

## Minutes

### RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

10:21 a.m., December 17, 2019

**Board:** Clough (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Bibb, Byrne, Joyce, McCall, Pellot, Serrano, Welo

**Not present:** Moss

**Also Present:** Astolfi, Battle, Becker, Bell, Benford, Bennett, Beveridge, Birdsong, Bitto, Brooks-Williams, Burney, Campbell, Carter, Cernoi, Chandler, Ciesla, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis, Flannery, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Gibbons, Gibson, Gray, Jaszczak, Jones, Kaweck, Kirkland, Leftkowitz, Lewis, Lincoln, Lipton, Loh, Manus, Martin, McBride, McCarthy, Metcalf, Montgomery, Mothes, Opett, Penning, Pickett, Ponder, Raskin, Ross, Rudman, Schipper, Shaffer, Sims, Singh, Smith, Stocking, So, Sohrabian, Solomon, Sopko, Sutula, Tarter, Taylor, Togher, Tucker, Urban, Vukmanic, Walker, Wiehe, Williams, Winn, Woodford, Zeller

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that nine (9) 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 November 12 Special Board Meeting and the November 19 Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved.

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

1. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – Money is needed to improve service by increasing frequencies. The Ohio job numbers aren't out until Friday. U.S. jobs were up 1.2% last month and up 9.3% this month. There have been 90 consecutive months where the U.S. job figures have been better than Ohio's figures. Ohio's job growth is performing below average. Ohio's unemployment rate has been higher than the national average for 42 months in a row. Sales tax was not that bad this month, but not what it used to be.

### Committee Reports

Joey Sopko gave the CAC report. They met December 12. They discussed issues regarding (1) paratransit service; needing longer than five minutes before cancellations and ensuing a person has been reached before changing appointments. They requested the CAC ADA committee be involved in future discussions around service providers of paratransit and other decisions regarding fares for paratransit. Call wait time has been reduced. (2) CAC and RTA reviewed the fare study. They discussed encouraging more use of the 5-ride pass. Printing issues have caused inability to use the pass. RTA addressed the printing issues. CAC requested these issues be considered before efforts to remote the 5-ride passes and increase riders purchasing them. Fare capping and smart cards are desirable options. They recommend prioritizing the changes to implement these options. It would be beneficial for riders to have fare transfer tickets for all fares, but it should not be implemented over

updating the system capable to use smart fare media. (3) CAC raised questions about long term strategy and planning for the RTA as the Pillar Studies are being completed, specifically will RTA further study public perceptions of RTA and the most strategic method to get a funding increase. RTA should continue to improve public relations and build public trust.

#### Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Michael So was promoted to budget management analyst in OMB. He previously worked in Accounting. Chris Coppock was promoted to engineering project manager. Jeffrey Adams was not present. He was promoted to manager of central equipment.

#### Executive Session Requested

10:35 a.m. - Mayor Clough asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. It was moved by Mr. Bibb, seconded by Mayor Byrne. There were nine (9) ayes and none opposed.

10:55 a.m. – It was moved by Mr. Bibb, seconded by Mayor Welo to come out of executive session. There were nine (9) ayes and none opposed.

#### Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2019-110 – Authorizing the exercise of an option under Contract 2018-037 with Motor Coach Industries, Inc. for the purchase and delivery of three (3) forty-five foot (45') commuter coaches, as specified, in an amount not to exceed \$1,690,950.12 (RTA Development Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- B. 2019-111 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-116 with Ultramain Systems, Inc. for Ultramain V9 Upgrade Services in an amount not to exceed \$567,400.00 (RTA Development Fund, Intelligent Transportation Systems Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2019-112 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-120 with Rio Grande Pacific Technology, Inc. for Project 12D – Engineering Services for the Trunk Line Signal Conceptual Design in an amount not to exceed \$268,412.13 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Welo added that this was discussed in committee.

- D. 2019-113 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-148 with Lytx, Inc. to provide Driver Behavior Performance Monitoring System Services for bus and paratransit vehicles in an amount NTE \$601,761.60 for the base three years, and in an amount NTE \$200,587.20 for each option year, for a total contract amount NTE \$1,002,936.00 for the five year period (General Fund, Training & Employee Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved unanimous vote.
- E. 2019-114 – Authorizing the purchase of property insurance from FM Global for a period of twelve (12) months for a total contract amount not to exceed \$828,000.00 (General Fund,

Risk Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.

- F. 2019-115 – Authorizing the General Manager, Chief Executive Officer to enter into membership agreements with the Transportation Learning Center for Rail Car and Traction Power Training consortiums, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.
- G. 2019-116 – Authorizing Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority membership in Engage! Cleveland, a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving business and community engagement and collaboration, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

Chief McCall asked why RTA is joining this organization and does this open up RTA to be asked to join other organizations. George Fields said this will allow RTA to grow its employee population. This will allow employees to engage with professional development, leadership development, networking, community engagement and the opportunity to promote public transit. This will help to attract and retain employees. Mr. Bibb added that Engage's survey identified public transit as the number one issue young professionals consider when deciding to stay in Cleveland. Chief McCall asked if RTA pays membership to similar groups and that this should have gone through committee. Mayor Clough asked for input at the end of next year on the benefits. Ms. Birdsong suggested a report be given on the return on investment. The workforce development issue does need to be addressed. Mr. Serrano believes this should be approved through the CEO and not the Board.

- H. 2019-117– To amend the fiscal year 2019 revenues and appropriations for the General Fund, as adopted in Resolution Nos. 2018-119 and 2019-034, and to provide for a \$5,000,000 transfer to the Reserve Fund for Rail Car Replacement, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Welo thanked the Board and Staff for the work to move \$5 million into the reserve fund for rail car replacement. When she joined the Board, she questioned how the rail cars would be replaced. Mr. Joyce said this shows the State and Federal governments what is being done to raise money. Rev. Lucas agreed that this is important. Chief McCall said she also requested staff have a plan for new rail cars.

- I. 2019-118 – Making appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority during fiscal year 2020, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.
- J. 2019-119 – Approving the revised list of positions designated to use purchasing cards, the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Ms. Pellot and approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Birdsong added that staff updated who was approved to use purchase cards to improve transparency.

- K. 2019-120 – Authorizing the General Manager, Chief Executive Officer to accept an easement from the Cleveland Society of the Blind ("CSB") for the purpose of installing a bus shelter and related amenities to implement the East 105<sup>th</sup> Street Opportunity Corridor

Transit Waiting Environment project on CSB property, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Chief McCall asked for clarification. Mike Schipper said as a part of Opportunity Corridor Section 1, RTA entered into a MOU with ODOT where they provide money for RTA to upgrade shelter waiting areas at seven locations. As part of that agreement, ODOT would obtain easements. The agreement was signed five years ago. These three resolutions are to transfer the easement to RTA to complete the installation. Temporary construction easements were used. The shelters have been ordered. Chief McCall said this creates issues when different shelters are in different areas. There needs to be consistency with the shelters on this corridor. A shelter at E. 105<sup>th</sup> in Euclid has a utility box in front it, which blocks the view. She requested the shelter be moved.

- L. 2019-121– Authorizing the General Manager, Chief Executive Officer to accept the assignment of an easement for the purpose of installing a bus shelter and related amenities to implement the East 105<sup>th</sup> Street Opportunity Corridor Transit Waiting Environment project on City of Cleveland property, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Byrne. The roll was called. There was eight (8) ayes and one (1) recusal from Chief McCall. It passed.
- M. 2019-122 – Authorizing the General Manager, Chief Executive Officer to accept the assignment of five easements for the purpose of installing bus shelters and related amenities to implement the East 105<sup>th</sup> Street Opportunity Corridor Transit Waiting Environment project on Cleveland Clinic Foundation properties, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Bibb. There were nine (9) ayes and none opposed. It passed.
- N. 2019-123 – Amending Chapter 1098 of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to update the Environmental Policy Statement and Commitments, the adoption of which was moved Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

This is to comply with the ISO 14001 environmental standards set by the Engineering department and the sustainability manager.

- O. 2019-124 – Approving a new three-year collective bargaining agreement covering conditions of employment with Local 268 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Joyce congratulated the staff. There was 391 miles of gridlock in Paris, France due to their transit strike. Rev. Lucas added that the drivers are pleased. Mayor Welo thanked the staff and ATU leadership. This type of relationship makes Cleveland move. Mayor Clough concurred. Ms. Birdsong thanked the staff and ATU. Mr. Nix agreed with the statements. He thanked the Board for transparency and bringing Ms. Birdsong on board.

- P. 2019-125 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-128 with MP2 Energy NE LLC to provide electricity supply requirements, for a period of three years in a projected amount not to exceed \$5,900,000.00 (General Fund, Rail District Department budget) and in a projected amount not to exceed \$1,900,000.00 (General Fund, Office of Management and Budget Department budget) for a total projected contract amount not to exceed \$7,800,000.00,

the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Bibb, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

#### Interim Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Dr. Caver gave the report. Sales tax for December was \$18.6 million, which is 4.4% or \$783,000 higher than last year and \$1.8 million higher than estimate. It is \$4.8 million or 2.3% above budget. Compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter estimate, it is \$1 million over. Passenger fares received \$7.2 million in November, which is \$4 million above the November budget estimate and is related to a late payment from CMSD to provide passes for students. YTD for November, it is lower than budget at \$ 4 million. It expects to be close to the revised estimate.

#### General Manager, Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Birdsong gave the report. The E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street Red Line Station reconstruction is out for bids. She attended several meetings along with staff. They met with the Cuyahoga County Chief Economic Development Officer to discuss strategic planning initiatives to talk about how RTA can be involved in the County's long range plan and the role public transit plays in the vision for the region. They attended the Infrastructure Roundtable with U.S. Rep. David Joyce, NOACA to discuss reverse commute patterns and potential partnerships. They also attended the Human Services Advocacy Network (HSAN) meeting to discuss the future of public transportation and the connection to public health and wellness programs. We received nine new MCI Park-N-Ride vehicles that will be rolled out in January, with three to follow. Staff is prepping the vehicles for service.

RTA and Tri-C is partnering to provide temporary Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) training to RTA bus operator applicants. This is the third class. New programs are being looked at for bus and rail apprenticeships. This program was developed to address the challenge of creating a larger pipeline of operator applicants to fill job openings. She welcomed City of Cleveland appointee Ms. Luz Pellot to the Board. Mayor David Weiss of Shaker Heights who is in the audience will fill the seat that will be vacated March 2020 by Mayor Georgine Welo of South Euclid. Staff met with the FOP to discuss briefly the ground rules for negotiations and establish negotiation dates. Seven dates were selected in total. The contract is set to expire on February 29, 2020. The FOP and our team are hopeful that we will be able to get headway. The Board will be updated.

RTA received the Healthy Workplace Silver award from the Healthy Business Council of Ohio. The Council recognizes Ohio employers who demonstrate a commitment to employee wellness. RTA was recognized for their partnership with the Greater Summit Business Conference Expo. Business Development Specialist, Diana Jones, of the Office of Business Development served on the planning committee. RTA partnered with Toys for Tots to collect toys this holiday season. RTA rail cars were decorated and named the Holiday Train for the occasion.

Rev. Lucas asked for the status of the ramp at Shaker Square. Mike Schipper said the concrete has been poured for the ramp and the railing will be installed next month. Rev. Lucas said since the ramp was put in at Farnsleigh, the ridership has increased.

#### Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – He is a regular rider. He suggested meetings be held at a time where the public doesn't have to miss work. Trains break down every day. Fares have been rising as ridership and service shrinks. He ask the Board to committ to reducing the All Day Pass to \$5, adopt a progressive fare collection and fair capping, implement the System

Redesign study findings, put a tax levy on the November 2020 ballot and be progressive leaders.

2. Dan McCarthy – Cleveland, OH – He's been riding for the last 10 years. He's seen the results of the cuts. He agrees with the system redesign recommendations from Jarrett Walker. It will be controversial to implement the recommendations. The cuts have redesigned the system. He would also like to pay \$5 for an All Day Pass. He thanked Mr. Bibb for participating in the CPT HealthLine Ride Along.
3. Chris Stocking – Cleveland, OH – Chris asked for motions to reduce the All Day Pass to \$5, to build public support for RTA, rebuild ridership, and to implement the system redesign to get the last round of community meetings started. He thanked staff for conducting the studies. Mayor Clough thanked the public for their input.
4. Loh – Cleveland, OH – She thanked Mayor Welo for her service. She is happy the union will have a new contract. Public perception is not good with Transit Police. There was a bus at Public Square that was smoking. Riders down feel safe riding RTA. Employment can be increased with the new contract to get new mechanics to increase safety.

#### Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Attest: *J. L. Carter, Ph.D.*  
Interim Secretary-Treasurer

*Don M. Clough*  
President