TheRide
Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

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

Location: Riverside Arts Center (4th 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: Travis Gonyou

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. 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

Delisa Brown – TWU President / MCO – shared that morale is low with employees and service is being impacted negatively.

Timothy Burroughs – Local resident - spoke in support of TWU, a fair contract for workers and ensuring workers feel valued at the organization.

Althea McGlory – MCO for 12 years – spoke in support of TWU employees and the work they do to ensure the organization is run efficiently and positively impacts the local ridership.

Dirk Mayhew – spoke in support of free fare on election days and has been meeting with other local entities to raise financial support for the idea.

Kristin Howard – resident of Ypsilanti Township and business owner – expressed frustration that her tax dollars go to support a transit system she cannot access due to living outside the service area zone.

David Kastner – AFSCME local president – spoke in support of TWU and the need for a fair contract and conclusion to labor negotiations.

Lakesa Thornton – Ypsilanti Township Trustee – spoke in support of TWU and a fair contract.

Richard Stahler Sholk – Washtenaw County resident – spoke in support of transit operators who are in negotiations for a fair contract.

1.3 General Announcements

No general announcements.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: June 18, 2026

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

2.3 FY27 Committee/Board Meeting Dates & Alternative Meeting Location Dates

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. 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), 8(d) of OMA)

Chairwoman Mozak took a roll call vote to go into Closed Session pursuant to 8(c) and 8(d) 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 6:30pm.

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 7:33pm.

4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

4.1 OLTF

No new updates from Mr. Chang.

4.2 OLTF Committee or Task Force

The board continued the discussion on whether OLTF should be a designated committee or continue as a task force. Board members discussed various ideas for implementing a more strategic approach with a task force/committee. Chairwoman Mozak will be contacting the Governance consultant, Sue Radwan, to ask about educating the board on policy governance guidance for communicating with moral and legal owners.

5. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Monitoring: Governance Process Policies (3.0-3.5)

Board members reviewed and there was no additional discussion related to the survey responses. Board members feel the Board is doing well overall.

6. POLICY

6.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

N/A

6.2 Policy Language Review 3.5.1.1

Chairwoman Mozak provided an update on the Governance Committee review of the word "solely" in policy 3.5.1.1. The Governance consultant provided guidance on keeping the word as it is used as a goal for the Board to work toward. The committee recommends that the Board not make any changes to the policy wording. No further Board discussion.

7. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION

7.1 Local Funding Presentation

Ms. Reed provided an educational overview of local funding for transit services (Board packet, pg.57). Board members discussed impacts of millage revenue and renewals, inflation challenges, and the importance of local funding as there are potential risks associated with state and federal funding.

8. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

8.1 Final Business Plan

Mr. Carpenter shared that the annual Business Plan has been completed and is posted on the website.

8.2 Draft Budget Preview

Ms. Reed presented the FY27 budget preview which included information on the budget process and current projections (Board packet, pg.70). She shared that the projected balanced budget includes operating at full service levels, no fare changes and cost pressure management. The preliminary operating budget projects $77.3M Revenues and $76M Expenses. She and the finance team continue to work to finalize assumptions, and a draft version of the budget will be presented to the Board in August.

8.3 Legislative Updates

Mr. Carpenter shared that the State of Michigan passed their annual budget with a note that LBO funding was slightly lower than had originally been expected. There has been no movement at the federal level on reauthorization.

8.4 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter shared that a draft scope of the fare study will be provided in the near future as a Board Education topic. He also discussed downtown projects on 4th Street and the Y Lot.

9. CLOSING ITEMS

9.1 Action Item Recap

- Discuss OLTF: Committee or Task Force in August
- Chairwoman Mozak – contacting Governance Consultant Sue Radwan on education on public interfacing with a policy governance framework

- Finance staff will provide Board with millage adjustment examples
- Governance Committee will review/discuss future agenda ordering

9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Draft Budget Presentation
Public Hearing RE: Budget
FY26 Q3 Financial Report
Policy Manual Mock-Up
OLTF: Committee or Task Force

9.3 Public Comment

No public comment.

9.4 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
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 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt