



Approved Minutes

December 15, 2016

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 6:30 p.m.

Board: Mike Allemang, Jack Bernard, Eli Cooper, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Prashanth Gururaja, Roger Hewitt, Larry Krieg, Eric Mahler (Chair), Stephen Wade

Absent with Notice: Sue Gott

Staff: Gwyn Belcher, Michael Benham, Matt Carpenter, Dawn Gabay, Mary Stasiak, Phil Webb

Recording Secretary: Karen Wheeler

Chairman Eric Mahler declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1.0 Public Hearing

There was no public hearing.

2.0 Communications and Announcements

There were no communications or announcements.

3.0 Public Time – Comment on Agenda Items

No one appearing, Mr. Mahler declared Public Time closed.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

4.1 Review and Approval of Minutes November 14, 2016

Stephen Wade moved approval of the minutes with support from Mike Allemang. The motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Review and Approval of Minutes November 17, 2016

Eli Cooper moved approval of the minutes with support from Roger Hewitt.

Larry Krieg noted an error under item 9.0 Public Time; the need to change the word “affect” to “effect”.

Mr. Scott commented on the ~~a~~effect the closure will have on his daughter’s transportation.

The amended minutes passed unanimously.

5.0 Board and Staff Reports

5.1 Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Carpenter reported on the annual audit which was drawing to a close. Mr. Carpenter noted that the Board would receive a report on the audit in March. Mr. Carpenter provided an update on recruiting for two senior management positions. Mr. Carpenter reported on completion of another stage of the CAD/AVL project with installation of hardware on paratransit vehicles. Mr. Carpenter reported on being elected to the board of the Michigan Public Transit Association.

5.2 Planning and Development Committee

Ms. Gainsley reported on the Planning and Development Committee (PDC) meeting. PDC discussed the Space Planning project and committee members shared their ideas for considerations to be included in next steps: a focus towards values, opportunities and synergies. Further discussion on the Space Plan is expected at the January PDC meeting. PDC received a history of the GSA Walkway project and discussed next steps. PDC chose not to dismiss the project, and asked staff to pursue opportunities with local partners, and report back to the committee. Staff reported on the North-South Rail project and the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission.

5.3 Performance Monitoring and External Relations Committee

Mr. Allemang reported on the Performance Monitoring and External Relations (PMER) Committee meeting. PMER received a presentation from the CEO about the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission and a report on an action item to update the Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) participant agreements. PMER reached consensus on moving forward the resolutions on the HCSP to the full board for consideration. Staff presented the financial and performance reports

for the first month of FY2017. The Report of Operations shows a \$200,000 surplus to the bottom line. The second close for FY2016 was essentially the same as the first close. Ridership for the month of October increased 6% over last year and November ridership was up 4%.

5.4 Local Advisory Council

Mr. Bernard reported on the Local Advisory Council (LAC) meeting. LAC received a presentation from Al Thomas on NightRide and HolidayRide. Mr. Bernard noted concerns over the NightRide and HolidayRide service areas, and availability and reliability of the services. Concerns have also been raised over lack of courtesy by the third party provider. Mr. Bernard reported that additional details will be sought so that the complaints can be addressed.

5.5 Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

Dr. Krieg reported that the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) Policy Committee did not meet in December. Dr. Krieg reported on a related project that works under WATS and has been supported by AAATA; ReImagine Washtenaw. Dr. Krieg provided details of the work completed to date and indicated that he hopes that the budget will continue to have a line item for the ReImagine Washtenaw project.

5.6 Governance

Mr. Mahler reported that the Policy Governance Policy Template and proposed committee structure documents would soon be circulated among the full board. Mr. Mahler indicated that there would be a dialogue among the full board on the proposed documents before putting the documents to a vote.

6.0 Question Time

Mr. Bernard reported that the LAC discussed snow removal. Mr. Bernard noted that while the new sidewalk ordinance and the "A2 Fix It" application have been somewhat helpful, areas remain where snow removal vehicles occlude a path after a homeowner has provided clearance. Mr. Bernard acknowledged that drivers often improvise to use the next open spot, but sometimes there is no convenient spot, especially for people who have mobility impairments. Mr. Bernard asked how this could be managed, and suggested the possibility of using the new location system in buses so that bus drivers can record when the driver sees when the bus stop is occluded.

Dr. Krieg raised a question about how to discuss emergent operational concerns in the future using the situation at the corner of Ellsworth Road and Research Park Drive as an

example. The Board has a robust discussion. A summary of the comments shared follows:

- There should be an opportunity to discuss the role of individual board members when a board member sees a problem that is believed to be urgent
- There is a need for a system to consider what are perceived to be urgent issues and a plan for providing strategic responses to such issues
- The system identified should honor the Policy Governance model
- The site Ellsworth Road/Research Park site used in the example is included in the City of Ann Arbor CIP
- Consider whether the Ellsworth Road/Research Park site matter is appropriate for discussion in committee
- Consider including rider safety, bus stop accessibility, and snow removal metrics in the Ends policies
- Consider charging a board committee with reviewing the service standards
- The CEO and staff will share information about projects, regardless of the Board's governance style
- Make a temporary operational change at the Ellsworth Road/Research Park site that will make the location a safer place in the short term

7.0 Old Business

There was no Old Business for the Board to consider.

8.0 New Business

8.1 City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission Appointment

Mr. Carpenter reported that the City of Ann Arbor passed an ordinance creating a Transportation Commission. The Commission includes one member of the body to be appointed by the AAATA Board. Board members discussed the appointment.

Stephen Wade nominated Prashanth Gururaja for appointment to the Commission with support from Larry Krieg. Mike Allemang nominated Matt Carpenter for appointment to the Commission with support from Roger Hewitt. There were five votes for Mr. Gururaja and four votes for Mr. Carpenter.

Eli Cooper moved the following resolution with support from Larry Krieg.

Resolution 4/2017

APPOINTMENT TO THE ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor City Council, on November 21, 2016, approved “An Ordinance to Discontinue the Taxicab Board and Establish a Transportation Commission...” (Ordinance No. ORD-16-26), and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Commission is to “foster excellence in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of a sustainable and resilient multimodal transportation network for the City” by advising the City Administrator, City Council, and other organizations on transportation matters, including transit, and

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) is named in the ordinance as one of 11 voting members on the Commission, and

WHEREAS, appointments are requested to be made in time for a first Commission meeting in January 2017,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the AAATA Board of Directors hereby appoints Prashanth Gururaja to the Ann Arbor Transportation Commission, for a term that shall continue until the AAATA Board appoints a different member, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AAATA Board of Directors directs the CEO to provide staff support to AAATA’s Commission member as needed and appropriate.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.2 Health Care Savings Plan

Mr. Carpenter introduced the resolutions related to the Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP). Ms. Belcher reported on the need for the HCSP agreement to be approved by the Plan’s governing body, and the need to close the CEO division of the HCSP that applied to a former CEO.

Eli Cooper moved the following resolution with support from Jack Bernard.

Resolution 5/2017

APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) offers a Health Care Savings Program (HCSP) to its employees through the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the MERS HCSP Participant Agreements have been updated to reflect the plan provisions effective January 1, 2016 that were agreed to by AAATA and Transport Workers Union, Local 171 during the 2013 labor union contract negotiations, and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service and MERS require the Plan provisions to be reflected in a Participant Agreement and that agreement to be approved by the Plan's governing body,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT IS RESOLVED, that the AAATA Board of Directors hereby approves the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Health Care Savings Program Participant Agreements.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jack Bernard moved the following resolution with support from Larry Krieg.

Resolution 6/2017

APPROVAL TO CLOSE CEO DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) Health Care Savings Program (HCSP) currently includes a CEO Division applicable solely to a former CEO, and

WHEREAS, the division is effectively closed and the current CEO is a participant in the non-union employee division of the HCSP, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Board to take action to close the CEO Division,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT IS RESOLVED, that the AAATA Board of Directors hereby approves closing the CEO Division of the Health Care Savings Program.

The motion passed unanimously.

9.0 Public Time

Jim Mogensen appeared before the Board. Mr. Mogensen commented on the City of Ann Arbor Sidewalk/Crosswalk Ordinance, the requirement to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and incidents that have occurred as a result of the Ordinance. Mr. Mogensen commented on educating himself by attending public meetings and sharing his observations with people who make decisions. Mr. Mogensen commented on a news article about AAATA. Mr. Mogensen commented on the governance model being

considered by the Board suggesting that if everything happens at the staff level, it would not be subject to FOIA. Mr. Mogensen speculated as to when information would be made available suggesting that interest exists.

Tim Hull appeared before the Board. Mr. Hull commented on public transportation service allocation of ridership vs. coverage and peak vs. off-peak. Mr. Hull suggested that the Board revisit the service model to reallocate service to high demand areas, and include public input in the process. Mr. Hull commented on the all-ridership service model in San Diego, and cautioned against utilizing that model in Ann Arbor. Mr. Hull commented on the RTA service model. Mr. Hull requested better off-peak and weekend service, and more frequent and direct service to North Campus.

Michelle Barney appeared before the board. Ms. Barney expressed concerns about bus service and ARide, indicating that some cabs have been arriving late. Ms. Barney commented on a public outcry for access and safety to improve. Ms. Barney commented on legislative electorate practices. Ms. Barney cautioned the Board against transitioning to a body that only considers plans and the future, suggesting that discussions about details are necessary. Ms. Barney expressed concerns about snow removal at bus stops and walkways in Ypsilanti. Ms. Barney commented on increased community involvement suggesting that the Board needs to be and act interested and share details about their work. Ms. Barney suggested that the Board engage people to talk with citizen groups in preparation for the next millage campaign.

Jack Bernard appeared before the Board. Mr. Bernard shared details of a situation when a person with a guide dog trying to get from Detroit Metro Airport to an Ann Arbor hotel was told by a local cab company representative that the gentleman's dog would not be allowed in the car. The traveler had originally planned to take AirRide from the airport, but was not sure how to go from the Blake Transit Center to his hotel. Mr. Bernard reported that there was an upwell of response to assist the gentleman with his transportation. Mr. Bernard requested that consideration be given to offer coordinated service between AirRide and ARide.

No one further appearing, Mr. Mahler declared Public Time closed.

10.0 Adjourn

Gillian Ream Gainsley moved to adjourn the meeting with support from Roger Hewitt. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Wade, Secretary