

Board of Director's Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date/Time: January 22, 2026 - 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: Riverside Arts Center, Ypsilanti (4th Floor) - Virtual via [Zoom](#) Passcode: 983308

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

Agenda Item	Info Type	Start Time	Details	Page #
1. OPENING ITEMS				
1.1 Approve Agenda	D	6:00	Mozak	
1.2 Public Comment	O			
1.3 General Announcements	O			
2. CONSENT AGENDA				
2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2025	D	6:05		3
2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries	D			9
2.3 FY2027 State Application Resolution (Required Approvals)	D			14
2.4 Clarifying Ends Monitoring Grade	D			18
2.5 Policy 3.3.3.3 Proposal	D			20
3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE				
3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates	O	6:10	Chang	Verbal
4. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT				
5. POLICY				
5.1 Ends Retreat Follow-up Discussion	D	6:20	Mozak / Radwan	22
6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION				
6.1 State Funding Presentation	O	7:20	Reed	34
7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES				
7.1 Legislative Updates	O	7:50	Pfeifer	Verbal
7.2 CEO Report	O		Carpenter	35
8. EMERGENT ITEMS				
9. CLOSING ITEMS				
9.1 Action Item Recap	O		Holt	
9.2 Topics for Next Meeting Audit Presentation Financial Conditions (2.5) FY2026 Q1 Financial Report Annual Plan of Work Closed Session: Labor Negotiations Executive Committee Changes Future: UM-2050			February 19, 2026 6:00 – 8:30pm <i>Ann Arbor District Library, Ann Arbor</i>	
9.3 Public Comment	O			
9.4 Closed Session (Pursuant to 8(c) of OMA)	D	8:00		
9.5 Adjournment		8:30		

* M = Monitoring, D = Decision Preparation, O = Other

If additional policy development is desired:

Discuss in Board Agenda Item 3.0 Policy Monitoring and Development. It may be appropriate to assign a committee or task force to develop policy language options for board to consider at a later date.

Emergent Topics

Policy 3.1.3 places an emphasis on distinguishing Board and Staff roles, with the Board focusing on “long term impacts outside the organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.” Policy 3.1.3.1 specifies that that Board use a structured conversation before addressing a topic, to ensure that the discussion is appropriately framed:

1. What is the nature of the issue? Is the issue within the scope of the agency?
2. What is the value [principle] that drives the concern?
3. Whose issue is this? Is it the Board’s [Policy, 3.0 and 4.0] or the CEO’s [running the organization, 1.0 and 2.0]?
4. Is there already a Board policy that adequately covers the issue? If so, what has the Board already said on this subject and how is this issue related?
Does the Board wish to change what it has already said?

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: December 18, 2025 - 6:00pm – 8:30pm

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

Members Present : Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Julie Grand, Praveena Ramaswami, Georgia Valentine

Members Absent: Chris Allen (Excused), Susan Pollay (Excused)

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Agenda Item

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Approve Agenda

No additions or changes noted to the agenda.

Mr. Allemang motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Chang.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of approving the agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Ms. Julie Grand: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

1.2 Public Comment

No public commenters.

1.3 LAC Report

Ms. Andrea Henry, LAC Chair, shared input from the perspective of LAC members on Ends policies.

1.4 General Announcements

No general announcements.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2025

2.2 Board Retreat Minutes: December 4, 2025

2.3 Committee Meeting Summaries

2.4 Governance Consultant Contract Renewal

Mr. Chang motioned to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Barr.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: 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 provided Ownership Linkage Task Force updates – he is compiling a summary of discussions from recent meetings with several Ann Arbor City Council members and Ypsilanti Township. He is also coordinating a meeting with the City of Ypsilanti after the first of the year.

3.2 OLTF Task Force vs. Committee

Chairwoman Mozak opened for Board discussion the idea of moving the Ownership Linkage Task Force into a committee as the work of the OLTF has become long range. Board members briefly discussed and determined they would continue the discussions at the committee level before a final determination.

4. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Ends Monitoring Report (1.0)

Mr. Carpenter presented the yearly Ends Monitoring Report to the Board, which are stated goals the Board puts forth for the organization. He highlighted that he has interpreted evidence as non-compliant for several policies but noted that the non-compliance is measured against standards that the organization is continuing to work toward achieving.

He fielded several questions and Board members engaged in discussion on his interpretations and evidence.

Mr. Miller motioned to accept the Ends (Policy 1.0) monitoring report as presented, seconded by Ms. Grand.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Ends (Policy 1.0) monitoring report as presented:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Ends (Policy 1.0) monitoring report as presented, passed unanimously.

5. POLICY

5.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

No policy language discussion on the Ends monitoring report. Board members discussed the next steps with the Governance Consultant and the revised Ends policy guidance which will be reviewed by committees in January.

5.2 Executive Committee and Open Meeting Act

Chairwoman Mozak shared that Policy 3.7.2 outlines the role of the Executive Committee and utilizes language that allows the committee to make time-sensitive decisions on behalf of the Board. After the committee was assembled this past summer, concerns were raised whether the committee was in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The policy be reviewed by the Governance Committee for language revisions before being presented for Board discussion and approval.

6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION

7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

7.1 FY2025 Q4 Service Report

Mr. Brooks provided the FY2025 Q4 Service Report – fixed route service ridership continues a steady increase overall of 2%. Extensive road construction across the service area continued to pose challenges, yet performance was nearly 80% overall. Flex-ride service continues to grow with trip requests increasing 111% and late-night service increasing 125% during the past year. Committees discussed areas of improvement to Flex-ride services and staff are reviewing the input and received suggestions.

Mr. Brooks also shared that staff have received committee input for improving data within the quarterly Service Reports – updates are expected by the next quarterly Service Report.

7.2 Legislative Updates

Mr. Pfeifer shared state level updates – he is continuing to monitor information related to the state budget and transportation funding allocations. He noted that the Federal budget has a continuing resolution that will expire January 30th so budget discussions are still in progress. He is also monitoring impacts for reauthorization funding.

7.3 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter shared highlights from the monthly CEO report – major capital projects are moving forward with the YTC and BTC projects. He noted that State Street recently reopened and now has a dedicated bus lane. He also said that the employee holiday luncheon had been a success and thanked several board members who had been able to attend.

8. EMERGENT ITEMS

8.1 Low-No Authorization

Mr. Carpenter provided an update on the allocation of the Low-No Grant funding which is currently indefinitely on hold by the FTA. Staff have been advised this may be due to language within the grant request which included the request for hydrogen fuel-cell technology which is no longer a priority for the current Administration. He requested approval from the Board to adjust language within the grant request (remove hydrogen fuel-cell technology and only request hybrid buses) and resubmit the grant request. The request for only hybrid buses is still part of the organization's overall plan toward sustainability and hydrogen fuel-cell technology will be considered for future funding grants.

Board members discussed and determined they would move forward with the CEO's recommendation.

Mr. Allemang motioned to authorize the CEO to 1) seek approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to shift funds in the 2024 Low-No grant award away from hydrogen fuel-cell technologies and to hybrid electric-diesel technologies, and 2) negotiate with the DOT to retain as much of the grant funding as feasible, seconded by Mr. Chang.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of authorizing the CEO to 1) seek approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to shift funds in the 2024 Low-No grant award away from hydrogen fuel-cell technologies and to hybrid electric-diesel technologies, and 2) negotiate with the DOT to retain as much of the grant funding as feasible:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to 1) seek approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to shift funds in the 2024 Low-No grant award away from hydrogen fuel-cell technologies and to hybrid electric-diesel technologies, and 2) negotiate with the DOT to retain as much of the grant funding as feasible, passed unanimously.

9. CLOSING ITEMS

9.1 Action Item Recap

- Discuss OLTF Task Force vs. Committee at January committee meetings and then add to January Board agenda.
- Governance Committee will review Executive Committee & OMA and provide proposed policy language for the Board to review in January.
- Add detours (numbers & impact) on Service to future Service reports.

9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Policy 3.3.3.3 policy language discussion

State Funding

Closed Session: Labor Negotiations

Future:

UM-2050 (January)

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. Mike Allemang: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Ms. Julie Grand: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board unanimously voted to go into closed session at 7:17 pm.

*** Ms. Ramaswami joined the meeting at 7:35 pm.*

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

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board voted unanimously to move out of closed session at 8:27 pm.

9.5 Adjournment

Mr. Barr motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Miller.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: 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 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt

Governance Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date/Time: Monday December 29, 2025 – 3:00 – 5:00pm

Location: REMOTE – Via Zoom

Due to conflicting schedules, Chairwoman Mozak decided to cancel the meeting. Governance Committee agenda items will be deferred to the January Governance Committee meeting. Committee members will independently review/approve agendas and forward any changes to staff prior to their January committee meetings.

Service Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Members Present: Simi Barr (Interim Chair), Jesse Miller, Susan Pollay, Rich Chang

Members Absent: Praveena Ramaswami (Excused)

Staff: Matt Carpenter, George Brooks, Forest Yang, Jeff Pfeifer, Rosa-Maria Kamau, Deb Holt

Location: REMOTE – Via Zoom

Mr. Chang called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm

Agenda Item
1. OPENING ITEMS
<p>1.1 Agenda (Additions, Approval)</p> <p>Mr. Chang added a discussion topic – 4.1 Tokens for Non- Profits under Emergent Items. No other additions or changes noted.</p> <p>1.2 Communications</p> <p>No new communications.</p>
2. POLICY MONITORING & DEVELOPMENT
<p>2.1 Policy 3.3.3.3 Policy Language Discussion</p> <p>Mr. Carpenter provided an overview on language for policy 3.3.3.3 – the policy was created initially to prohibit board members from exerting individual authority or interfering with staff. Board members have expressed a desire to update the policy language as it also prohibits board members from thanking staff. The Governance consultant had provided clarifying language and the Service Committee discussed and agreed with the proposed language changes. The topic will be discussed at the Finance Committee and then at the January Board meeting.</p> <p>2.2 OLTF Committee or Task Force</p> <p>Mr. Chang shared that the work with ownership linkage and outreach of the task force has expanded. Committees are being asked to discuss if OLTF should be moved into the creation of committee with scheduled meetings. Committee members discussed the roles and responsibilities of all board members to participate in ownership linkage and outreach. They expressed concerns with delegating that work to a subset of the board. They also discussed a more comprehensive analysis of what the task force has accomplished. Mr. Chang will share the committee input with the Governance committee.</p>

2.3 Ends Retreat Follow-up

The committee reviewed the proposed Ends policies revisions from the December Board Retreat. The committee discussed that the proposed changes were focused on outcomes and impacts to those who benefit from the services provided. The committee discussed policy 1.1 and raised concerns if it adequately encompass regional transportation or is focused on more locally defined service areas. Committee feedback will be shared with the Governance consultant and discussed further at the January Board meeting.

3. STRATEGY & OPERATIONAL UPDATES: CEO

3.1 Legislative Update

Mr. Pfeifer provided an update at the state level – he is continuing to monitor the debate between the House and Senate on the Works Projects that the House Appropriations had cut within the budget. At the federal level, the continuing resolution for the budget is set to expire at the end of the month.

4. EMERGENT ITEMS

4.1 Tokens for Non- Profits

Mr. Chang shared that he had recently been contacted about discounted tokens for non-profit organizations – specifically for organizations that assist the unhoused. Mr. Pfeifer shared that there had been a past program – however there were challenges with utilizing federal funding to subsidize other non-profits. Staff will be looking at this in the upcoming fare study and while also continuing to explore ways to offer discounted fares.

5. CLOSING ITEMS

5.1 Action Item Recap

- Mr. Chang will share input from OLTF Committee / Task Force with Governance Committee
- Staff will be sharing input from Ends Retreat Follow-up to Governance consultation and invite her to the January or February Board meeting for additional discussion.
- Mr. Carpenter will research additional information on tokens for non-profits and the fare deal authorized signer process.
- Info on NY proposal for free fast buses

5.2 Topics for the Next Meeting

Tokens for Non-profits / fare deal authorized signer process

Future:

State Street Transit Signal Feedback

5.3 Adjournment

Mr. Barr thanked the committee and staff and adjourned the meeting at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Holt

Finance Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - 3:00 – 5:00pm

Members Present: Mike Allemang (Chair/Treasurer), Chris Allen, Julie Grand, Georgia Valentine
Staff: Matt Carpenter, Dina Reed, Forest Yang, George Brooks, Jeff Pfeifer, Andy Huber, Deb Holt

Location: REMOTE – Via Zoom

Mr. Allemang called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Agenda Item
1. OPENING ITEMS
1.1 Agenda (Additions, Approval) No additions or changes noted to the agenda.
1.2 Communications No new communications.
2. POLICY MONITORING & DEVELOPMENT
2.1 Policy 3.3.3.3 Policy Language Discussion Mr. Carpenter shared an overview of Board member concerns about language within policy 3.3.3.3. The current policy limit was created to prohibit board members from exerting individual authority or interfering with staff. As the policy stands, it also prohibits board members from thanking staff. The committee reviewed the proposed language revisions and agreed they clarified and original intent of the policy.
2.2 OLTF Committee or Task Force The Board Chair provided a proposal to elevate the task force into becoming a standing committee. Concerns were raised that Board members already are expected to participate in community outreach and a committee might take over those outreach duties. The goal of transitioning to a committee would be to address ownership linkage as an ongoing effort. Committee members agreed that a committee would be beneficial.

2.3 Ends Retreat Follow-up Discussion

Mr. Carpenter shared an overview of the current Ends policies and the proposed revised Ends Policies developed during the December Ends Retreat. He shared input that had been gathered during the Service Committee meeting with a notable concern of regional transportation no longer being addressed.

The committee discussed the proposed revisions and were in favor of the draft version as it provided more concise policy language. They noted the simplicity of the language allowed for more flexibility with CEO interpretations. Their input will be shared with the Governance consultant.

3. STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

3.1 Legislative Updates

Mr. Pfeifer shared that at the state level, the Transit Caucus will meet be meeting this week. They will receive a presentation from the RTA. He also noted that legislators are back in session for the year and impacts of upcoming elections may include less bills being passed.

At the federal level, the Continuing Resolution for the budget will expire at the end of January. He is monitoring several earmark requests and updates on Low-No grant funding obligations.

4. EMERGENT ITEMS

5. CLOSING ITEMS

5.1 Action Item Recap

- Input from Finance Committee on the Ends revisions will be shared with the Governance consultant.

5.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Audit Report
Financial Conditions (2.5)
Q1 Financial Report

Future Meeting:

5.3 Adjournment

Mr. Allemang thanked the committee and staff and adjourned the meeting at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt

FY 2027 State Funding Application

Meeting: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: January 22, 2026

INFORMATION TYPE
Decision (Required Approval)
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
That the Board adopt the attached resolution, thereby allowing TheRide to access state funding for transit.
PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS & POLICIES
When an outside agency requires board approval of an operational decision that is delegated to the CEO, Policy Governance suggests that item will be placed on the Consent Agenda. The FY2027 state funding request is materially consistent with the projections included in the Board-adopted FY2026 Budget (September 2025).
ISSUE SUMMARY
<p>To access State formula-funding for transit, TheRide is required to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) annually in February. This is a routine annual process. However, MDOT requires that boards, not CEOs, approve the application. A Board resolution is required to authorize the application for financial assistance, and MDOT has a required format for the resolution (attached).</p> <p>The issue is complicated by long lead times, spread over several years, required by the state funding program.</p>
BACKGROUND
<p>There are two primary categories of funding TheRide applies for annually, capital and operating funding. Requested funding for both are consistent with projections for fiscal year 2027, which were included in the TheRide's adopted FY2026 Budget.</p> <p>TheRide's FY2027 application for state funding is a proposal for capital matching funds of federal dollars, as well as annual state operating assistance. Funding requested in the application is anticipated to be available to spend in FY2027. The actual amount received will ultimately be based on expenditures approved in the fall 2026 through the Board's adoption of TheRide's FY2027 Budget, and dependent on the availability of matching funds from the State Comprehensive Transportation Fund and other funding, as appropriated by the State of Michigan.</p> <p>Federal funding received by TheRide for capital projects requires a local match, which is typically 20%. MDOT provides this local match of federally funded projects for transit agencies in Michigan. While MDOT has historically provided the full 20% match required for federal projects, the state's statutory minimum is 13.33%. MDOT directed agencies to estimate a 20% state match level for the FY2027 application.</p> <p>MDOT also provides state operating assistance (referred to as Linehaul Bus Operating, or LBO, funding) as a percentage of TheRide's eligible operating expenses. A proposed operating budget with TheRide's eligible operating expenses is required to be submitted with the application but is subject to change after the Board approves the FY2027</p>

Budget. MDOT directed agencies to estimate that they will provide funding for 28.0948% of eligible operating expenses for the FY2027 application.

The capital figures in the application will be reconciled to TheRide's federal grant funding as it is obligated. State operating assistance will be based on actual expenses and any changes to the LBO funding percentage provided by MDOT, rather than on the expenses estimated in the application.

IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

- Budgetary/Fiscal: Approves request for state revenue, including funding for operations and capital investment.
- Social: Supports access to public transportation in the community.
- Environmental: Funds low-emission diesel buses and sustainable transit service.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution of Intent to Apply for Financial Assistance for Fiscal Year 2027 under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended.

Attachment 1: MDOT Resolution

Resolution 01/2026

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

ANN ARBOR AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

THE APPROVED RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR STATE FORMULA OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 UNDER ACT 51 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1951, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51), it is necessary for the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) established under Act 55 of 1955 to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2027 and, therefore, apply for state financial assistance under provisions of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the AAATA, to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the performance indicators for this agency have been reviewed and approved by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the AAATA, has reviewed and approved the proposed balanced budget and funding sources of estimated federal funds \$30,998,476, estimated state funds \$27,952,071, estimated local funds \$52,268,428, with total estimated expenses of \$111,218,975.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the AAATA hereby makes its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51; and

HEREBY, appoints Matthew Carpenter as the Transportation Coordinator, for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51 for 2027.

Kathleen M. Mozak, Chair

January 22, 2026

I, Jesse Miller, Secretary of AAATA, having custody of the records of the proceedings of AAATA, do hereby certify that I have compared this resolution adopted by AAATA at the meeting of January 22, 2026, with the original minutes now on file and of record in the office and that this resolution is true and correct.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
have here unto set my hand and
affixed seal of said AAATA this
22nd day of January 2026.

Jesse Miller, Secretary

Clarifying Ends Monitoring Grade

Meeting: Board of Director's

Meeting Date: January 22, 2026

INFORMATION TYPE
Decision
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
That the Board vote to accept the Ends Monitoring Report as: (A) a reasonable interpretation for all policy items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations.
BACKGROUND
At the December 18, 2025 Board Meeting, there was a motion to accept the Ends (Policy 1.0) monitoring report as presented and seconded. No discussion on the motion. The motion to accept the Ends (Policy 1.0) monitoring report as presented, passed unanimously. This was a digression from how the Board is to accept a monitoring report.
PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS & POLICIES
<p>3.1 GOVERNING STYLE: The Board will govern lawfully, observing the principles of the policy governance...</p> <p>3.1.3 The Board will direct, control and inspire the organization through careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives...</p> <p>3.2 BOARD JOB DESCRIPTION: "Specific job outputs of the Board, as an informed agent of the ownership, are those that ensure appropriate organizational performance. Accordingly, the Board has direct responsibility to create:</p> <p>3.2.3 Written governing policies that address the broadest levels of all organizational decisions and situations. A. Ends: Organizational products, impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients; and their relative worth in cost or priority (what good for which recipients at what cost).</p> <p>MONITORING OUTCOMES: That the Board review the monitoring report and consider accepting it as one of the levels below:</p> <p>(A) a reasonable interpretation for all policy items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations.</p> <p>(B) a reasonable interpretation for all policy items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations, except for the CEO's stated non-compliance with item(s) x .x, which the Board acknowledges and accepts the proposed dates for compliance.is making reasonable progress towards compliance.</p>

(C) 1. For policy items x.x.x – there is evidence of compliance with a reasonable interpretation 2. For policy items x.x.x – the interpretation is not reasonable 3. For policy items x.x.x – the interpretation is reasonable, but the evidence does not demonstrate compliance 4. For policy items x.x.x – the Board acknowledges and accepts the CEO's stated non-compliance and the proposed dates for compliance

IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

- Budgetary/Fiscal: N/A or other
- Social: N/A or other
- Environmental: N/A or other
- Governance: Board Policy Monitoring Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. N/A

Complimenting Staff – Policy 3.3.3.3

Meeting: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: January 22, 2026

INFORMATION TYPE
Decision Preparation
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
That the Board adopt by motion the proposed language change for policy 3.3.3.3 in Attachment 1.
ISSUE SUMMARY
In October and November, the Governance Committee discussed communication from the Governance consultant related to Policy 3.3.3.3. Board members had expressed concern with the policy during a review of Governance Process policies as the policy reads as limiting Board members from expressing appreciation to the staff and sought guidance from the Governance consultant. The proposed language change was discussed/reviewed and agreed upon at the January Service and Finance Committee meetings.
ATTACHMENTS
1. Policy 3.3.3.3 proposed language change

Attachment 1

Current Policy:	Proposed Language Change:
<i>3.3.3.3 Except for participation in Board deliberation about whether reasonable interpretation of Board policy has been achieved by the CEO, members will not express individual judgments on performance of the CEO or other staff.</i>	<i>3.3.3.3 Except for participation in Board deliberation about whether reasonable interpretation of Board policy has been achieved by the CEO, members will not express individual judgments on performance of the CEO or other staff in an attempt to exert individual authority.</i>

Ends Discussion (cont.)

Meeting: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: January 22, 2026

INFORMATION TYPE
Decision Preparation
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
That the Board continue discussions with the governance consultant in preparation for a potential vote to change the Ends policies.
ISSUE SUMMARY
<p>In December 2025 the Board met in a retreat to discuss updates to the Ends policies. After that retreat, consultant Susan Radwan circulated the first draft of a revised Ends policy (Attachment 1). In January the Committees discussed the draft. The draft was generally well received although several questions were raised.</p> <p>Radwan is returning to continue the discussion on Ends with the Board. She hopes to respond to the questions and work with the Board to edit the draft Ends statement during the meeting. It is possible the Board may become comfortable enough with the updated draft to consider a vote on whether to approve an update.</p>
BACKGROUND
The Board is responsible for setting the overall direction for the agency via the Ends policies (similar to strategic goals). This process began in October with preliminary discussion about the scope of the revisions and continued in December with a 6-hour off-site retreat to workshop edits to the Ends policy (A comparison of the current and draft Ends policies are provided in attachment 1).
PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS & POLICIES
The Board approved the current Ends policies in 2019, with minor edits in 2023 and one addition (perception of safety) in 2024.
IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgetary/Fiscal: High. The Ends provide the overall direction of the agency. • Social: High. The Ends provide the overall direction of the agency. • Environmental: High. The Ends provide the overall direction of the agency. • Governance: High. Setting Ends is one of the Board's most important roles.
ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)
No decision is required. Further meetings and deliberation are possible.
ATTACHMENTS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comparison of Current and Draft Ends policies (with color-coded cross references) 2. Presentation from Susan Radwan – Ends Development Rnd Two

Current Ends

A **robust** public transportation system that adapts to the area's evolving needs, environment, and quality of life.

1. AAATA exists so that **an increasing proportion** of residents, **workers** and visitors in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Area utilize public transportation options that contribute to the Area's social, environmental and economic vitality at a cost that demonstrates value and efficient stewardship of resources.

~~1.1. Residents in the area have equitable access to public transportation services that enables full participation in society.~~

~~1.1.1. People with economic challenges have affordable public transportation options.~~

~~1.1.2. People with disabilities or mobility impairments, seniors, minors, and non-English speakers have equitable access to opportunities and destinations in the area.~~

~~1.1.3 Riders and prospective riders perceive public transportation services as safe.~~

~~1.2. Public transportation positively impacts our environment.~~

~~1.2.1. Public transportation options are increasingly chosen over use of a personal car.~~

~~1.2.2. Public transportation options produce conditions favorable to more compact and walkable land development.~~

~~1.2.3. Relevant public policy is transit supportive.~~

~~1.3. Public transportation positively impacts the economic prosperity of the area.~~

~~1.3.1. Public transportation facilitates labor mobility.~~

~~1.3.2. Students can access education opportunities without need of a personal vehicle.~~

~~1.3.3. Visitors use public transportation in the area.~~

~~1.3.4. Public transportation connects the area to the Metro Detroit region.~~

~~1.4. Passengers are highly satisfied with public transportation services.~~

~~1.5. Residents of the area recognize the positive contributions of public transportation to the area's quality of life.~~

Ends Revision, December 2025

1.0 TheRide exists to advance a **robust** transportation system that demonstrates **value and efficient stewardship of resources**.

1.1 TheRide's service area has an integrated, multi-modal transportation ecosystem that favors active, shared and micro-mobility transportation.

1.2 **An increasing proportion** of residents and **workers** use TheRide's services to access their intended destinations.

1.2.1. People are highly satisfied with TheRide's transportation services.

1.3 People experience no barriers to access and use of TheRide's transportation services.

1.3.1 People with economic challenges have affordable TheRide's transportation options.

1.3.2 People with disabilities, people with impairments, older adults, minors and non-English speakers and visitors easily access and navigate to desired destinations using TheRide's options for transportation.

1.3.3 -People perceive TheRide's services as safe, reliable, and convenient.

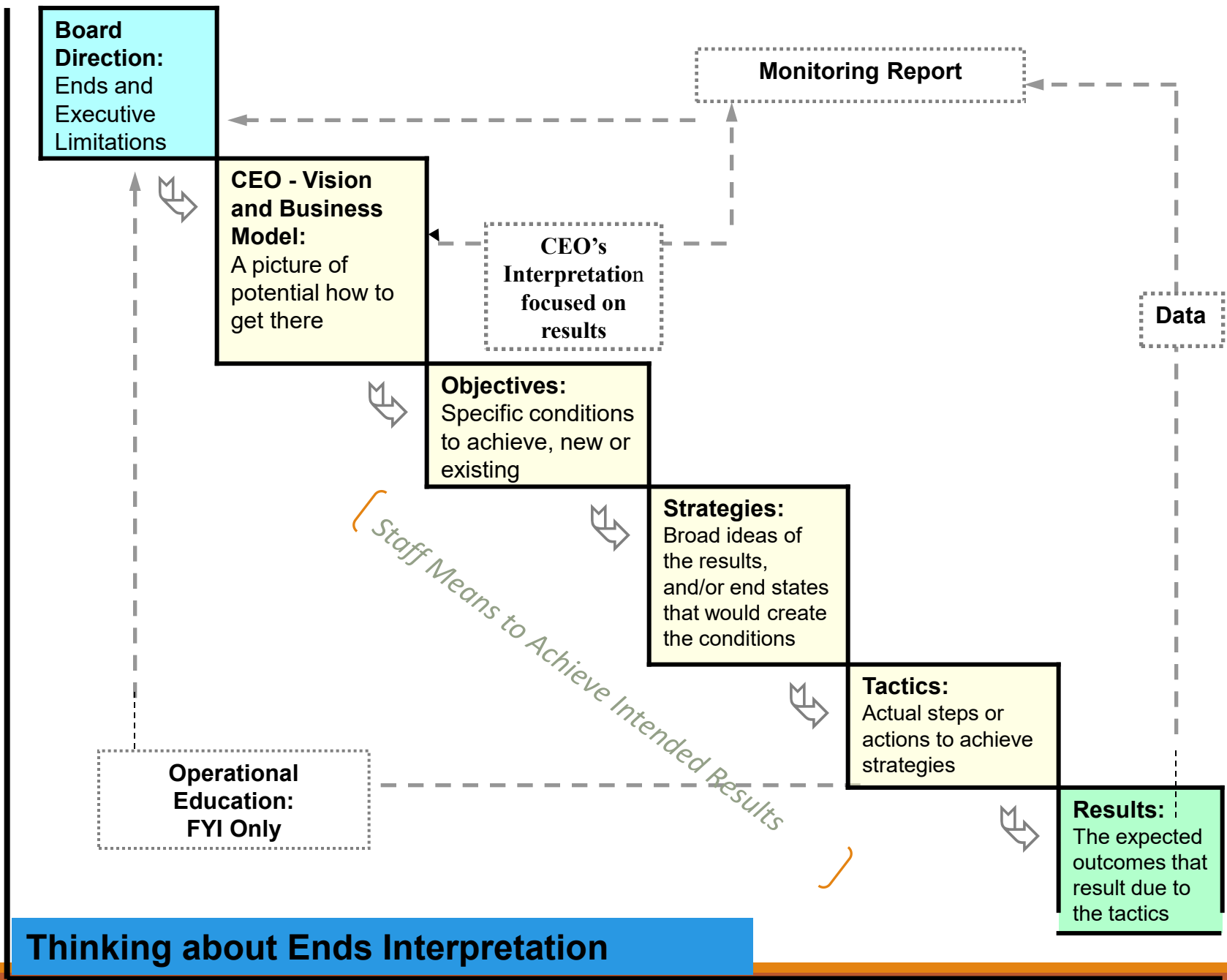
1.4 **TheRide positively impacts the environment and carbon emissions are reduced.**

1.5 **Residents of the area recognize the positive contributions of TheRide to the area's quality of life.**

AAATA Ends Development Rnd 2

Framing the Task: Purpose of Ends

- **Steering and direction.** Ends set forth organizational performance expectations.
 - Ends are never about what the organization does, but rather defines the desired **impacts** to the beneficiaries.
- Ends define the **what** of the organization, i.e. “What are we here to create?”
 - CEO interpretations define how we have operationalized the Ends...usually resulting in a strategic plan that defines how we will achieve the stated Ends.
 - Operational goals and objectives
- The Board holds the CEO accountable to achieve a reasonable interpretation of the defined Ends expectations.



Thinking about Ends Interpretation

Ends and Executive Limitations are Interdependent

Example to address Ends Concerns; IF you are worried that regional collaboration might not happen, check your existing ELs or add when there may be a shared concern that further defines *Imprudent or Unethical decisions*.

NEW: 2.?

In order to maximize Ends achievement, the CEO shall not ignore or minimize substantive opportunities for strategic partnerships, intergovernmental cooperation, collaboration with other entities in the region where appropriate.

Only shared values should be incorporated into Board Policy.

The Discipline of Policy Development



**When you can accept
ANY reasonable interpretation**

Feedback Loops are Important

- Many liked streamlining and less text. Willing to allow CEO to develop interpretation.
- Appreciated addition of environmental policy. Not sure if additional Exec Limitations still needed...
- Liked refocusing on transportation ecosystem rather than only TheRide's services. Less about activities, more about impact.
- A lot of uncertainty was expressed.

Themes from Committee Feedback

1. How much detail in written expectations vs consolidating to streamline text?
 - The Ends are not a checklist, but rather directional.
 - Using broad words is highly recommended, allowing the CEO latitude to interpret and create a vision of the future.
 - The more detail the Board creates, the less vision is a factor.
2. Loss of Triple Bottom Line (social, economic, environmental impacts)
 - We did not rearrange the deck chairs, but rather we revised the framework around the environment the CEO can control.
3. Lots of discussion around the meaning of *robust*.
4. For whom may need to be clarified.
5. Missing: geographic scope, taxing jurisdiction
6. Concern about *activities* that should be happening, i.e. advocacy.

Ends Draft from December 2025

1.0 TheRide exists to advance a **robust** transportation system that demonstrates value and efficient stewardship of resources.

1.1 TheRide's service area has an integrated, multi-modal transportation ecosystem that favors active, shared, and micro-mobility transportation.

1.2 An increasing proportion of residents and workers use TheRide's services to access their intended destinations.

1.3 People experience no barriers to access and use of TheRide's transportation services.

1.4 TheRide positively impacts the environment and carbon emissions are reduced.

1.5 Residents of the area recognize the positive contributions of TheRide to the area's quality of life.

Focus on the Global Ends Policy

1.0 TheRide exists to advance a **robust** transportation system *in the service area* that demonstrates value and efficient stewardship of resources.

1.1 TheRide's service area has an integrated, multi-modal transportation ecosystem that favors active, shared, micro-mobility and *regionally connected* transportation.

1.2 An increasing proportion of residents and workers *in the service area* use TheRide's services to access their intended destinations.

- 1.0 TheRide exists to advance a robust transportation system *in the service area* that demonstrates value and efficient stewardship of resources.
- 1.1 TheRide's service area has an integrated, multi-modal transportation ecosystem that favors active, shared, micro-mobility and *regionally connected* transportation.
- 1.2 An increasing proportion of residents and workers *in the service area* use TheRide's services to access their intended destinations.
 - 1.2.1. People are highly satisfied with TheRide's transportation services.
- 1.3 People experience no barriers to access and use of TheRide's transportation services.
 - 1.3.1 People with economic challenges have affordable transportation options *from TheRide.*
 - 1.3.2 People with disabilities, people with impairments, older adults, minors and non-English speakers and visitors easily access and navigate to desired destinations using TheRide's options for transportation.
 - 1.3.3 People perceive TheRide's services as safe, reliable, and convenient.
- 1.4 TheRide positively impacts the environment and carbon emissions are reduced.
- 1.5 Residents of the area recognize the positive contributions of TheRide to the area's quality of life.

State Funding for Transit

Meeting: Finance Committee

Meeting Date: January 22, 2025

INFORMATION TYPE
Other
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
Receive for Information.
ISSUE SUMMARY
<p>Per the Board's request, staff is presenting background information on transit funding. Staff will provide a series of educational discussions regarding Federal, State and Local funding that are critical to the financial stability of AAATA and to achieving the Board's Ends.</p> <p>The information is intended to provide context for the potential impacts of Federal, State and Local legislative and regulatory changes that are beyond the control of the agency but are likely to have financial impacts on the agency.</p> <p>In April 2025, staff provided high-level information related to Federal funding. For this Board meeting, staff will provide a high-level overview of transit funding sources and provide a more detailed discussion related to <u>State</u> funding sources. Future meetings will include a more detailed discussion of Local funding.</p>
PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS & POLICIES
<p><i>2.5 Financial Conditions and Activities: With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the CEO will not cause, allow or fail to address the development of fiscal jeopardy... the CEO shall not:</i></p> <p><u><i>2.5.2 Operate in a manner that would jeopardize federal and state funding...</i></u></p> <p><i>2.7 Asset Protection: The CEO shall not allow corporate assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained, or unnecessarily risked.</i></p>
ATTACHMENTS
To be provided at the meeting.

CEO Report

Meeting: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: January 22, 2026

INFORMATION TYPE

Other

LONG-RANGE PLAN STATUS UPDATES

YPSILANTI TRANSIT CENTER PLANNING

Staff have begun working on detailed design, land acquisition, and procuring a construction manager. The construction timeline and costs will become clearer as the work progresses. Staff continue to work on better understanding the outcome of the 5339-grant program in 2025 and determine the best funding strategy for the YTC. The outcome of the jointly sponsored request from Senators Peters and Slotkin for Congressionally Directed Spending is still pending.

BLAKE TRANSIT CENTER EXPANSION

TheRide continues to work with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC) and their codeveloper (Related Midwest) on the joint development of the old Y-Lot site adjacent to the BTC (350 S. Fifth). The team is still tentatively preparing for construction to start in spring 2026. Modifications to TheRide's existing BTC platform will be necessary to accommodate the housing development and approved concept of the new platform. The site plan for the existing platform and planned expansion will be submitted this spring. NEPA approval and design work is ongoing. The transit elements of the development will not be under construction until Q3 FY2027 at the earliest.

The design phase of the Fourth Ave Redesign led by the DDA is nearing completion. The Fourth Ave design team submitted their 100% design to the City and project team in early December and review is complete. Small modifications to the design are still in progress, but the project will go out in January to receive construction bids. The development teams on Fourth Ave and 350 S. Fifth continue to coordinate final designs and timelines closely. Construction is slated to begin in spring 2026.

Construction will close Fourth Ave and affect the Fifth Ave bus stands, both of which will significantly impact bus operations at least through late fall of next year. Due to various factors, the BTC and Fourth Ave will be closed to bus operations completely for the duration of construction, which is anticipated to occur between May and December 2026. Staff are working earnestly across departments and with various partners to set up a temporary transit center near the BTC/Fourth area that will allow us to maintain a high-quality transit service in 2026.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

UNEVENTFUL HOLIDAYS

Services operated normally over the winter holidays. There were no significant disruptions.

JANUARY 14TH SNOWSTORM

Services were significantly disrupted by an unanticipated afternoon snowstorm on January 14th. Although delayed by traffic, no buses became stuck in the snow, and services therefore recovered faster and with less effort. This improvement is credited to MCO training and the recently replacement of all 612 tires across the bus fleet.

2026 WINTER SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

TheRide is making minor routing adjustments starting Sunday, January 25, 2026. The service updates include revisions to route 62 near Wolverine Tower. The adjustments are being made to improve customer experience and operational efficiency.

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP

Effective January 1, 2026, TheRide no longer operates FlexRide West in Pittsfield Township, due to a contract change with Pittsfield Township. Curb-to-curb service in the Township is being managed through [People's Express](#). TheRide's Fixed-Route and A-Ride service continue to service Pittsfield Township without change. [FlexRide](#) East and [FlexRide Late Night and Holiday](#) service continue to operate. Broader questions or concerns can be directed to Pittsfield Township at 734-822-3135.

LOW-NO REQUEST TIMELINE

Following Board approval in December, staff intend to transmit our request to adjust our Low-No grant to the Department of Transportation in early February.

OPERATOR COUNT/MCO CLASSES

AAATA's current operator count is 202. A class of 6 MCOs will be graduating January 16th and the next class will have 6-9 individuals (start date is TBD).

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)

The LAC met on January 13th and discussed vehicle accessibility plan updates for AAATA and local subrecipients, 2026 LAC Workplan Calendar, and AAATA Service Updates

ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL

AAATA presented to Ann Arbor City Council on December 15th, and provided an operational update, including the upcoming 4th Avenue project and the likely disruptions it will cause.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (ANN ARBOR)

The Commission met December 17th to approve a new bike lane on Catherine Street (no bus route impacted) and receive staff reports.

WATS POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee met on December 17th to adopt a unified work program that included funding for TheRide and received a report on vehicle crash statistics.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AAATA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

AAATA hosted a holiday luncheon on December 17th in the DGOC Driver's Lounge to celebrate employees and the holiday season together.



EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS OVER \$250K (Policy 2.9.1.5.D)

There were no contracts over \$250k.