



Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 14, 2023

The Allen County Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees met on **November 14, 2023 @ 12:00 p.m.** in the Allen County Regional Transit Conference Room, 200 East High Street, Suite 1-B, Lima, Ohio. Proper public notice was given in advance of the meeting. Ms. Rex, ACRTA Board President, conducted the meeting.

PRESENT: Holly Rex, President
Brad Taylor
Richard Schroeder
Joan Davis
Doug Olsson

STAFF: Brian Wildermuth, Co-Executive Director
Karen Garland, Co-Executive Director
Teresa Brown, Secretary/Treasurer

ABSENT: Rob Moening

CONTRACTORS: None

LACRPC: Rebecca Phillips

CITIZENS: Stefanie Motter, AAA3
Leanne Unverferth, AAA3

Theresa Schnipke, ACBDD
Melissa Ricker, ACBDD

Minutes:

1. Roll Call

Ms. Rex called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. Ms. Brown took roll call. A quorum of the Board was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Cockerell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve the October 10, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Olsson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizens Comments

None.

5. RPC Updates

Ms. Phillips said the TDP is being worked on right now.

6. Discussion Items

- a. (b.) Mrs. Motter introduced Ms. Unverferth, who replaced Mrs. Ramage at AAA3.
- b. (a.) ACBDD - Ms. Schnipke and Ms. Ricker talked about some things ACBDD was requesting from ACRTA. The first need was for ACRTA to become a provider with GT Independence so the clients on waivers could use ACRTA for transportation using waiver funds. This would mean the clients would be on the Uplift program, paying the \$2/trip rate. Any that did not qualify for Uplift would pay the general public rates. The second need was for 24/7 transportation, so their clients could get to their jobs at any time. Mr. Olsson asked what the volume of ridership would be for that, they are to provide him with a projected number. The third need was for ACRTA to not raise the price for the clients that do not qualify for a waiver and use ISS funding when the Medicaid rates go up in January. The current contract says the ISS trips are billed at the same rate as Medicaid trips. The Board thanked ACBDD for their presentation.

7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Ms. Brown presented September's financials, including a summary of profit and loss YTD actual versus prior year, income statement YTD actual versus budget, detailed profit & loss, and balance sheet. A Cash Receipts Journal and a Cash Disbursements Journal were also included. Revenue is up and expenses remain under budget, with a net gain for the YTD. The 2022 Audit will hopefully be done by the end of the month.

Mr. Cockerell made a motion to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's report. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Action Items and ED Report

Ridership was up 1,193 from September and up 1,792 from the same time last year. The school ridership has jumped earlier than normal this year.

The Transportation Managers are doing a fantastic job, being down three full-time and one part-time driver right now. Everything has still been rolling and on time.

The Maintenance Manager left for another position at the end of October. The Assistant Maintenance Manager will be stepping up into the role.

Hume is waiting on Dominion to move another gas line that was found on the property and can then start groundbreaking.

The Ecolane Mobile App is getting close to being finished. The fixed route part and the Microtransit are completed but there is still work to be done on the uplift portion, they are having some difficulties with all the different fares. The "soft start" will not happen until that is worked out as that will start the clock on payments.

The enunciators are pronouncing correctly now and are all working. There was one bus that kept corrupting the file and it has been fixed.

Information on the Small Urban bonus we received with our UTP funds was included in the Board Packet. The bonus was based half on population area and half on ridership metrics. ACRTA has

outstanding ridership metrics and continued growth. ODOT believes the bonus will be around for a while, but they may change how they figure the amounts.

The 2024 Budget and Capital Project proposal was sent out this month also. Capital Projects will depend on receiving funding, if it is not received in the year planned the projects will more than likely be pushed out until funding is available. The idea on buses is to try and buy more at the same time. This will be possible by keeping buses past their useful life and will benefit ACRTA by having identical filters and other parts for the vehicles, reducing inventory.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget and Capital Project proposal as presented. Mr. Cockerell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The updated pay ranges from the previous year had neglected to add \$1.00 to the top pay a dispatcher could make. Approval is needed to make that change to the pay range. Mr. Olsson made a motion to approve the 2023 dispatcher top pay range. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed salaried personnel salary adjustments for 2024 were presented to the Board. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the raises of up to 8%, dependent on employee evaluations, to the salaried personnel for 2024. Mr. Cockerell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the needs presented by ACBDD. A concern exists where the GT Independence requires the use of a credit card and the ACRTA vehicles are not equipped to handle credit cards. The client would have to come into the office or call in and add funds to their account in Ecolane with the card instead. The various issues ACBDD talked about also seem to be taking away client choice for transportation, and if passengers are using Uplift and only paying \$2 a trip using waiver funds, there is a question of where are the remainder of the waiver funds (\$19.89/trip) going. GT Independence cannot be providing their services for free.

ACRTA has offered in the past to pick up one of ACBDD's weekday transportations so they could use their employees to provide Sunday service, but they were not interested, they wanted ACRTA to do the Sundays. ACRTA also offered to do any out-of-town transportation requirements ACBDD had and there was no interest in that either.

Further discussion of the requests from ACBDD was tabled.

9. Jack Alexander – NAACP Complaint

Mr. Alexander had filed a complaint with the NAACP alleging discrimination as he is trespassed from ACRTA property and vehicles. He was trespassed twice previously due to his consistent belligerent behavior towards ACRTA employees and other passengers. The NAACP had requested ACRTA look into the matter and see if Mr. Alexander could be let back on the buses. A thorough investigation was done including pulling tapes from vehicles and the trespass will stand. The NAACP was notified of this and provided with the video evidence and were okay with it. Mr. Alexander will not take responsibility for his actions and is refusing to take no for an answer, he has gone to the Mayor, the Allen County Commissioners and Board Members since the NAACP complaint did not get his desired results.

10. Adjourn

Mr. Cockerell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:34 p.m.

Submitted: Teresa Brown
Teresa Brown, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: Holly Rex
Holly Rex, ACRTA Board President