Board Member of the Year at this year's TASC conference. A video was played of him being recognized. Congratulations to Mr. Eickhoff, very well deserved.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Mr. Metherd and a second by Ms. D'Angelo to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Silverman adjourned the meeting at 11:43 AM.