

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** April 16, 2026 - 6:00pm – 8:30pm

**Location:** Riverside Arts Center (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, Praveena Ramaswami, Georgia Valentine

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

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

### 1. OPENING ITEMS

#### 1.1 Approve Agenda

Chairwoman Mozak proposed amending the agenda with the following changes: Mr. Carpenter will present agenda item 5.3, defer agenda items 4.2 and 5.4 to the May Board meeting.

Mr. Chang motioned to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Miller. No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of approving the agenda:

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 approve the amended agenda passed unanimously.

*\*\* Mr. Mike Allemang joined the meeting at 6:10pm*

#### 1.2 Public Comment

Dirk Mayhew – Ann Arbor resident who would like free bus fares on weekends and highlighted the benefits of free rides for essential community workers.

Delisa Brown – TWU representative at the organization, shared an updated on the status of the negotiation process and emphasized the need for a fair contract to maintain morale and operational stability.

Dani S. – Spoke in favor of advocating to study free fares and cited increased ridership and reduced conflicts in communities with free fare systems.

Luca Maurizio – Ann Arbor resident who spoke in solidarity with the TWU and called for a better contract.

CB Fulton – Frequent local rider and restaurant worker who spoke in favor of free fare and supports the transit union.

Greg Woodring – Ypsilanti resident who spoke in solidarity with the TWU. He also encouraged the organization to study free fares as a means of growing ridership and lessening vehicle dependence.

Chai Montgomery – MCO for 14 yrs, highlighted the benefits of a union contract and the challenges of working without the safety of one. He encouraged the Board to support the Union bargaining team.

Em – Ann Arbor resident who spoke in support of creating a fair contract with TWU workers. They also encouraged the organization to study free fares and create a pilot program.

Sim – Local worker in the food industry who supports the TWU and shared the challenges of being transit dependent while earning low wages. They spoke in favor of a free fare system.

Carolyn – Spoke in favor of a free fare system study.

Alex Li – Frequent rider, supports free fares and fair contracts for bus drivers and emphasized the importance of public transportation for essential workers.

KJ Pedri – Spoke in favor of the TWU and their fight for a fair contract. Also noted that a free fare system is the future of public transit.

Tod Wysor – Local transit rider who supports public transit and appreciates the quality of MCO's. He spoke in favor of the need for free fares and as a union member he is also in support of a fair contract for the TWU.

Prima – Local transit rider who spoke of a free fare study as many in the community are without other transportation resources. They stand in solidarity with the TWU as they negotiate a new contract.

Rachel Resin – District Library employee who shared her experience with the pilot program that distributes free bus tokens, noting the significant need among the homeless population.

Elka Chamberlain – Ypsilanti resident who shared public transportation provides broad access for people to navigate throughout the community.

Melody – Spoke in solidarity with the TWU as well as in support of a free fare study. Noted that other cities of similar size provide free fares.

Desirae Simmons – Shared positive interactions with her child and bus drivers as she has always used public transportation. She supports a free fare study.

Tim Hull – Ann Arbor resident who spoke of challenges of construction detours on Nixon Road and the impact of having to walk further to a bus stop. He also shared his support of a free fares but noted that enhanced weekend service might be more beneficial.

### **1.3 General Announcements**

Chairwoman Mozak shared that Board member Chris Allen was not reapplying for another Board term when his term completed at the end of the month. She thanked him for his service on the Board. Ann Arbor City Council will be appointing a new Board member.

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries**

Mr. Allemang 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. 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 motioned to move Closed Session to agenda item 9.4, seconded by Julie Grand.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of moving 3.1 Closed Session to agenda item 9.4:

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 move 3.1 Closed Session to agenda item 9.4 passed unanimously.

## **4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

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

Mr. Chang had no updates but thanked public comment participants for providing feedback on community values related to public transportation.

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

Deferred to May Board Agenda.

## 5. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Annual Plan of Work

The Board reviewed input from the Service and Finance Committee meetings related to prioritized topics for the Annual Plan of Work and discussed Mr. Carpenter's recommendation to consolidate information related to millage consideration preparation. They determined that aside from the addition of OLTF to the Workplan, no other changes would be made.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the Annual Plan of Work, seconded by Mr. Barr.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of approving the Annual Plan of Work:

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 approve the Annual Plan of Work passed unanimously.

### 5.2 Monitoring: Board Management Delegation (4.0-4.4)

There was no discussion on the Board self-evaluation of Board Management Delegation (4.0-4.4) policies survey.

### 5.3 Monitoring: Environmental Sustainability Policy (2.11)

Mr. Carpenter presented the Environmental Sustainability (policy 2.11) monitoring report for Board discussion. The Service Committee has reviewed and recommended the Board accept the report as (A).

Mr. Barr motioned to accept the Environmental Sustainability (Policy 2.11) monitoring report as A, seconded by Ms. Valentine.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Environmental Sustainability (Policy 2.11) monitoring report as (A):

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 accept the Environmental Sustainability (Policy 2.11) monitoring report as (A), passed unanimously.

*\* The board packet erroneously noted that the Finance Committee made the recommendation to accept the report – it was the Service Committee and the packet will be updated to reflect the correct committee.*

#### **5.4 Environmental Sustainability: Exec Limitation or End**

Deferred to May Board Agenda.

### **6. POLICY**

#### **6.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)**

Board members asked for clarification on interpretations related to the language of direct / indirect emissions and noted this language may need to be reviewed/reworded. Staff are looking to include emission reduction targets from facilities as a part of the next monitoring report. The topic will be discussed at the next Service Committee.

### **7. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION**

No Board Education / Discussion.

### **8. OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

#### **8.1 BTC Relocation Update**

Mr. Yang provided an update on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> BTC relocation plans and shared that staff will be available on-site to assist with customer questions during the transition period. Communications have been sent to local agencies and schools, along with robust social media notifications and printed materials to ensure the public is aware of the changes.

#### **8.2 Legislative Updates**

Mr. Pfeifer shared printed “Know your Rights” cards that are being distributed and are available at transit centers. He provided an update on the state budget planning process, noting that LBO funding is being advocated for while staff continue to monitor the Infrastructure Projects Authority Fund for potential project funding opportunities. He shared a recap of the APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC April 12-14 – Board Members Valentine & Ramaswami had attended with Mr. Pfeifer and Ms. Reed. Both Board Members expressed the conference and meeting with elected officials had been a positive experience.

#### **8.3 CEO Report**

Mr. Carpenter shared that a recent storm had not damaged any of the facilities or transit centers and no services had been impacted.

## 9. CLOSING ITEMS

### 9.1 Action Item Recap

- Defer OLTF Committee or Task Force agenda item to May Board Meeting
- Defer Environmental Sustainability Executive Limitation or End agenda item to May Board Meeting
- Environmental Sustainability Monitoring Report – Accepted as (A) – staff will update Board packet and correct error in Monitoring report (Service Committee recommended, not Finance Committee)
- Service Committee will continue to review language in Policy 2.11
- Mr. Pfeifer will provide the Board with a summary email about the BTC Relocation with social media links and a PR tool kit.

### 9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Budget Intro  
Governance Process Policies (3.5-3.9)  
Environmental Sustainability Executive Limitation  
OLTF Committee or Task Force

### 9.3 Public Comment

Annie Bacon – Local transit rider who is in support of free fares not only for affordability for vulnerable community members but as a means of expanding ridership and bringing people together.

### 3.4 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. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board unanimously voted to go into closed session at 7:47 pm.

*\*\* Ms. Julie Grand left the meeting at 8:19pm*

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

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

The Board unanimously voted to move out of closed session at 8:55 pm.

## **9.5 Adjournment**

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

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt*