

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: February 19, 2026 - 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), Chris Allen, Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Julie Grand, Susan Pollay, Georgia Valentine

Members Absent: Praveena Ramaswami (Excused)

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

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Approve Agenda

No additions or changes noted to the agenda.

Mr. Miller 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. Chris Allen: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Ms. Julie Grand: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

1.2 Public Comment

Gaurav Kulkarni shared his experiences as a local transit rider and highlighted issues like missed buses, poor signage at some bus stops, and visibility challenges for bus drivers at night. He also discussed the location of the bus stop at Westgate Library and suggested the stop be moved directly in front of the library.

1.3 General Announcements

No general announcements.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: January 22, 2026

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

2.3 MDOT Grant Application Approval

Ms. Valentine 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. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: 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.

3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates

Mr. Chang shared that members of the task force had recently met with the City of Ypsilanti. He will be sending an overview of recent city/township meetings to the Board.

4. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION

4.1 UM-2050

Sue Gott, University of Michigan's campus planner, shared transit specific details of the [UM 2050 campus plan](#). She also provided information on dedicated bus lanes - North University is currently under construction - and future key projects within the plan.

Staff member Raymond Hess discussed the alignment between UM 2050 and TheRide's Long-Range Plan. He also highlighted the importance of dedicated transit lanes and on-going collaboration with the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan.

Mr. Hess and Ms. Gott fielded questions from Board members about the implementation of planned project timelines and collaborative planning for other corridors within the community.

5. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Audit Presentation

Ms. Reed introduced auditors Pam Hill and Christopher Gilbert (Plante Moran) to present the FY2025 Audit Report ([Board packet, page 66](#)). TheRide had a successful financial year with a strong net position and improved cash position. The auditors shared the audit report findings and noted that financial statements and compliance with federal spending resulted in a clean audit report. Financial highlights included a \$18M net position increase and strong long-term financial stability.

Chairwoman Mozak noted the Board did not need to motion to approve the audit report, rather they needed to motion that they had received the report.

Ms. Grand motioned to receive the audit report, seconded by Mr. Barr

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of receiving the audit report:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
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. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to receive the audit report passed unanimously.

5.2 Financial Conditions (2.5)

Ms. Reed presented the Financial Conditions & Activities (policy 2.5) monitoring report, noting compliance within the report. She fielded questions from Board members about underbudgeted capital projects and the impacts of project timing, deferments and funding delays and compliance with the new capital reserve requirement

Mr. Miller specifically requested the Board consider removing language in policy 2.5 “without limiting the scope of the foregoing by this enumeration” as it contradictory the CEO interpretation which limits the scope to only include the sub-policies. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Finance Committee would review the policy language.

The Finance Committee recommended the Board accept the Financial Conditions & Activities (Policy 2.5) monitoring report as (A) a reasonable interpretation for all policies items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations.

Mr. Allemang motioned to accept the Financial Conditions & Activities (Policy 2.5) monitoring report as (A), seconded by Mr. Allen.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Financial Conditions & Activities (Policy 2.5) monitoring report as (A):

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: No
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Financial Conditions (Policy 2.5) monitoring report as (A), passed with a vote of (8) Yes and (1) No.

5.3 Annual Plan of Work

The Board discussed the plan for work for FY 2026 which includes ongoing topics of discussion and new projects. Board members recommended additional General Education Topics: fare study scope presentation, use of millage funds / service change metrics and library of general education topics for website

Policy Topics:

Ownership Value? Affordability & Property

General Education Topics:

Funding (local)
Post Pandemic Ridership Trends
~~UM 2050~~
~~Staff Responses / Impacts to UM 2050 Plan~~
Transit Service & Land Use Plan
Artificial Intelligence
Grants / Special Projects Process
Fare Study Scope Presentation
Use of Millage Funds – Service Change Metrics
Library of General Education Topics on Website

The work plan will be reviewed at the committee level for further discussion.

6. POLICY

6.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

The Finance Committee will review policy language in policy 2.5.

7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

7.1 FY2026 Q1 Financial Report

Ms. Reed provided an overview of the FY2026 Q1 Financial Report which indicates slightly favorable revenues and expenses and is trending on budget. She noted that the state operating assistance is moderately higher as it had been budgeted at 26% and the final state budget moved it closer to 29%. She also noted that the balance sheet indicated a strong cash position with the reserve target met.

7.2 Legislative Updates

Mr. Pfeifer provided legislative updates which included the approval of \$750K for YTC

construction, updates on the state's executive budget recommendations for 2027 LBO funding and noted that March 12th will be the MPTA Advocacy Day in Lansing.

7.3 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter shared an update from the Transportation Commission meeting that MDOT is in the planning process for repaving Washtenaw from South University to Stadium. The plan is supportive of including a dedicated bus lane. He will be sending Board members a link for further information. Board members discussed the importance of a bus lane and potential impacts for safety and traffic flow.

8. EMERGENT ITEMS

N/A

9. CLOSING ITEMS

9.1 Action Item Recap

- Financial Conditions & Activities monitoring report was accepted as (A) a reasonable interpretation.
- Audit report was accepted and documents will be added to the website.
- Annual Work Plan General Education Topics additions: Fare study scope presentation, use of millage funds / service changes metrics and library of general education topics on website.
- Discuss language revisions for policy 2.5 at Finance Committee.
- Mr. Carpenter will forward information on service standards and the MDOT report on repaving Washtenaw.

9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Communication & Support to the Board (2.9)
Cash & Investments (2.6)
FY2026 Q1 Service Report
Board Management Delegation (4.0-4.4)
OLTF: Committee or Task Force
Executive Committee + OM Act

9.3 Public Comment

Gaurav Kulkarni shared his experiences using the fare app and highlighted challenges navigating single fare or day pass purchasing. He noted that those challenges might discourage potential riders.

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
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board unanimously voted to go into closed session at 7:49 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
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board unanimously voted to move out of closed session at 9:01 pm.

9.5 Adjournment

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

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
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt