

## Minutes

### RTA Operating Budget Public Hearing

10:16 a.m. December 7, 2021

**Committee Members:** Joyce (Chair), Moss (Vice Chair), Byrne, Serrano

**Other Board members:** Koomar, Lucas, McCall, Weiss      **Not present:** Duarte, Pellet (virtual)

**Staff:** Becker, Birdsong, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Dietrich, Fesler, Fields, Garofoli, Gautam, Gettings, Harris, Kirkland, Krecic, Lincoln, Mothes, Orlando, Petit, Schipper, Scott, Shurik, Sutula, Talley, Walker-Minor

**Public:** Gibbons, Loh, Pinkney

This meeting was live-streamed on RTA's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/rideRTA](http://www.facebook.com/rideRTA)) for staff and members of the public. Members of the public were allowed to attend in-person. Based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance to continue to avoid large events and gatherings and Ohio Department of Public Health advice that businesses and other entities may continue to require mitigation measures, as well as RTA's interest in protecting community and employee health and safety, several measures were put in place for in-person attendance, which are spelled out in the meeting notice.

#### Second Public Hearing

Mr. Joyce called the Public Hearing to order.

This is the second of two official public hearings on the proposed FY 2022 Budget for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The information for the 2022 Budget has been made available for public inspection in the Office of Management and Budget, and on the Authority's Facebook and Twitter pages. Public notice of this hearing has been given by publication of legal advertisements in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> and the Call & Post on October 20<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as by posting of the notice in the first floor lobby of the Authority's Main Office Building, and on the Authority's Facebook and Twitter pages.

The Proposed 2022 Budget was presented to the Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee of the RTA Board of Trustees on November 16, 2021. The Proposed 2022 Budget estimates revenues at \$354.4 million. Sales and Use Tax receipts are projected to increase by 2%. Total Passenger Fares are projected at \$21.7 million.

Reimbursed Expenditures includes reimbursements for preventive maintenance, force account labor, fuel tax and other miscellaneous reimbursements. For 2022, reimbursed expenditures are projected at \$5.0 million, of which \$1.0 million is for preventive maintenance reimbursements. The formula funds normally used for PM reimbursement will be used for unfunded or underfunded capital projects. In 2021, the Authority was awarded approximately \$67.4 million of Federal Funding through the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and an additional \$136.0 million through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This funding is to help supplement the decline in passenger fares and pay for added expenses due to the pandemic. Through October, we have drawn down the entire \$67.4 million of CRRSAA and \$54.8 million of ARP. The remaining funding of ARP will be drawn down in 2022. This funding will help carry us through Fiscal Year 2024 and beyond.

Total expenditures for the Proposed 2022 Budget are projected at \$339.9 million, which includes \$274.8 million for Operating Expenditures and \$65.1 million for transfers to other funds to support expenses and maintain the recommended fund balances. The awarded Federal Stimulus funding will help the Authority recover from the loss of passenger fares due to the COVID pandemic through December 2024.

Public Hearing (comments were made in person and on the phone)

1. Rev. Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH – She is in opposition to the proposed budget. The budget is racist and sexist. Signage on the vehicles is racist and sexist. Where is the money we are losing on the Red Line? The operators are quitting because they are frustrated. She is tired of the standard being all white and all male and following after white women. Linda Krecic refuses to return her calls and work with any non-white mainstream media or press. She has asked to work with her for years. Why hasn't the money been used to fix Windermere Station, Superior Rapid Station and E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street stations? She requested another meeting with Ms. Birdsong.
2. Loh – It is hard to make a budget. The budget has flaws. People pay taxes so why should they pay twice to ride public transit and still be limited. RTA is working hard to improve the service such as paratransit. All people should use the service. She asked the Board to approve free fare. It is not a racial issue, but a poverty issue. Cleveland is the poorest city in the U.S. Let us work together to get state and federal funding.
3. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – He would like RTA to hire as many operators as possible. He suggested their pay be increased. Transit Police budget funds should be reallocated to pay operators.

It was moved by Mr. Moss, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved to close the Public Hearing.

The public hearing was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

  
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Rajan D. Gautam  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
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Theresa A. Burrage  
Executive Assistant