

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** March 19, 2026 - 6:00pm – 8:30pm

**Location:** Ann Arbor District Library (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) - Virtual via Zoom

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

**Members Absent:** Chris Allen (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.

Ms. Pollay motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Grand.

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. 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

Don Redding – Discussed transit challenges for local unhoused population staying at warming shelters. He is asking TheRide to investigate providing free tokens for shelters to distribute and/or work with Washtenaw Shelter Association and other organizations to create a process where other financial support may be able to offset the costs.

Adriana B. – Supports the continued need for fixed route service on Route 30.

Guarav Kulkarni – Spoke in support of the continued need for fixed route service on Route 30. He expressed concerns with the upcoming BTC relocation during long-term construction and the need for collaboration to ensure riders can navigate the disruptions.

Sarah Bassiouni – Local transit rider who is requesting more headway, more fixed service routes, and increased frequency of overall services.

Jennifer Janssen – Local transit rider with concerns about Scio Township no longer paying for Route 30 services and is requesting TheRide continue fixed route services along that route.

Kristina Fullerton – Scio Township resident concerned about losing access to fixed route services on Route 30. She also shared that public transportation is vital for undocumented residents and the negative impact if services are diminished.

Rick Stahler-Sholk – Member of the Washtenaw Bus Rider Advocates – he expressed concerns for the safety and well-being of the immigrant community and other vulnerable populations who rely on public transportation.

Ann Judge – Scio Township resident concerned about losing access to fixed route services on Route 30 and negative impacts it would place on her family as members are depended on the service to/from their job.

Cathy Chow – Transit dependent local resident – shared her positive experiences with accessibility with transit services and expressed concerns about potentially losing fixed route services along Route 30.

Shannon Lau – Transit dependent local resident – shared positive experiences using public transportation and would like to see increases to service frequency and would like to see continued fixed route service on Route 30.

Devin Judge Lord – Local resident who depends on transit services to/from work – especially concerned with the negative impacts to residents if fixed route service on Route 30 are longer be available.

Sharon Ongaro – Local resident who depends on the fixed route services on Route 30 – expressed concerns for residents who depend on public transportation services throughout the community.

Chai Montgomery – MCO and member of Washtenaw Bus Rider Advocates – thanked Board members and staff for continued open dialogue about the safety of local immigrant community. He expressed concerns about potentially losing fixed route services along Route 30 and the need to continue service to support residents of Scio Township.

Jean Marie Mink – Local resident who depends on public transportation – expressed gratitude for the easy availability of public transportation as a senior citizen.

Kristin Howard - Ypsilanti Township resident – expressed concerns that she her taxes pay for Flex Ride service but she is unable to access as she lives outside of the service boundary.

Joel Devonshire – Scio Township resident who is dependent on public transit services - concerned about losing fixed route service on Route 30.

Owen Dobrowsky – University of Michigan student and public transit rider – shared concerns that many of the bus stops do not have shelters / seating. Additional shelters and benches would improve rider experience and protect against inclement weather.

### **1.3 General Announcements**

Mr. Carpenter thanked public commenters and noted that many of the matters raised are being addressed. He and staff have been meeting with various members of the community to continue to address and resolve concerns.

Ms. Reed shared that the FTA notified them that TheRide has been cleared to move forward with the Low-No Grant application.

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: February 19, 2026**

### **2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries**

### **2.3 Cash & Investments (2.6)**

### **2.4 Executive Committee & OMA**

Mr. Miller 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. 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. EMERGENT ITEMS**

### **3.1 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. 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 6:55 pm.

Vote to 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. 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 7:48 pm.

## **4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

### **4.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates**

Mr. Chang shared feedback received from meetings with local government entities. He noted that the feedback included areas of focus such as frequency vs coverage, immigration, and how to maximize the service needs for older residents and other vulnerable populations.

### **4.2 OLTF Committee or Task Force**

Mr. Miller motioned to postpone the discussion to the April Board meeting, seconded by Ms. Pollay.

Mr. Mike Allemang: 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 postpone the discussion to the April Board meeting passed unanimously.

## 5. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Annual Plan of Work

Mr. Barr and Mr. Allemang shared input from the Service and Finance Committee meetings related to prioritized topics for the Annual Plan of Work.

#### Policy Topics / Decisions

Ownership Value? Affordability & Property

#### Education Topics

Funding (local)

Post Pandemic Ridership Trends

Transit Service & Land Use Plan

Artificial Intelligence

Fare Study Scope Presentation

Use of Millage Funds – Service Change Metrics

Library of General Education Topics on Website

Service Committee Priority Recommendations
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1. Fare Study Scope Presentation
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2. Post Pandemic Ridership Trends
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3. Artificial Intelligence
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Finance Committee Education Recommendations
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Fare Study Scope Presentation
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Post Pandemic Ridership Trends
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Transit Service / Land Use Plan
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Funding (local)
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The Governance Committee will review and take the suggested prioritization recommendations into consideration for committee review/discussion.

### 5.2 Communication & Support to the Board (2.9)

Mr. Carpenter provided an overview of the Communication & Support to the Board (Policy 2.9) monitoring report noting continued challenges with providing the monitoring reports on time. He also shared that he had noted policy 2.9.2.3 had been non-compliant as the whistleblower policy had not been implemented until December 2025 which was halfway through the monitoring period. There was no additional Board discussion on the monitoring report.

Mr. Allemang motioned to accept Communication & Support to the Board (Policy 2.9) monitoring report as 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) 2.9.1, 2.9.1.1, 2.9.2 and 2.9.2.3, which the Board acknowledges and accepts the proposed dates for compliance*, seconded by Mr. Chang.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Communication & Support to the Board (Policy 2.9) monitoring report as B:

Mr. Mike Allemang: 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 Communication & Support to the Board (Policy 2.9) monitoring report as B, passed unanimously.

## 6. POLICY

### 6.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

No Board discussion.

### 6.2 Policy 2.5 Consultant Guidance

Mr. Allemang shared that the Finance Committee reviewed policy language guidance for policy 2.5 after concerns were raised that the word “enumeration” might contradict CEO interpretation scope. After discussion, the Finance Committee recommends removing “*Further, without limiting the scope of the foregoing by this enumeration, the CEO shall not*” and replacing with “*This includes but is not limited to:*”

Mr. Allemang motioned to accept the proposed policy language revision for policy 2.5, seconded by Ms. Valentine.

Board members discussed revising all policies to say “This includes but is not limited to.”

All in favor of accepting the proposed policy language revision for policy 2.5:

Mr. Mike Allemang: 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 proposed policy language revision for policy 2.5 passed unanimously.

Staff will update the board policy manual to reflect the approved revisions. Mr. Chang noted that he would review policies and create a list of those that may need to be updated to the revised language of 2.5.

## 7. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION

No Board Education / Discussion.

## 8. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### 8.1 BTC Relocation Update

Ms. Gretchen Johnson presented the Board with an overview of the upcoming temporary

relocation of downtown services from the Blake Transit Center to Fifth and Washington. ([Board packet, pg. 91](#)) This relocation will last until mid-November during an extended construction period at and around the BTC. The relocation will have boarding areas, shelters and other amenities and some routes may be suspended or have new boarding points. Board members discussed concerns and Mr. Pfeifer outlined the communication plans for signage, bus cards, flyers and a dedicated website to ensure the public is properly notified.

## 8.2 FY2026 Q1 Service Report

Mr. Brooks presented the quarterly service report and highlighted a 5.7% year over decrease in ridership – contributing factors include increased detours, construction and reduced office workers. The report included improvements in on-time performance and cost per revenue. Staff will be reviewing which routes were most impacted by the ridership reduction.

## 8.3 Legislative Updates

Mr. Pfeifer provided updates on state and federal legislative efforts. At the state level, an increase in LBO funding is being advocated for and staff are monitoring the Infrastructure Projects Authority Fund for potential project funding opportunities. He also shared that the APTA Legislative Conference will be taking place in Washington, DC April 12-14.

## 8.3 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter shared highlights from the CEO Report – he congratulated Mr. Pfeifer and the PACE team for winning an APTA award for their ridership campaign.

# 9. CLOSING ITEMS

## 9.1 Action Item Recap

- OLTF Committee or Task Force (agenda item 4.2) was deferred to the April Board meeting
- Annual Plan of Work priorities sent back to committees for discussion
- Staff will update Annual Plan of Work priorities for Governance Committee
- Mr. Chang will perform a search and keywords to get to Service Committee next week — 'foregoing enumeration' (Governance)

## 9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Environmental Sustainability (2.11)  
Governance Process Policies (3.5-3.9)  
Board Management Delegation (4.0-4.4)

## 9.3 Public Comment

No public comment.

## 9.4 Adjournment

Ms. Ramaswami motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Valentine.

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. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kevin Zelazny / Deborah Holt*