

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

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

**Location:** Riverside Arts Center, Ypsilanti (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) - Virtual via Zoom

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

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

Agenda Item
<b>1. OPENING ITEMS</b>
<b>1.1 Approve Agenda</b> <p>No additions or changes noted to the agenda.</p> <p>Mr. Chang motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Miller</p> <p>No discussion on the motion.</p> <p>All in favor of approving the agenda:</p> <p>Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes Mr. Simi Barr: Yes Mr. Rich Chang: Yes Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes</p> <p>The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.</p> <p><i>** Julie Grand joined virtually as a non-voting participant</i></p>
<b>1.2 Public Comment</b> <p>No public commenters.</p> <p><i>** Chris Allen joined the meeting at 6:01pm</i></p>
<b>1.3 General Announcements</b> <p>Mr. Yang shared that the City of Ann Arbor received \$4.3M from the Michigan Talent Partnership Program – funds will be allocated to the BTC project. He thanked staff for their work on the grant submission.</p>

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2025**

### **2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries**

### **2.3 FY2027 State Application Resolution (Required Approvals)**

### **2.4 Clarifying Ends Monitoring Grade**

### **2.5 Policy 3.3.3.3 Proposal**

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

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

Staff will update the Board policy manual to reflect the approved changes.

## **3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

### **3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates**

Mr. Chang had no updates to share. Mr. Pfeifer noted that he is finalizing scheduling a meeting with the City of Ypsilanti in February.

## **4. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT**

## **5. POLICY**

### **5.1 Ends Retreat Follow-up Discussion**

Governance consultant Sue Radwan facilitated a discussion on proposed changes to the Ends policy language that were developed at the December Board retreat. Board members expressed concerns about the specificity with some of the revised policy language and the potential impact on the CEO's interpretations.

After a thorough discussion and several updates, the following version of Ends was settled upon for a final vote:

**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.*

**\*\* Praveena Ramaswami joined the Board meeting at 6:25 pm**

Continued ...

**1.2** *An increasing proportion of residents, workers, and students 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.*

Ms. Ramaswami motioned to approve the amended Ends policies, seconded by Mr. Miller.

Board members briefly discussed deferring the vote to February so members had adequate time to reflect on the changes. An additional wording amendment to policy 1.5 was brought forth, but the amendment did not pass.

All in favor of approving the amended Ends policies as presented:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: No

Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: No

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to approve the amended Ends policies as presented passed with a majority vote of (7) Yes and (2) No.

Staff will update the Board policy manual to reflect the approved changes.

## **6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 State Funding Presentation**

Ms. Reed presented a high-level overview of state transit funding sources ([Board packet, pg. 38](#)) which include Michigan Transportation Funding (MTF), Comprehensive Transportation Funding (CTF), Local Bus Operating Assistance (LBO) and discretionary funding set by the state. She outlined potential impacts of federal, state, local and regulatory changes that are outside the control of the agency but have financial impacts. She also fielded questions related to the impact of EV on gas tax collection. A future presentation is planned which will give detailed information on local transit funding sources.

## **7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

### **7.1 Legislative Updates**

Mr. Pfefer noted that the State House and Senate are back in session and the Transportation Caucus held their first meeting of the year. The RTA was able to present at this meeting and there is positive interest from both parties in exploring expanded access to public transit. He also shared he had received a call from Senator Peters office and an earmark for the YTC security upgrades is being included in the expected passage of a minibuss budget.

### **7.2 CEO Report**

Mr. Carpenter shared positive service and performance improvements with recent winter weather events. He also shared positive impacts from the newly completed roof project in the bus garage - reduced natural gas consumption and heat retention – and noted recent new bus arrivals that will be painted in house. He and Mr. Yang also provided updates on downtown construction that will impact services around the BTC and a temporary terminal location that will be installed in May through the end of the year.

## **8. EMERGENT ITEMS**

## **9. CLOSING ITEMS**

### **9.1 Action Item Recap**

- Ms. Reed will forward a copy of her presentation to the Board, and it will be added to the online Board packet.
- Board policy manual will be updated with changes to policy 3.3.3.3 and Ends policy revisions.

### **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

### **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. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: 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 8:10 pm.

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

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: 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 move out of closed session at 8:52 pm.

## **9.5 Adjournment**

Ms. Valentine motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Chang.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: 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 8:53 pm.

**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  
22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2026.



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Jesse Miller, Secretary