

CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CARTA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 19, 2022
Meeting Notes

A Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) Board of Directors meeting was held at the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments in the Barrett Lawrimore Conference Room located at 5790 Casper Padgett Way in North Charleston, SC at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP: Mary Beth Berry; Ron Brinson; Mike Brown; Dwayne Green; Alfred Harrison; Will Haynie; John Iacofano; John Labriola; James Lewis; Pat O'Neil; Teddie Pryor; Christie Rainwater; Dickie Schweers; Michael Seekings; Keith Summey; John Tecklenburg; Jimmy Ward; Robert Wehrman

MEMBERSHIP PRESENT: Mary Beth Berry; Ron Brinson; John Iacofano; James Lewis; Michael Seekings; Jimmy Ward; Robert Wehrman

PROXIES: Jerry Lahm for Teddie Pryor; Ray Anderson for Keith Summey; Robert Sommerville for John Tecklenburg; Lynn Christian for Alfred Harrison; Dennis Turner for Christie Rainwater

OTHERS PRESENT: David Bonner (Transdev); Daniel Monroe (Rawle-Murdy Associates); Samantha Dubay (HDR); William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit); Rose Peltz (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit)

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Mitchum; Andrea Kozloski; Robin Mitchum; Sharon Hollis; Belen Vitello; Jon Dodson; John Lambert; Michelle Emerson; Daniel Brock; Kim Coleman

1. Call to Order

Chairman Seekings called the CARTA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. followed by a moment of silence and quorum determination. He introduced new Board Member, John Iacofano, Councilmember for the Town of Mt. Pleasant.

2. Consideration of Board Minutes: November 17, 2021 Meeting

*Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.
Mr. Brinson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

3. Financial Status Report – Robin Mitchum

Robin Mitchum, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, presented the financial status report for the period ending December 31, 2021. Ms. Mitchum noted that, overall, the agency remains in good shape and ended the month with unexpended funds of \$550,806. She reviewed the following activities for FY22 thus far:

Revenues:

- Farebox is the fares collected on the revenue vehicles.
- Passes are bus pass fares sold to customers.
- Local contributions are funds received from local organizations for shelter construction.
- The Federal revenue includes operating for the year-to-date. Federal revenue is recorded as eligible expenditures are incurred.
- Insurance proceeds are a result of accidents.
- Sale of Assets is the proceeds from the sale of a support vehicle, a 2016 Goshen and shelter scrap metal.

Expenditures:

- Staff Salaries & Benefits include the cost of retiree insurance.
- Supplies include office, facility maintenance and PPE (masks) supplies.
- Printing includes cost of printing route maps, brochures and passes.
- Dues/Membership is CARTA's membership with Transportation Association of South Carolina (TASC).
- Office Equipment Rental includes the monthly battery lease for the electric buses.
- Office Equipment Maintenance (OEM) includes the FY22 portion of the Swiftly Transit Time and Insights, Cradlepoint NetCloud Essentials for mobile routes and Zscaler internet security, in addition to IT services.

- Rent includes the Ashley Phosphate Park & Ride lot, Dorchester Village Shopping Center Park & Ride lot, Leeds Avenue lot lease from SCE&G and document storage.
- Communications is the cost of phone, internet and radio services at the facilities and on the buses.
- Utilities include electric and water at the SuperStop, Melnick Park & Ride, the Radio Shop at Leeds Avenue and the charging stations at Leeds Avenue.
- Auditing is the cost of the actuary valuation for GASB 75.
- Custodial Services is the cost of janitorial services at the Melnick Park & Ride location.
- Pilot Ride Program is customer transportation cost for same-day service through independent rideshare.
- Other Professional Services includes appraisal fees for the Ladson property.
- Fixed-Route Service is the cost of fixed and commuter service provided by Transdev.
- Money Transport is the cost of the armored guard service, Brinks, to pick up and transport cash deposits to the bank.
- Security Services is contracted security service provided at the SuperStop by the City of North Charleston Police Department.
- Electric Bus Master Plan is the project to develop the necessary planning documents to transition CARTA's diesel bus fleet to all-electric buses.
- Vehicle Maintenance is the cost to maintain the fleet.
- Facility Repair & Maintenance is the cost to maintain the SuperStop facility and maintenance on the fare vault.
- Operating Fees & Licenses include credit card transaction fees, storm water fees, solid waste user fees and vehicle title and registration fees.
- Insurance includes the cost of liability insurance provided by the Insurance Reserve Fund.
- Paratransit is the cost of paratransit transportation provided by Transdev.
- Interest is the interest accrued on the Melnick Park & Ride Loan.
- Non-Capitalized Assets include the purchase of additional driver and side shields on the buses.

Capital Expenditures:

- Rolling Stock is the purchase of three New Flyer buses.
- Bus Shelter Construction/Bench is the purchase of shelters.
- Security/Cameras & Equipment is the purchase of cameras at the SuperStop and the upgrading of the access control system at the Leeds Avenue facility.
- Capital includes the purchase of two diesel fuel pumps.

Ms. Mitchum stated that the amount owed to Transdev as of December 31, 2021 is \$1,341,296.26. The Board of Directors received the Financial Status Report as information.

4. Transportation Network Company (TNC) Contract Renewal – Request for Approval

Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, discussed the Transportation Network Company (TNC) Contract. He stated that CARTA is requesting approval to renew the Uber Technologies, Inc.-TNC contract for an additional year pursuant to the renewal terms outlined in the contract. Mr. Mitchum noted the contract was awarded as a one-year contract with four options to annually renew and that this amendment would extend the contract through January 21, 2023. Mr. Mitchum also explained that CARTA is requesting approval for the UZURV contract to be extended for 60 days which would allow time for follow-up to be assured the regulations are in place and are being adhered to. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the Transportation Network Company (TNC) One-Year Contract Renewal for Uber as presented. Mr. Lahm seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Brinson made a motion to approve the Transportation Network Company (TNC) 60-Day Contract Renewal for UZURV as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Beach Reach Service – Request for Approval

Mr. Mitchum discussed the Beach Reach Service for the Isle of Palms. He stated that at the October 21, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, it was approved for staff to resume efforts to offer the Beach Reach Service in 2022. The service would run the same as last year beginning on Memorial Day Weekend and running through Labor Day Weekend during weekends and on weekday holidays. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

***Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the Beach Reach Service as presented.
Mr. Brinson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

6. Project Updates – Ron Mitchum/Staff

Mr. Mitchum delivered an update on the following projects: Stop/Shelter Design Guidelines; Service Planning Initiatives; Electric Bus Master Plan; CARTA OnDemand (TNC Pilot Project); Shelter Improvement Program; Solar Lighting Installation; Digital Signage; Shipwatch Square Transit Center; Vanpool Program; Lowcountry Rapid Transit. He also discussed the re-branding initiative regarding the bus stop sign color scheme. Mr. Mitchum noted that a summary was distributed in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet in advance of the meeting and encouraged Board Members to contact him or the respective project manager regarding any specific concerns or questions. In addition, a 2021 Year End Update on LCRT was included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet that highlights the progress that was made during 2021 on the LCRT project. A few of the major milestones are as follows: FTA signed the environmental document; completion of 30% design plans; made significant progress on the FTA grant application. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Project Updates Report as information.

7. Ridership Report – Jon Dodson

Jon Dodson, Senior Transit Planner, presented the Ridership Report as of December 31, 2021. He noted there were 9.5 customers per hour totaling 165,134 customers in December. Mr. Dodson stated that overall ridership from November 2021 to December 2021 was down 7%. Overall ridership comparing December 2020 to December 2021 increased by 14%. He noted that Route 32 was up 24% and Route 31 was up 32% compared to the same period. Overall ridership comparing December 2019 to December 2021 decreased by 30% due to the pandemic. Mr. Dodson stated that Route 203-MUSC had the highest riders per hour at 26.5. Additionally, 211-Meeting/King DASH (17.5), 20-King (17.5), 10-Rivers Avenue (13.1), 213-Lockwood DASH (11.3) and 11-Dorchester/Airport (10.4) had the next highest riders per hour. He also noted that, for the month, Route 32-Northbridge saw a ridership increase of 24% and Route 31-Folly saw an increase of 32% as compared to December 2020. Mr. Dodson addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Ridership Report as information.

8. Executive Director's Report – Ron Mitchum

Mr. Mitchum announced that the BCDCOG has been awarded \$860,000 from the FTA to plan for Phase II of the LCRT's proposed corridor. Phase II focuses on a strategic plan for implementing equitable transit-oriented development that includes a mix of commercial, residential (including affordable housing), employment, healthcare, education and entertainment centered around or located near transit stations. He also noted that the HOP lot study is on-going and a project for additional parking for commuter buses will kick-off soon. Mr. Mitchum also updated the Board on the progress of the installation of battery charging stations noting that the pandemic and supply chain issues have somewhat slowed the project down. He stated that an update on the re-branding project will be presented at the next Board meeting. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Executive Director's Report as information.

9. Other Business, If Any

There was no other business to discuss.

10. Public Comments, If Any

There were two public comments:

- William Hamilton, Executive Director of Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit, expressed his concerns regarding the Transit APP's estimated arrival times and the LCRT's service not continuing to the Summerville area. Mr. Hamilton also discussed the "Rise, Ride and Remember Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day" to be held Friday, February 4th. He also discussed Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit's transit equity goals for 2022 which were included on the material that was distributed prior to the start of the Board meeting.
- Rose Peltz, of Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit and frequent rider of Routes 10, 11 and 12, expressed her concerns regarding the lack of transit service for the Town of Summerville.

11. Board Comments, If Any

- Mr. Lahm commented that the new bus stop at the Charleston County Public Service Building is a positive addition.
- Mr. Lewis commended the staff and drivers' performance during the pandemic and stated that the news media has been doing a good job regarding CARTA in the news.
- Ms. Berry inquired about the shortage of CDL drivers and expressed her concerns regarding the matter.
- Mr. Iacofano thanked the Executive Director, Chairman and Board Members for the opportunity to serve on the Board and stated he is looking forward to an orientation session and working with the Board.
- Chairman Seekings welcomed Mr. Iacofano to the Board again. He noted that there will be transportation to warming shelters in anticipation of the cold weather. Chairman Seekings thanked Board Members for their continued service to the Board and the communities they serve and thanked everyone for attending today's Board meeting.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Coleman