Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Location: Ann Arbor District Library (4th Floor) - Virtual via Zoom

Members Present: Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Rich Chang, Travis Gonyou, Julie Grand, Samuel Kachuck, Jesse Miller, Susan Pollay, Georgia Valentine
Members Absent: Praveena Ramaswami (Excused)

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Approve Agenda

No additions or changes noted to the agenda.

Mr. Chang motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Miller.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of approving the agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Travis Gonyou: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Dr. Samuel Kachuck: 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

No public commenters.

1.3 General Announcements

Chairwoman Mozak introduced and welcomed newly appointed Board member, Samuel Kachuck who then shared a bit about his background and interest in joining the Board. He will be serving on the Service Committee.

Chairwoman Mozak shared that the Audit Task Force has been assembled and their first meeting will be held on November 20th.

Mr. Yang provided an update on the Ypsilanti Transit Center project which include latest

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approvals and next steps with the Ypsilanti City Council.

Mr. Carpenter shared updates on the 4th Avenue project and timelines for returning services to the Blake Transit Center. He thanked the City of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor DDA for their support with the project and temporary relocation during construction.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2026

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

2.3 Treatment of the Traveling Public (2.1)

2.4 Title VI Approval

2.5 Annual Public transit Agency Safety Plan Approval

2.6 Governance Consultant Contract Renewal

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

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Travis Gonyou: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Dr. Samuel Kachuck: 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. BOARD EDUCATION

3.1 Guest Lecture: Land Use

Professor Jonathan Levine presented an educational overview of the connections between land-use, transportation and transit (Board packet, page 284). He discussed Ann Arbor's future land-use plans, transit corridors, and parking requirement impacts.

He and Board members discussed building access and design, office-to residential conversion and potential coordination between the city, AAATA and the University of Michigan on bus rapid transit and campus mobility.

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4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

4.1 OLTF

Mr. Chang shared updates related to outreach with legal owners. He has received input and feedback from Ypsilanti Township and the City of Ypsilanti. OLTF continues to work with scheduling meetings with the City of Ann Arbor leadership.

5. POLICY MONITORING

5.1 Compensation & Benefits (2.3)

Mr. Carpenter provided an overview of the Compensation & Benefits (Policy 2.3) monitoring report and shared that the Finance Committee had engaged in a robust discussion related to the CEO's interpretation of policy 2.3.1 and the language "retains highly qualified employees." Finance Committee members provided more detailed input and a recommendation for removing the policy they would present under agenda item 5.2.

Ms. Grand motioned to accept the Compensation & Benefits (Policy 2.3) monitoring report as (C) 2 – for policy items 2.3.1 the interpretation is not reasonable – seconded by Mr. Allemang.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Compensation & Benefits (Policy 2.3) monitoring report as (C) 2 – for policy items 2.3.1 the interpretation is not reasonable:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Travis Gonyou: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Dr. Samuel Kachuck: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Compensation & Benefits (Policy 2.3) monitoring report as (C) 2 – for policy items 2.3.1 the interpretation is not reasonable, passed unanimously.

5.2 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

Finance Committee members provided an overview of discussions raised in the November Finance Committee Meeting. They recommend that the Board consider deleting Policy 2.3.1 as the language of retention and hiring is already addressed in Policy 2.3.2.

Chairwoman Mozak asked the Board if they would prefer to give the Finance Committee time put forth a formal request for policy language change to be presented at the December meeting or if they were prepared for a motion to be put forth now.

After a brief discussion it was agreed upon to put forth a motion.

Ms. Valentine motioned to eliminate Policy 2.3.1 and move Policy 2.3.1.1 under Policy 2.3.2, seconded by Mr. Chang.

Mr. Miller offered a clarification to the motion – that policies after 2.3.1 would be renumbered accordingly.

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No further discussion on the motion.

All in favor of deleting Policy 2.3.1, with policies after to be renumbered accordingly:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Travis Gonyou: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Dr. Samuel Kachuck: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to delete Policy 2.3.1, with policies after to be renumbered accordingly, passed unanimously.

The policy manual will be updated.

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6. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

6.1 Legislative Updates

Mr. Pfeifer shared recent a recap of Michigan and Federal election results and noted there is an expected federal continuing-resolution extension. He also shared updates on transit reauthorization and possible permit requirement reforms. He shared that work has started for a legislative agenda with the state association.

6.2 CEO's Draft Ends Interpretations (V1)

Mr. Carpenter briefly shared input from Board members on his preliminary Ends interpretations. With the recent updates to the environmental policies, he also provided information on updated interpretations.

Board members provided brief feedback on the broader service area and if there needs to be the inclusion of Ends policy language that addresses legal ownership input.

6.3 FY2026 Q4 Financial Report

Ms. Reed shared the FY2026 Q4 Financial Report – she noted that fiscal year-end closing entries are in progress and a review of financial statements will be done with the upcoming annual audit. Preliminary numbers show that there was a $4.4M favorable net variance due to higher-than-expected state operating assistance and property tax revenue. She shared that the surplus will go toward the operating reserve as it is close to reaching the minimum target. She also noted that investments have continued to mature and be reinvested at higher interest.

6.4 CEO Report & Election Day Fare Debrief

Mr. Yang shared updates on the Garage Study and next steps as they prepare for the NEPA Study. He and staff will be holding several public engagement sessions in December to gather feedback on the proposed locations for the bus garage. Feedback will be shared at the December Board meeting.

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Mr. Carpenter shared information related to the success of free fares on election day. The results were varied with some categories receiving higher ridership, while others had lower ridership. He noted that it was challenging to drawn definitive conclusions based on one day.

Board members discussed the potential ridership total impacts due to no school on Election Day and requested Mr. Carpenter include additional ridership data comparisons at the December Board meeting.

7. CLOSING ITEMS

7.1 Action Item Recap

- Treatment of the Traveling Public (2.1) monitoring report was accepted as "B"
- Compensation & Benefits (2.3) monitoring report was accepted as C2
- The Board approved removing policy 2.3.1, 2.3.2 is now renumbered as 2.3.1 with 2.3.1.1 as a sub policy.

7.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Preliminary Millage Recommendation
FY26 Q4 Service Report
Ends (1.0)
LAC Feedback on Ends

Future:
Ridership Trends & Utilization, Draft Fare Scope, AI

7.3 Public Comment

Robert Pawlowski – Shared that he is excited to hear about the progress with the BTC relocation and YTC expansion. He also shared that SMART will be announcing a new connection to Ypsilanti Township.

Mr. Carpenter additionally shared that he and staff had just recently been informed of SMART's connection to Ypsilanti Township. While they were able to share with Ypsilanti Township leadership earlier in the day, they hadn't had time to formally communicate that information with the Board prior to the meeting.

7.4 Adjournment

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

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Travis Gonyou: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes

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Dr. Samuel Kachuck: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt

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