

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting
10:48 a.m., February 19, 2019

Board Members: Clough (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Bibb, Elkins, Joyce, Moss, Serrano, Welo

Not present: McCall

Also Present: Anderson, Becker, Benford, Bober, Brooks-Williams, Burney, Calabrese, Caver, Ciesla, Coppock, Cottrell, Cranford, Crosby, Czeck, Dangelo, Davis, (C), Davis (J), Dietrich, Draper, Dzigiel, Faith, Feke, Feliciano, Fields, Flannery, Garofoli, Gautam, Gibbons, Gillan-Shafron, Goodwin, Gray, Houston, Jackson (J), Jackson (W) Jaszczak, Johnson, Jones, Kechtkaran, Kirkland, Laule, Lewis, Lively, Loh, McDonnell, McGrady, Penning, Pickett, Pinkney-Butts, Prendergast, Rodriguez (L), Rowe, Rusnov, Schipper, Shariff, Singh, Smith, Stocking, Stover, Sutula, Tarka, Tarter, Togher, Vukmanic, Weil, Winn, Young, Zeller, Zimmerman

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that eight (8) board members were present.

The Secretary advised that notice of this meeting has been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification has been given the news media and other interested persons, and that all requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules and Bylaws of this Board regarding notice of meeting have been complied with.

Minutes

Mayor Clough stated that the minutes from the January 15, 2019 Board Meeting and February 5, 2019 Special Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no changes. The minutes were approved.

Invitation for public comment on agenda matters – (2 minutes)

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH - Reso 2019-12 will not be effective until the union contract is in place. The money spent to find a new GM could be used to build the system up. Dr. Caver is doing an excellent job. She asked for more information on safety matters related to Reso 2019-15 since Ohio is #1 in sex trafficking. She has suggested potential paratransit contractors in the past. The public needs to be knowledgeable about Reso 2019-22. She ask that Dr. Caver be given a chance to be the permanent GM.
2. Chris Stocking – Cleveland, OH - He is the chair of Clevelanders for Public Transit. Regarding Reso 2019-14, he's voiced concerns for the RFP for the 10 year plan. He believes the timeframe and overall RFP was hasty and not well crafted. The vision comes from the Board, not staff. Transit agencies around the country, like Pittsburgh, didn't start their strategic plan until the CEO was in place. CPT support the Ad Hoc Bylaws committee and the board for moving this forward. He asked if the bylaws and charter reviews could be more often. He agrees with the GM and Secretary Treasurer positions being separate. There are 11 transit CEO searches going on. Delays in the search will hurt Cleveland.
3. Loh – Cleveland, OH – RTA is doing a lot of outsourcing for paratransit. There are more aging and disabled people in the county, but paratransit has not been good. The service criteria is based on administration needs, not the users. Customer service needs to be improved for the studies to be taken seriously. It's not fair that the service is funded by tax payer's money in addition to customers paying a fare.

4. Larry Rodriguez – Cleveland, OH - He advocates for people with disabilities. He belongs to the National Federation of the Blind, Cleveland Sight Center, and Department of Cuyahoga County Board of Disability. He rides fixed and paratransit service. He doesn't have any problems with the paratransit contractors, except for vehicle cleanliness. He's had some scheduling issues with the call response time. His drivers and service is good. Lakefront and STC have provided good service. Provide-A-Ride at times didn't have air conditioning, is not clean and the drivers are not professional.
5. Alaina Faith – Cleveland, OH – She uses paratransit. She has waited up to an hour schedule a trip. She suggested the on-line scheduling option be more user friendly. The drop down options to select your destination only includes the five most recent options. This would be improved with more listing options.

Committee reports

Nominating Committee – Chair: Mayor Georgine Welo

- The nominating committee consist of Mayor Welo, Karen Gabriel Moss and Leo Serrano. The committee sent a letter to the board members requesting letters of interest for the office of president and vice president.

Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee report – Chair: Mayor Georgine Welo

- They will meet April 4 from 9 – 11 a.m. The plan is to bring the final changes to the Board. Mayor Clough added that the new officers will be selected at the Annual Meeting, March 26. There is some potential changes in the bylaws yet to be approved, to limit the terms of officers.

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee report – Chair: Mayor Georgine Welo – no report

External and Stakeholder Relations and Advocacy Committee report – Chair: Valarie J. McCall

- Dr. Caver reported that this committee will meet at 1 p.m. today.

Audit, Safety Compliance and Real Estate report – Chair: Karen Gabriel Moss – no report

Organizational, Services & Performance Management Committee report – Chair: Rev. Charles P. Lucas – no report

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Justin has been working with Jose Feliciano, Jr. They met with the CAC, Feb 14. There was discussion on 2019 projects. They will have nine (9) applications for the Board to review and approve. They come from a wide number of organizations. He commended Marketing and Media Relations for getting the system redesign survey to the public. The survey result numbers are impressive. There has been a lot of good feedback from local governments, state government partners and non-profits. Mayor Clough thanked the board for taking on additional work.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Melissa Beverly is the new Talent Management Coordinator. Matthew Zimmerman was promoted to Safety Specialist II. Christopher Weil was promoted to Electronic Repair Manager.

Introduction of resolutions

- A. 2019-12 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-070 with E.L. Robinson Engineering for Project 52N – Engineering Services for the Tower City East Portal Rehabilitation in an amount not to exceed \$1,011,402.03 (RTA Capital and/or RTA Development Funds, Engineering & Project

Development Department budget), the adoption of which was by Mayor Welo, seconded by Rev. Lucas and approved by unanimous vote.

- B. 2019-13 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-121 with Complete Coach Works to provide Accident Repair Services for one Gillig 40 ft. CNG coach in an amount not to exceed \$165,246.95 (RTA Development Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

There was a lot of discussion on this issue in committees. This repair is being paid from an insurance claim.

- C. 2019-14 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-134 with HDR Engineering, Inc. to provide a Strategic Plan Update, in an amount not to exceed \$249,285.90 (RTA Development Fund, Programming & Planning Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Bibb asked that this plan be aligned with the GM job description. He asked if the search firm could have copies of the system redesign study and strategic plan. This plan should be finished by the 1st quarter of 2020 in enough time for the new GM to be a part of the process. This will align where the majority of the system redesign is complete. The Strategic Plan will be brought back to the board October 2019. There will be time to incorporate the system redesign.

- D. 2019-15 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-157 to revise the interagency agreement with Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Office of Information Technology, Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) to provide 700/800 MHZ Wireless Digital Radio Network Subscription Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 for a period of five years (General Fund, Intelligent Transportation Systems Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.

This is another step toward the radio communication system upgrades to allow for the buses, trains to speak to each other. Currently we have four towers. This will give us access to 13 towers.

- E. 2019-16 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-006 with Oracle Corporation for the purchase of Oracle Software Maintenance and Support Services for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$529,409.97 (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

Oracle is the financial software. This is for the annual operating maintenance.

- F. 2019-17 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-021 with Giro, Inc., for maintenance and support of the Hastus Software System for a period of three years for a total price not to exceed \$701,499.00 (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

This is the maintenance cost for the Hastus system, which keeps track of all operators as well as the schedules.

- G. 2019-18 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-22 with The Braun Corporation for the purchase and delivery of up to three (3) 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan SE w/Braun ADA WAV Conversion Vans, as specified, for a price not to exceed \$102,672.00 (RTA Capital Fund, Fleet

Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved unanimous vote.

These vehicles will go to the Service Quality department for the field supervisors.

- H. 2019-19 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-097A with Future Age, Inc. DBA Provide A Ride to provide contracted Paratransit Services for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$17,662,825.56, and in amounts not to exceed \$6,446,819.50 and \$6,663,637.70 for each respective option year, for a total five-year contract amount not to exceed \$30,773,282.76 (General Fund, Paratransit District Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mayor Welo.

Mayor Clough said there were extensive hearings on this item and the next two items. Rev. Lucas thanked the committee under Oliver Draper. He toured some of their facilities. He feels assured the contractors will fulfill their obligation. If they do not comply with the changes by June, they will ask that the contracts be looked at. They spoke with them about uniforms, cleanliness, response times and dispatch issues.

The role was called. There were seven (7) ayes and one (1) opposed by Mayor Elkins. It passed. Should one of these vendors not meet the requirements, the other two could handle more service.

- I. 2019-20 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-097B with GC Logistics of Mississippi, LLC to provide contracted Paratransit Services for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$10,602,572.76, and in amounts not to exceed \$3,724,442.80 and \$3,796,723.80 for each respective option year, for a total five-year contract amount not to exceed \$18,123,739.36 (General Fund, Paratransit District Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mayor Welo.

Mayor Welo said the committee worked hard on these contracts. They determined that it would take more than one contractor to handle all the work.

The roll was called. There were seven (7) ayes and one (1) opposed by Mayor Elkins. It passed.

- J. 2019-21 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-097c with Senior Transportation Connection to provide contracted Paratransit Services for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$3,098,076.50, and in amounts not to exceed \$1,105,901.64 and \$1,143,139.92 for each respective option year, for a total five-year contract amount not to exceed \$5,347,118.06 (General Fund, Paratransit District Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mayor Welo. The role was called. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

Rev. Lucas said a staff committee will oversee the performance of these paratransit contracts on a monthly basis. They asked that a board member serve on the committee. Tony added that the paratransit contracts are also included in the Internal Audit 2019 plan.

- K. 2019-22 – Amending Article II, Sections 1 and 8 of the Bylaws of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and adopting a new article for the position of General Manager, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.
- L. 2019-23 – Second Amendment to Resolution No. 2018-83 on the appointment of Floun'say R. Caver, PhD. to the position of Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.

- M. 2019-24 – Amending Article VIII, Sections 5 and 6 of the Bylaws of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

Mr. Bibb asked for items M and N, if there could be a trigger in the existing charter so that if there are issues and they want to reevaluate the amendments to the charter, that a process of review is in place every 5 or 10 years.

Mr. Bibb made a motion to table. It was seconded by Mayor Elkins. The roll was called. There were five (5) to table and three (3) not to table by Clough, Moss and Welo.

- N. 2019-25 - Repealing Chapter 262 of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and enacting a new Internal Audit Charter

Mayor Elkins made a motion to table. It was seconded by Mr. Bibb. The roll was called. There were five (5) to table and (3) three not to table by Clough, Moss and Welo. Mayor Elkins and Rev. Lucas voted to table to extend professional courtesy to Mr. Bibb. Ms. Moss said that since this is tabled, the job description for the GM will need to be tabled too. The new GM needs to know who will and will not report to him. She understands the concern, but the discussion has been going on since last September. Mr. Bibb said he knows the importance of the work, but requested a resolution inside the charter to review it every 5 or 10 years. Ms. Moss said this request can be done at any time. Mayor Clough said that these items were considered to move forward on the GM job description. Rev. Lucas added that this is just to table and not a no vote. Mayor Clough said this should be addressed at the March committees.

2019 Audit Plan

Mayor Clough asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Internal Audit Plan presented at the Audit, Safety Compliance and Real Estate Committee meeting earlier today. It was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Interim General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Dr. Caver gave the report. February sales tax was budgeted at \$32.5 million, but \$35.1 million has been received. Passenger fare was budgeted for \$3.5 million. We've received \$3 million. January ridership decreased at 5% compared to January 2019 and 2% less than the December 2018 number. This month was affected by the polar vortex. On an average weekday when the weather is good there was 99,000 rides. With the polar vortex, the average weekday ridership was 48,900 rides. Bus was down 5%. Rail was down 1%. HealthLine was down 13%. Trolley was down 8%. Paratransit was down 2%.

The East 105th Street Station or Opportunity Corridor, will open in March. The E. 116th Street Station soft opening is planned for early March. Work is still ongoing at the Farnsleigh Station in Shaker Heights, awaiting solar power shelters. He traveled to Columbus for their Ohio Lobby Days. Staff met with the Northeast Ohio legislatures to discuss funding. The Legislative Update was given to the Board. Other items for discussion include rail car replacement, which is projected to cost \$240 million. Future meetings are planned with ODOT and FTA to discuss funding methods. He spoke to the Levin College of Urban Studies on the future of public transit with updates on the pillar studies and the impact of loss of population, outward migration, job relocation and state funding on RTA's ability to deliver service. This speech is also on YouTube.

Staff will meet with the GCP Taskforce to tour the Central Bus Maintenance facility. Staff will meet with the Mayors and Managers Association, March 29. At the March 5 committee meeting, there will be an update on the CSU Economic Impact Study. They plan to meet with ODOT Director, Jack Marchbanks to begin discussions on funding rail cars. The State Auditors are on site. The report will come back to the Board in June. The next Quarterly Service Planning Open House is Feb. 27. The External and Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee meeting is today at 1 p.m., where consultant Jarrett Walker will present on the system redesign study. A survey on the system redesign is live at riderta.com/systemdesign.

Preventable accidents was 1.14, which is above the 3.5 or fewer collision per 100,000 mile goal. On-time performance was 83.4% compared to the 80% or above goal. There will be a new indicator to capture customer service satisfaction called Boarding's Between Complaints.

Mayor Clough clarified with a member of the public that RTA has three appointing authorities to the RTA Board. They are the City of Cleveland (4 appointees), Mayors and Managers Association (3 elected) and the County Executive (3 appointees). There is one vacancy with the City of Cleveland. The CAC is also available to accept new members.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – The Feb. Ohio jobs numbers won't be released. Every year at this time, they take the complete count of jobs, which comes out later than the monthly surveys. They look at the monthly surveys to see how accurate they were and make a Benchmark revision. This takes two months to complete. The sales tax is weak. The monthly figures are volatile and are driven by inflation. He looks at the last 12 months combined, which is adjusted for inflation. Last month it was down 4%. This month it was down 2.5%. It's been 20 months in a row that it's been in the negative. The statewide figures were driven by auto sales and non-auto sales. Total sales tax revenue for the state are down. The income tax rate was cut at the state and federal level. This did nothing to improve long-term performance. Compared to 2001 peak levels, we're down \$28.5 million a year or a 12% decline.
2. Chris Stocking – Cleveland, OH – He is the chair for Clevelanders for Public Transit. Recently a member of CPT spoke to a Republican State Senator about transit funding. They said they were supportive, but kept running into concerns with other state legislatures like future innovation and technology and transportation, implying that mass transportation is a thing of the past. RTA and local leaders talk about ride hailing apps as a replacement for fix route transit service. This may make sense in low density rural areas, but these services only average 2-3 passengers an hour. The lowest performing bus route has 11 passengers per hour. They want a CEO and staff to frame the issue. Hyperloops and autonomous vehicles will not replace mass transit in Cuyahoga County. Legislatures pointed at controversies within RTA to justify not increasing funding. Legislatures believe these issues have not been addressed. An activist group called Move plan to meet with Rep. Michael Skindell and Rep. Ken Upchurch, who will present a transportation bill. RTA needs to follow-up on reforms.
3. Lenny Stover – Cleveland, OH – He's with Keep Our Greenway Green. Steve Litt with the PD wrote a piece on preserving urban greenspace. He was not able to publish that owners of seven bars and restaurants adjacent to the property oppose development. His group has been accused of not understanding the project even though they have supported development along the Red Line Greenway. The University of California of Berkley, wrote a document on TOD in 2009. A professor there founded TOD in the 1980's and documented in a book called *The Great American Metropolis*. Lenny thought TOD was dense development around transportation centers, but the author's focus was on environmental sustainability and reducing land use. He believes there was a belief of a close association between nature and the built environment and required a minimum of 10% greenspace in every development. The study was discredited for various reasons, leading to the disappointment in the philosophy of TOD. In 1993, the Mayor of Pittsburgh started building

urban trails. Pittsburgh were recently featured in Rails to Trails magazine as a model for connectivity. The mayor refuse to let the Pittsburgh Steelers build a training facility on the Allegheny River because he wanted the trail to go there. One of their trails get 820,000 visitors a year. The average American trail gets 2 million visitors a year. Imagine if 5% or 10% of those people use RTA. This would generate more ridership than a development.

4. Ken Prendergast – Lakewood, OH – He is the Executive Director of All Aboard Ohio. ABO is a member of the Move Ohio Coalition along with 36 other organizations around the state. They delivered an open letter to the governor, requesting \$150 million be put in a Transportation Choices Fund, where \$120 million would be for public transportation, which is what the 2015 ODOT Transportation Needs Study recommended. There needs to be bipartisan support for a gas tax increase. They believe there is enough people in the legislature to support this. He urged the board to be involved in the conversation. ABO is supporting the TOD along Columbus Road and the preservation of greenspace across the tracks from the station. They would like the development to be mixed-use and that the process in the design review with the City of Cleveland will reflect that.

Mayor Welo has been in contact will several senators and state representatives. She believes they haven't taken into consideration that West Virginia and Pennsylvania put a steep tax on fracking for oil and gas, but Ohio did not. She believes they should look at this.

5. Alaina Faith – Cleveland, OH – She disagreed with the board's decision to table the changes to the bylaws presented today. Since there are 11 open CEO positions across the country, delaying any action to post the CEO job description, could be viewed as a stall tactic and a means to not bring in the best CEO to RTA. She would like the board to address this today.
6. John Pesuit – Oberlin, OH – He was the Deputy Project Manager at LTK in 1978 when the Breda car order was signed. He ran the program through the design reviews. He wrote the specs for HRV. He offered his services to acquaint the staff with the issues they encountered in the development of the vehicles.
7. Loh – Cleveland, OH – The strategic plan is trying to catch up. Daily transit needs can't be fulfilled with fancy innovations. RTA will dissolve if they can't help everyone. Riders' voices are not being heard. The Ride Happy, Ride Free cards will show how low the customer service is. She thanked Mayor Elkins for his efforts on the board.
8. Akshai Singh – Cleveland Hts, OH – His group will be in Columbus to support the introduction of the transportation bill. The last budget had record cuts to Ohio transit systems. The ATU's across the state have signed on for support. RTA needs leadership to talk to state reps.

Mayor Clough said that state and local officials are more connected to public transportation. The new administration has spoken favorable of public transit. He thanked Mayor Elkins for his service to the RTA board.

Reconsider Reso No. 2019-24 and Reso No. 2019-25

Mayor Clough asked if board members who tabled Reso No. 2019-24 and Reso No. 2019-25 earlier would like them to be considered, he would need a motion and second. Mr. Joyce clarified that he thought the issue would be tabled until later today. After consideration of the chair of the Audit committee, he would like to reconsider.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to reconsider Reso No. 2019-24 and Reso No. 2019-25. It was seconded by Mr. Serrano.

Mr. Serrano stated that he originally voted to table in consideration of the two new board members, but knows how he'd like to place his vote. Ms. Moss added that the inspector general was in the last charter, which is one of the functions of Internal Audit. Changing the director's title to Executive Director of Internal Audit will clarify the duties. The GM search and being in compliance with auditing standards is important. Mr. Bibb said he understands auditing, but he wants to make sure they are using best practices and that there was a trigger in the bylaws to review the charter every 5 or 10 years, to ensure operational effectiveness. He said he would abstain. Tony said that in Section 262.09 Periodic Review and Amendment, of the proposed charter, it states the charter is subject to review and revision by the Board once every three years. This does not preclude the Board from revising specific policies. Any member of the board, CEO/GM or the Executive Director of Internal Audit can propose revisions to the charter.

The role was called. There were six (6) ayes, one (1) no from Mayor Elkins and one (1) abstain by Mr. Bibb. Mayor Elkins added that he feels privileged to have served on the board. He believes in the collective process. He thanked the Board, public, CPT, the union, advocacy groups and employees for their work.

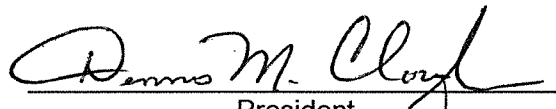
- M. 2019-24 – Amending Article VIII, Sections 5 and 6 of the Bylaws of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo. The roll was called. There were seven (7) ayes and one (1) abstention from Mr. Bibb. It passed.
- N. 2019-25 - Repealing Chapter 262 of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and enacting a new Internal Audit Charter, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo. The roll was called. There were seven (7) ayes and one (1) abstention from Mr. Bibb. It passed.

The next regular Board meeting and the Annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
This meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Attest:



Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



President