

Minutes

RTA Operating Budget Public Hearing

9:38 a.m. November 15, 2022

Committee Members: Welch (Chair), Joyce, Pellot

Other Board Members: Biasiotta, Koomar, Lucas, Weiss

Not present: McCall, Moss

Staff: Biggar, Birdsong Terry, Bowles, Burney, Caver, Crawshaw, Dangelo, Davidson, Dietrich, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garlock, Garofoli, Gautam, Ghanem, Hudson, Jones, Keshtkaran, Kirkland, Miller, Mothes, O'Donnell, Schipper, Scott, Sutula, Talley, Walker-Minor, Woodford, Zimmerman

Public: Cobhan, Fowler, Gibbons, Loh, Pinkney-Butts, Sampson, Tarter

FY 2023 Operating Budget

This is the first of two official public hearings on the proposed 2023 Budget for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The information for the 2023 Budget has been made available for public inspection in the Office of Management & Budget and on the Authority's Website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

Public notice of this hearing has been given by publication of legal advertisements in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on October 23rd and October 30th and the Call & Post on October 19th and October 26th, as well as by posting of notice in the first-floor lobby of the Authority's Main Office Building, the Authority's Website, Facebook page, and Twitter page.

The Proposed 2023 Budget was presented to the Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee of the RTA Board of Trustees on November 15th. A second presentation will be made to the committee on December 6th. The Proposed Budget estimates revenues at \$299.9 million. Sales and Use Tax receipts are projected to increase by 1.8%. Total Passenger Fares are projected at \$24.7 million, a 2% increase from 2022 projections.

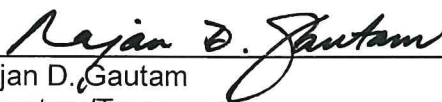
Reimbursed Expenditures includes reimbursements for preventive maintenance, force account labor, fuel tax and other miscellaneous reimbursements. For 2023, reimbursed expenditures are projected at \$5.0 million, of which \$1.0 million is for preventive maintenance reimbursements. The formula funds normally used for PM reimbursement will be used for unfunded or underfunded capital projects. Total expenditures for the Proposed 2023 Budget are projected at \$324.3 million, which includes \$282.4 million for Operating Expenditures and \$41.9 million for transfers to other funds to support expenses and maintain the recommended fund balances for Bond Retirement, Insurance, Supplemental Pension, Capital Improvement, and Reserve Funds.

The 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 24, 2022. The CIP provides for the purchase, maintenance, and improvement of the Authority's capital assets through a programmed allocation of available financial resources. The Capital Improvement Plan for 2023 totals \$133.3 million, of which the 3 highest categories include the Bus Improvement Program (\$37.1 million), Rail Car Replacement Program (\$30.6 million), and Rail Improvement Projects (\$25.0 million). The 5-year CIP totals \$666.2 million.

Public Comment

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney Butts – She asked what preventative maintenance is and what the priority projects are. The Superior Rapid is still not fixed. She asked when improvements to the E. 79th Street Station will be made and why elevators are not on the east side. She asked about the maintenance of bus shelters. There is a difference in how the shelters are maintained on the west side compared to the east side. She asked about how much money goes into policing and what the safety concerns are. She asked about Transfers and helping the homeless. She hasn't heard back about partnering with RTA on community outreach.
2. Larry Rodriguez – He asked about safety at rapid stations in the budget.
3. William Tarter – He found some discrepancies in the Quarterly Management Report (P. 6) on passenger fare year end projections (\$23.5 million) compared to the 2023 Transmittal letter which said passenger fares will end 2023 at \$24.2 million. Sales & Use Tax in the Quarterly report is estimated at \$253 million at year end, but \$254.4 million at year end in the Transmittal Report.
4. Chris Martin – The livestream went out on YouTube. He asked if the Transit Police vehicles is included in their budget. On May 30, 2020, RTA spent \$10,000 deploying their vehicles to the Justice Center. He asked how that helped protect the transit community.
5. Christin Gamble – The Paratransit vehicles need shocks. It's not good for her health issues. New vehicles are needed, or old vehicles need to be repaired.
6. Loh – It's good that funding is reallocated for Transit Ambassadors and Crisis Intervention Specialist instead of fare enforcers which were deemed unconstitutional. The budget should increase for safety improvements on Paratransit and fix route buses. There should be a button riders can push to get Transit Police. Safer vehicles need to be purchased.

The public hearing was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.



Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Secretary