Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: September 18, 2025 - 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Ann Arbor District Library (4th Floor - Virtual via Zoom

Members Present : Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Chris Allen, Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Julie Grand, Susan Pollay, Praveena Ramaswami, Georgia Valentine
Members Absent: Mike Allemang (Excused)

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Agenda Item

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Approve Agenda

No additions or changes noted to the agenda.

Mr. Chang motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Valentine.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of approving the agenda:

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

1.2 Public Comment

Emily Wall – Director of Daytime Warming Center – shared concerns about shelter guests having access to bus tokens when taking public transportation to warming centers around the service area. They noted that they would like to be in contact with staff for further discussion to address some of the ridership barriers their guests face.

Sim – Volunteer Coordinator at Purple House – also shared some of the challenges of shelter guests having access to tokens to ride the bus. They also noted they'd like to meet with staff to discuss other options ahead of the winter season.

1.3 General Announcements

Chairwoman Mozak noted that the Audit Task Force Committee had been formed with 3 board members.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: August 21, 2025

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

Ms. Pollay motioned to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Grand.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda:

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates

Mr. Chang shared that a meeting with Ypsilanti Township is scheduled for September 26th. He is currently coordinating a meeting with the City of Ypsilanti and other Ann Arbor City Council members.

4. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT

5. POLICY

5.1 Budget Discussion & Approval

Mr. Carpenter provided a brief overview of the budget approval process, noting the board will first review and accept the Financial Planning & Budgeting monitoring report followed by the final budget presentation by Ms. Reed.

5.1.1 Financial Planning & Budgeting (2.4)

Ms. Reed provided an overview of the Financial Planning & Budgeting monitoring report which was submitted as fully compliant. The Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommended the Board accept it as (A) Compliant. She also noted several comments in the survey from Board members which will be reviewed and taken into consideration for the next monitoring period.

*** Chairwoman Mozak briefly left the meeting chamber prior to the vote*

Mr. Allen motioned to accept the Financial Planning & Budgeting (Policy 2.4) monitoring report as (A) a reasonable interpretation, seconded by Ms. Grand.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Financing Planning and Budgeting (Policy 2.4) monitoring report as (A):

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Abstained

The motion to accept the Financial Planning and Budgeting (Policy 2.4) monitoring report as (A) pass unanimously.

5.1.2 FY2026 Budget Presentation & Approval

Ms. Reed presented the recommended FY 2026 Budget (Board packet, page 123) of $71,477,067 for Operations and $24,911,416 for Capital Investments. Within her presentation she noted the balanced budget included funded capital projects, full-service operation levels with no fare changes even as the organization receives lower state operating assistance. She fielded questions related to the delay of the fare study and explained that the Executive Team determined that the original timeline would not allow for adequate implementation. The Fare study will be delayed by one year.

Mr. Barr motioned to adopt the FY2026 Operating and Capital Budget Resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Chang.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adopting the FY2026 Operating and Capital Budget Resolution as presented:

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to adopt the FY FY2026 Operating and Capital Budget Resolution presented passed unanimously.

5.2 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

No policy language discussion.

6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION

7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

7.1 FY25 Q3 Service Report

Mr. Brooks presented the FY25 Q3 Service Report and emphasized ridership continues to grow across the system with fixed ridership up 15% and on-time performance at 87%. He discussed the growth of Flex Ride services (doubled in one year) and discussed challenges that are being addressed and opportunities for development as the service has far exceeded original expectations. A-Ride continues to provide strong service performance and VanPool costs per rider decreasing as the service continues to grow.

Mr. Brooks and Board members further discussed challenges with FlexRide services and Service Committee members agreed they wanted to discuss some of the challenges the service is experiencing at their next committee meeting.

7.2 Legislative Updates

Mr. Carpenter provided an update at the federal level on the status of the Low-No Grant funding disbursement currently under review while budget proposals for transit funding are favorable. At the state level, a budget has not yet passed, and staff are monitoring the impact of a potential shutdown.

Board members expressed concerns about the impact of a state shutdown for transit funding and Ms. Reed outlined a positive financial position for the organization.

7.3 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter thanked Board members for participating in the visit to the U of M bus garage to learn more about their EV fleet. He shared that the Bus Rodeo was scheduled for September 22nd and noted that the 2026 MPTA annual meeting dates had been sent out to Board members.

8. EMERGENT ITEMS

8.1 Officer Elections

Chairwoman Mozak opened the floor for nomination for Board Treasurer for the FY 2026.

Chairwoman Mozak nominated Mr. Allemang.

Mr. Allemang, while not in attendance, had shared with Chairwoman Mozak that he would accept the nomination for Board Treasurer for FY 2026.

All in favor of nominating Mr. Alleman for Board Treasurer:

Roll call vote:

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

All in favor, none opposed.

Chairwoman Mozak opened the floor for nomination for Board Secretary for FY 2026.

Ms. Grand nominated Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller accepted the nomination for Board Secretary for FY 2026.

All in favor of nominating Mr. Miller or Board Secretary:

Roll call vote:
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

All in favor, none opposed.

Chairwoman Mozak opened the floor for nomination for Board Chair for FY 2026.

Mr. Chang nominated Chairwoman Mozak.

Chairwoman Mozak accepted the nomination for Board Chair for FY 2026.

All in favor of nominating Chairwoman Mozak for Board Chair:

Roll call vote:
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

All in favor, none opposed.

9. CLOSING ITEMS

9.1 Action Item Recap

- Add Flex Ride challenges to the next Service Committee meeting agenda
- Board will receive a calendar invitation reminder for the Bus Rodeo

9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Closed Session: Labor Negotiations

Future:
State Funding (Education)

9.3 Public Comment

No public commenters.

9.4 Closed Session (Pursuant to 8(c) of OMA)

Chairwoman Mozak took a roll call vote to go into Closed Session pursuant to 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, the closed session is for strategy connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

Vote to go into closed session (Yes/No response):

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board unanimously voted to go into closed session at 8:01pm

Vote to go move out of closed session (Yes/No response):

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board voted unanimously to move out of closed session at 9:17pm.

9.5 Adjournment

Ms. Grand motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Allen.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Holt

Resolution 03/2025

APPROVAL OF FY2026 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ANN ARBOR AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) Board of Directors (Board) is required by the Michigan Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act of 1968 to adopt a balanced operating budget on or before September 30 for its next fiscal year, which begins on October 1, and

WHEREAS, AAATA staff have developed a FY2026 Operating and Capital Budget that furthers Board Ends Policies within Executive Limitations and provides multi-year context, and

WHEREAS, the AAATA is required to develop a fiscally constrained four-year program of projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be submitted to the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) in order to be eligible for federal funds, and

WHEREAS, the AAATA is required to submit the capital program for FY2026 to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as part of the annual application for FY2026 federal funding, and

WHEREAS, the AAATA is required to submit the capital program and operating budget for FY2026 to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) as part of the annual application for FY2026 state funding, which is amended by this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the FY2026 Operating and Capital Budget as its general appropriations act with total expenditures as follows:

- **$71,477,067** for operations, and
- **$24,911,416** for capital investment.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors hereby adopts the capital projects listed herein as updates to the FY2022-FY2025 TIP, of which FY2026 and beyond are subject to amendment in future years.

Kathleen M. Mozak, Chair

Date:

Jesse Miller, Secretary

Date: