

Minutes

RTA Tax Budget Public Hearing

10:32 a.m., July 18, 2023

Committee Members: Welch (Chair), Moss (Vice), Sleasman

Other Board Members: Lucas, Mersmann

Not present: Biasiotta, Joyce, Koomar, Weiss

Staff/Other: Becker, Birdsong Terry, Catalusci, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis, Feke, Feliciano, Ferraro, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Jones, Martin, McGervey, McManus, Miller, Polly, Ponder, Prebish, Schipper, Shaffer, Tarka, Temming, Togher, Young

Public: Gibbons, Loh

FY 2024 Tax Budget

Carolyn Young, Manager of Budget, read the statement.

This is the official public hearing on the proposed 2024 Tax Budget for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The information for the 2024 Tax Budget has been made available for public inspection on the Authority's web site, Twitter page, and Facebook page.

Public notice of this hearing has been given by publication of legal advertisements in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on June 18, 2023, and the Call & Post on June 21, 2023, as well as by posting of notice in the first-floor lobby of the Authority's Main Office Building, at the Customer Service Center in the Tower City Rotunda, RTA Facebook page, Twitter page, and on the Internet website. Notification was given on these sites on how to virtually attend (live streaming) the Committee Meeting, Public Hearing, and Board Meeting and how to submit a comment for the public hearing.

The 2024 Tax Budget was presented to the Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee of the RTA Board of Trustees on July 18, 2023. This is the initial analysis and forward-looking document toward estimated revenues for the next fiscal year. This is the first step and a valuable tool in the budget development process.

The 2024 Tax Budget estimates revenues at \$321.9 million. Sales and Use Tax receipts are projected to increase by 2.0%. Total Passenger Fares are budgeted at \$29.3 million, an increase of 2% as growth in ridership continues to incrementally increase.

Reimbursed Expenditures includes operating reimbursements for preventive maintenance, force account labor, and other miscellaneous reimbursements. For the 2024 Tax Budget, reimbursed expenditures are projected at \$5 million, \$1.0 million for preventive maintenance, and \$4.0 million each for capital labor and other reimbursements. The Authority continues to keep preventive maintenance reimbursement low so the grant funding could be used for other capital projects.

Total expenditures for the 2024 Tax Budget are projected at \$330.2 million, which includes \$289.4 million for operating expenditures and \$40.8 million for transfers to other funds. The strategic efforts we have put in place over the past few years has enabled us to maintain a sustainable budget through 2026 and beyond.


Public Comment

1. Brian Gibbons – he asked if the benefits could be broken out on the Expenditures pie chart. This shows the cost and value of GCRTA employment to the employees and public. Ms. Terry said this information can be included in a future HR update.
2. Loh – she added that lots of people need the service, but they question the quality of the service. Increasing the level of transparency is helpful. This will show that RTA is taking care of the union workers and increasing employment. Only 9.1% of revenue is from the fare box. The inequity is from riders not making a lot of money. Breaking this out shows that RTA is also struggling to provide the service. Dr. Caver said that 89% of the workforce is unionized.

The public hearing was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Secretary