



TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Hoagland called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kelsie Hoagland – President
Mary Morrison – Vice President
Heather Baker
Katie Hunt-Thomas
Samuel Olaniran
Kendra Smith
Lou Thomson
Kevin Weeks

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

James Caldwell
Michael Hart
Patrick Kijowski
Pat McKinstry

OFFICERS PRESENT

Laura Koprowski – Chief Executive Officer
Samuel Henderson – Secretary-Treasurer
Joan Rife – General Counsel

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Vice President Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting and the September 28, 2021 Special Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

PRESENTATION

TARTA Next Update, Neil Greenberg, Director of Transit Service Development

TARTA Next is the Comprehensive Operations Analysis with a goal of looking closely at the services TARTA provides and determining if these are the right services going forward. Nelson Nygaard Consultants compiled a document that compares TARTA with transit systems in five

peer cities. Additionally, they are considering not only Toledo today, but what it may look like in the next decade and what decisions TARTA will need to make to compliment these trends.

Several events have been held to engage stakeholders and learn their ideas about TARTA including pop-up events, community meetings, surveys, online comments and the TNAC workshop.

Equipping all participants with essential knowledge about improving transit and the constraints is key. The process is at the mid-point and should be considered informative and not an actual proposal.

Early observations indicate the following –

- Sunday service is on everyone's mind
- Demand for new destinations is high (e.g., St. Charles Hospital, Spring Meadows)
- Downtown oriented transfers often take customers out of their way

Next steps include –

- Consultant team visits in January
- Additional Board engagement
- Ongoing research and preparation by TARTA staff

Project wrap-up –

- Compile and organize all inputs
- Develop four service models based on inputs and different funding scenarios
- Craft a preferred service model into an actionable, practical proposal

President Hoagland asked the earliest they can expect to see this implemented depending on which of the four options are selected.

Mr. Greenberg replied they are looking to see what would be within reach for spring 2022.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 42-21 – AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE DATA TERMINALS FOR THE PARATRANSIT FLEET

Mr. Henderson introduced Resolution No. 42-21. The current Mobile Data Terminals are 15 years old and operating on old technology that will no longer be supported by the end of next year. This change will allow the organization to move towards a paperless infrastructure.

Mr. Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 42-21. It was seconded by Ms. Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-21 – AUTHORIZING NEW SIGNATURES FOR ACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS WITH THE FIFTH THIRD BANK OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO N. A.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-21 – AUTHORIZING NEW SIGNATURES FOR ACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS WITH THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK OF TOLEDO

RESOLUTION NO. 45-21 – AUTHORIZING NEW SIGNATURES FOR ACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS WITH KEY BANK

RESOLUTION NO. 46-21 – AUTHORIZING NEW SIGNATURES FOR ACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS WITH PNC BANK

Mr. Henderson introduced Resolution No.43-21, 44-21,45-21 and 46-21. New signature cards are necessary for all bank accounts to comply with legal requirements to safeguard TARTA's monetary assets and to align with the change in leadership.

Vice President Morrison made a motion to approve Resolution No.43-21, 44-21,45-21 and 46-21. It was seconded by Mr. Olaniran. The motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Henderson reported that in the face of the COVID pandemic, related concerns, and multiple operating challenges, the TARTA organization has continued to operate efficiently and effectively. Despite not collecting passenger fares, operating revenue is steady at 87% of projected operating income. Overall operating expenses are under budget running at a pace of 97% of budgeted expenses. Many departments have implemented cost effective strategic initiatives to stay within budget.

Current service demand for TARPS is near pre COVID levels. Despite the driver shortage and placing a more strategic reliance on contracted services, TARPS remains on budget.

Due to collective efforts of team members, grant revenues have been appropriately recognized for FY 2021 resulting in a \$5.4 million net gain over expenses.

TARTA has embarked on a new funding model designed to aggressively seek revenue services to offset TARTA initiatives and projects.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Koprowski introduced TARTA's new Chief Financial Officer Sophie Giviyani. Ms. Giviyani will join TARTA on Monday, October 25, 2021.

Earlier this week the TMACOG Board of Trustees approved funding for several major transportation projects including \$2 million to TARTA for bus replacement through the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program. TARTA will receive the funding in fiscal year 2026.

In 2019 TARTA entered into a 10-year agreement with the University of Toledo to provide service on campus. Old yellow school buses were being used for the service. To elevate TARTA's image in the community as well as the University's, TARTA collaborated with the University to wrap two 29-foot transit buses with the Rocket Lift logo.

Tuesday, October 26th TARTA will hold an event at the transit HUB and hand out gloves to the first 100 passengers as a token of appreciation.

Several months ago, the Northwest Ohio Building Construction Trades Council requested a conversation with TARTA concerning major projects coming online at the Central Avenue facility

and the HUB. In talking with the building trades, they learned that Project Labor Agreements are often utilized in this community. These agreements have been used by transit systems throughout the country, however not in Ohio. The intent of the agreement is to ensure continuity in the project and can be used by union and nonunion companies. The agreement establishes the prevailing wage and benefits as well as other terms and conditions for a specific project.

Ms. Rife added that this has been actively discussed in recent weeks exploring how a Project Labor Agreement would align with TARTA's requirements under FTA regulations for procurement and Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) goals.

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP as well as AECOM, TARTA's on-call engineering and planning firm, have also been a resource.

Vice President Morrison added that with the passage of the levy she is in favor of using local labor.

Vice President Morrison made a motion to ask the administration to investigate, explore and begin discussions regarding the possibility of executing a Project Labor Agreement with the Northwestern Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council with the expectation that an update will be provided to the Board at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

Ms. Smith also supports using local labor. She noted that the cost to do projects in Toledo at the prevailing wage should be considered from a budget perspective.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaks. President Hoagland and Mr. Thomson abstained. The motion passed.

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES

Lucas Boehm, Director of Information Technology

Project Updates –

- The Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) project will combine finance and maintenance systems and provide optimal data on fleet repairs and associated costs.
- nMomentum is collaborating with TARTA to finalize the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the ITS project that will revamp the technologies on buses.
- Paratransit Mobil Data Terminals (MDT's), approved in a resolution earlier in today's meeting, will allow TARTA to move advance technology to the next generation.

Jim Fight, Director of Human Resources

- TARTA will hold a Strategic Training Initiative on November 3rd and November 17th that will include the strategic directives of the organization, sexual harassment, and diversity inclusion.
- Open Enrollment for benefits is tentatively scheduled for the week prior to Thanksgiving. United Healthcare will be the provider in 2022.

Charles Odimgbe, Chief Operations Officer

- The process for determining passenger counts now includes all passengers riding from the beginning to the end of the route.
- Additional staff has been hired to assist with bus cleaning.
- Goodwill Industries has been awarded a contract to clean bus stops and shelters more frequently.
- New uniforms will be purchased for transportation supervisors that will more easily distinguish them from the drivers.

Patty Talbott, Director of Paratransit

- TARPS drivers received a \$2 / hour / tier wage increase last week outside of the current negotiations in process.
- Pre-COVID ridership is returning, and on-time performance remains at approximately 92%.
- TARPS drivers are being used to provide service on Saturdays to ensure the service can meet the demand.

Ms. Koprowski thanked Mr. Henderson for an outstanding job serving as Interim Chief Financial Officer during a critical time in the organization.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Morrison had no report at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hoagland recognized Tim Harrington for his service and dedication to TARTA throughout his many years as the executive director of the Ability Center. He has been a tremendous advocate for public transit in the community for riders of fixed route and paratransit services. Mr. Harrington was not able to attend today's meeting but may in the future.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Weeks appreciates hearing the impact of cost saving initiatives. This is a critical part of operations. There should be a culture within the organization for developing commonsense cost saving initiatives.

MEETING CALENDAR

Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m. at TARPS, 130 Knapp Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Morrison made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Baker. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that all members of the Board of Trustees were given notice of the foregoing in person, by telephone, mail, or email more than 48 hours before the meeting.

Sophie Giviyani-Kermani
Secretary-Treasurer

ADOPTED: November 18, 2021



Kelsie M. Hoagland
President



Sophie Giviyani-Kermani
Secretary-Treasurer