

## Minutes

### Greater Dayton RTA Board of Trustees Public Board Meeting

August 4, 2020

- Trustees: Sharon Hairston, President  
David P. Williamson, Vice President  
Vince Corrado  
Adrienne L. Heard  
Franz Hoge  
Sharon D. Howard  
John Lumpkin  
Belinda Matthews-Stenson
- Excused: Thomas Weckesser
- Staff: Mark Donaghy, Chief Executive Officer  
Chris Cole, Chief Operating Officer  
Cathy Garner, Senior Executive Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Policicchio, Chief Customer & Business Development Officer  
Bob Ruzinsky, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mary K. Stanforth, Chief Financial Officer

### Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Hairston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present and proper notice of the meeting had been given. Ms. Hairston stated today's meeting is being conducted in accordance with Sub. HB 197 and the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health. Due to matters surrounding COVID-19, the meeting will be conducted remotely by teleconference.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Hairston asked Ms. Howard to lead attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority*

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**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Excused
Mr. Hoge	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes		

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Hairston stated Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) By-Laws require Board Trustees approval of today’s Board Meeting Agenda. Ms. Hairston stated the Board Agenda was mailed in advance, and asked if there are changes to the Agenda? Upon hearing no requests or corrections, Ms. Hairston DECLARED ACCEPTANCE of today’s Board Meeting Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 7, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Hairston asked if anyone requests a reading of the minutes or if there are corrections to the minutes? Upon hearing no requests or corrections, Ms. Hairston DECLARED ACCEPTANCE of the July 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

**FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (JOHN LUMPKIN)**

Mr. Lumpkin stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees held a teleconference meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> and as a result the Finance/Personnel Committee is recommending two (2) Action Items for the Board’s consideration. Both Action Items are essential to the delivery of transportation services to the public.

**ACTION ITEM #2 – BENEFITS CONSULTANT**

Mr. Lumpkin stated the purpose of this procurement is to contract with a benefits and insurance consultant for three (3) years with two (2) one-year options. The consultant will assist in procuring insurance benefits for all eligible employees, including medical, dental, life, and disability insurance. This procurement included an option for a Benefits Administrator Consulting Firm to provide outsourced benefits administration by providing high-quality benefits administration and customer service to allow Human Resources to focus on core competencies and

other strategic initiatives. This procurement demonstrates RTA’s Core Value of Stewardship by managing time and talent efficiently and responsibly.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Ms. Howard to APPROVE a contract AWARD to Marsh & McLennan Agency as a Benefits Consultant for three (3) years with two (2) one-year options as follows: Year One at \$65,000, Years Two and Three at \$58,000 each for a total of \$116,000, Option Year One and Option Year Two at \$60,000 each totaling \$120,000 for a total of \$301,000 for Benefits Consulting. In addition, it is recommended that Benefits Administration Consulting, Affordable Care Act Tracking and Reporting, and COBRA Administration be included for a three-year contract with two (2) one-year options at \$33,150 each for a total of \$165,750 for a grand total of \$466,750. This procurement will be funded thru the operating budget.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Excused
Mr. Hoge	Abstain	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes		

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-1

### **ACTION ITEM #3 – BUILDING 600 RENOVATIONS ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY**

Mr. Lumpkin stated on September 4, 2018, Board Trustees approved a contract with AKA Construction in an amount up to \$4.66 million for major renovations to RTA’s 600 Longworth Street Building.

On August 6, 2019, the Board approved additional funds to improve the lighting in the bus garage as well as the underground employee parking garage. In addition, funds were authorized to replace the fire alarm systems and related fixtures throughout the building, which brought the newly approved contract amount to \$4.87 million.

The project is in the final stages with many inspections in process. It is anticipated that staff will be able to occupy the spaces later this year. As this is near completion, RTA requested some additional work, and inspectors have asked

for some additional improvements. Recent upgrades include: various security improvements of \$26,600, elevator updates of \$15,200, removal of abandoned steam piping of \$34,800, data wiring of \$29,000, and additional interior painting of \$57,400. These items total \$163,000.

At this point in the project, almost all contingency funds have been used. To avoid being caught short, if inspectors request additional work or other project enhancements are needed as the spaces begin to be occupied, it is requested that \$200,000 in additional contingency funds be added for a new total project award of \$5,069,810.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Mr. Hoge to APPROVE an increase in the Contingency for the Building 600 Renovations construction project in the amount of \$200,000 for a grand total award of \$5,069,810 and that it be available as needed to handle any costs associated with changes to the project previously awarded to AKA Construction, Inc. This procurement is being partially funded with Federal grant funds.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Excused
Mr. Hoge	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes		

MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Lumpkin stated at the meeting Ms. Stanforth provided the following financial highlights:

Year-to-date June 2020 indicates a gain of \$5.7 million after the local capital charge. The gain is primarily due to funding received from the Federal government as part of the CARES Act. As indicated with last month's report, RTA will use these funds to subsidize future operations with the loss of revenue resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.

Sales tax received for April 2020 was down \$337,000 or 11% as compared to last year. The loss is directly tied to a decrease in spending associated with the COVID-19 "shut down". Year-to-date April 2020 receipts are down

\$429,000 or 3.5% as compared to last year. The complete financial package is included in today's Board meeting packet.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (SHARON HOWARD)**

Ms. Howard stated the Finance, Personnel and Planning Committees met for a jointly held meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> and while there are no Action Items to bring before you, there are important updates to share.

Ms. Howard stated at the meeting Mr. Policicchio provided a summary document of recent activities in the Customer & Business Development Department.

Mr. Policicchio stated that since launching Tapp Pay, RTA's new fare payment system, over 2,300 customers have signed up and purchased more than 8,000 passes. To date, RTA is averaging over 30 new Tapp Pay customers a day.

Additional information included changes in how RTA conducts travel training due to the pandemic by moving some of the curriculum to an online platform. Since June, the communications team has completed several trainings for various Montgomery County departments, such as the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Policicchio also reported RTA continues to focus marketing and communications efforts during the national crisis on keeping RTA employees, customers, and others updated with needed information. More recently, the focus has been on communicating to customers the requirement to wear masks while riding and on RTA property. Information continues to be made available daily via RTA's website, social media platforms, on-board vehicles, and within RTA facilities.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Donaghy briefly shared a few informational items including that today, August 4<sup>th</sup>, is the 132<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Electric Transit in Dayton, Ohio! Mr. Donaghy stated arguably RTA has been operating continuous electric transit service since that time and we are happy to continue the tradition!

Mr. Donaghy stated RTA is constantly working on positive operational relationships with State Legislators from the area. Mr. Donaghy communicated that tomorrow afternoon Greater Dayton RTA Staff will host several State Senators at RTA's Longworth facility. State Legislators will see first-hand how RTA has spent additional state dollars received during the past year on one of our biggest projects, the NexGen Buses. In addition, the group will see up close how the NexGen buses operate.

Mr. Donaghy informed everyone that last week we lost one of our own, Ms. Mychelle Brown, Street Supervisor. Ms. Brown was affectionately known as the "whistle lady" to our customers. Ms. Brown used her whistle each night to assist with the bus line-up formation on the platform at Wright Stop Plaza. Our drivers and Staff requested a special tribute to Ms. Brown. A brief memorial moment will occur this Thursday during the 11:30 p.m. lineup with whistle blowing and a balloon release, in Mychelle's honor.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-8-1, ENSURING EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

Mr. Policicchio stated that in 2019 the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) launched the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities. The framework for the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities is built around the eight domains for Livable Communities.

Within these eight domains, it is stated that "public transit, coordinated mobility and human service transportation systems, integrated freight and logistics systems, walkability, and bike-friendliness contribute to livable, equitable and lively communities for all."

More recently, in conjunction with the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities, the Regional Equity Initiative was formed and is charged with developing strategies and funding initiatives that reduce racism and increase access to opportunity for all.

Currently, represented organizations of the Regional Equity Initiative, which include government jurisdictions, such as the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, and others have passed or are considering passing resolutions in support of this declaration of racism and discrimination as a public health crisis.

As a critical piece to the regions framework for developing livable and equitable communities, RTA is seeking to become a represented organization of the Regional Equity Initiative, and therefore Staff recommends the RTA Board of Trustees adopt the attached resolution.

Mr. Hoge stated while he certainly agrees with the overall tone of the resolution, he has a problem with the statement “RTA is supporting the concept that within Miami Valley that racism is a public health emergency”. Mr. Hoge went on to say this a very powerful statement and he has yet to find anyone who has been able to convince him that racism is truly a public health emergency. Mr. Hoge stated that he is aware of what Human Services has done with regard to public health.

In addition, Mr. Hoge commented he also had a concern with the way section 5E reads, as it indicates that RTA is against gentrification. Mr. Hoge commented that yes, he understands some of the problems of what gentrification represents, however, there are equally positive outcomes from gentrification and he is not aware of a gentrification problem in Dayton.

Mr. Hoge stated that he could not support the resolution the way it is currently written, as the words “racism and emergency” seem to become diluted.

Mr. Hoge stated he has made his feelings known to the Leadership of the RTA Board, however, Mr. Hoge also wanted to share his concerns with everyone at this meeting. Mr. Hoge commented he is not against the remaining items expressed within the resolution.

Ms. Hairston thanked Mr. Hoge for his input and asked if there were any other concerns or comments?

Ms. Matthews-Stenson suggested implementing the following language for the resolution, as used by the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, “public health crisis as opposed to public health emergency”. Ms. Matthews-Stenson also mentioned in the document that “Dayton Chamber, should be referred to as the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce”. Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated there is one area missing from the document and she would include a section that refers to doing business with a Disadvantage Business Enterprise, also known as “DBE”.

Mr. Williamson asked Mr. Policicchio how does RTA’s resolution mirror the document from the MVRPC, with regards to the questions and comments that Ms. Matthews-Stenson raised.

Mr. Donaghy replied to Mr. Williamson that RTA signed on to the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce’s position statement, and had assumed that it was adequate for RTA’s membership as it relates to the commission that’s being established. Mr. Donaghy went on to say that apparently Mr. Brian Martin, Executive Director, MVRPC, felt it was not and RTA should adopt a resolution of our own. Mr. Donaghy stated that initially, the resolution was passed by several other organizations. Mr. Donaghy stated that Staff was working from the document and incorporating language from the Federal Transit Association (FTA). In closing Mr. Donaghy stated just so the Board and everyone is aware that RTA is working from a template that was provided from MVRPC.

Mr. Hoge asked how was it concluded that racism is a public health emergency or a public health crisis in the Miami Valley? What evidence does RTA have to support that comment?

Mr. Donaghy stated in all fairness, Mr. Martin would have to answer that question as he provided outlining documents regarding this subject. Mr. Donaghy stated how important it is for FTA to be a part of the commission because it absolutely makes sense for RTA to be there. Mr. Donaghy stated if there is another way to do that RTA is open to it. RTA is seeking to get this accomplished so that RTA can be a part of the commission.



Ms. Howard commented that she could provide well documented information to all Trustees supporting racism as a public health crisis. Specifically on how race affects access to healthcare, as well as, mortality rates.

Mr. Williamson interjected to say that he did not believe that RTA as a transportation Board is qualified to make a public health declaration, instead RTA could support the declaration made by someone else. Mr. Williamson further commented he does know that on June 16, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners for Montgomery County passed a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. Mr. Williamson stated that Ms. Matthews-Stenson does raise a good point regarding the word “crisis versus emergency” and perhaps RTA got the name wrong in our resolution.

Mr. Williamson stated that he would support making an amendment to support the changes and/or corrections that Ms. Matthews-Stenson brought up regarding inserting the official correct name as: Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and changing the word from “emergency to crisis”; so that it mirrors the County, State and City resolution.

After further discussion amongst the Trustees it was decided to move forward with the resolution. Ms. Hairston stated that she is making a suggestion to adopt the above changes as stated by Mr. Williamson.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Heard and SECONDED by Mr. Williamson to APPROVE with the AMENDED changes: inserting the official name as: Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and changing the word from “emergency to crisis” in the above Resolution, so it mirrors the County, State and City resolution.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Yes	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Excused
Mr. Hoge	Abstain	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Yes		

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-1

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Althea Asadullah – 3117 Haberer Avenue – Dayton, Ohio, 45417. Ms. Asadullah asked is it the driver's responsibility to physically assist an individual passenger onto a vehicle and to a seat or to direct them verbally to a seat causing passenger to accidentally sit on another passenger. Additionally, Ms. Asadullah requested a stop however, the driver passed up her stop.

Ms. Hairston asked if Ms. Asadullah could stay after the meeting to meet with Mr. Cole regarding her concerns?

Ms. Asadullah replied yes.

Mr. Cole stated that drivers are not required to assist passengers due to some passengers not wanting assistance, however, if asked by a passenger for assistance the driver will provide assistance to the passenger.

Mr. Donaghy asked Mr. Policicchio to speak with Ms. Asadullah regarding the Call Center inquiries.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS  
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

Ms. Hairston mentioned upcoming RTA meetings:

- Jointly Held Finance/Personnel & Planning – August 18, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.
- Board Meeting – September 1, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

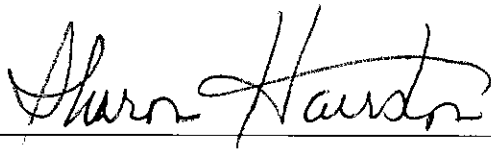
**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Ms. Howard to ADJOURN the meeting.

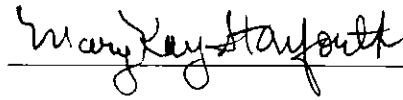
MOTION APPROVED by voice vote 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

**ATTEST**



Sharon Hairston  
President  
RTA Board of Trustees



Mary Kay Stanforth  
Secretary/Treasurer  
RTA Board of Trustees

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