

**CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
(CARTA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 19, 2025
Meeting Notes**

A Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) Board of Directors meeting was held at the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) in the Barrett Lawrimore Conference Room located at 5790 Casper Padgett Way in North Charleston, SC at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP: Brad Belt; MaryBeth Berry; Joe Boykin; Mike Brown; Daniel Brownstein; Reggie Burgess; William Cogswell; Henry Darby; Dwayne Green; Will Haynie; Brandon Hudson; James Lewis; Craig Logan; Pat O'Neil; Christie Rainwater; Michael Seekings; Jimmy Ward; Robert Wehrman

MEMBERS PRESENT: MaryBeth Berry; Joe Boykin; Daniel Brownstein; Dwayne Green; Brandon Hudson; James Lewis; Pat O'Neil; Michael Seekings; Robert Wehrman

PROXIES: Craig Harris for Brad Belt; Adam MacConnell for Reggie Burgess; Robert Somerville for William Cogswell; Jerry Lahm for Henry Darby; Chief Gebhardt for Christie Rainwater

OTHERS PRESENT: Elissa Smith (HDR); Robert Flagler (HNTB); William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit); Tom Hiles (WSP); Andre Taylor (WeDriveU); Maddy Quon (Post & Courier); Scot Sibert (STV); Andrew Fisher (STV)

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Mitchum; Andrea Kozloski; Robin Mitchum; Sharon Hollis; Megan Ross; Matthew Spath; Kareem Wilson; Kim Coleman

1. Call to Order

Chairman Seekings called the CARTA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. followed by a moment of silence and a quorum determination.

2. Consideration of Board Minutes: February 19, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Boykin made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented.

Mr. Hudson 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 January 31, 2025. She noted that, overall, the agency remains in good shape, continues to be in line with the budget at 33% complete for the year, and ended the month with unexpended funds of \$865,232. Ms. Mitchum briefed the Board of Directors regarding the Balance Sheet and provided information on the following activities for FY25 thus far:

Revenues:

- Farebox is the fares collected on the revenue vehicles.
- Passes & Mobile Ticketing are bus pass fares sold to customers.

- Federal Revenue includes operating for the year-to-date. Federal Revenue is recorded as eligible expenditures are incurred.
- Advertising is the advertising on the buses.
- Insurance proceeds are a result of accidents.
- Sale of Assets is the proceeds from the sale of a 1986 Chevrolet truck and a 2017 van.
- Miscellaneous Revenue is the sale of scrap metal.

Expenditures:

- Retiree Benefits include the cost of retiree insurance.
- Supplies include office, facility maintenance and rebranding supplies.
- Printing includes costs of printing passes.
- Automotive is the cost to service the 2018 Ford F-150.
- Office Equipment Rental includes the monthly battery lease for the electric buses.
- Office Equipment Maintenance (OEM) includes GMV Sycromatics, GMV Digital Signage, Genfare Support, Swiftly real time passenger predictions, Swiftly GPS Playback, Swiftly on-time performance, Swiftly run-times, RCN NetCloud Essentials and NetCloud Advanced for mobile routers and other IT services.
- Rent includes the Ashley Phosphate Park & Ride lot, Dorchester Village Shopping Center Park & Ride lot, Leeds Avenue lot lease from Dominion 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, Medcom Street and the charging stations at Leeds Avenue.
- Auditing is the cost of the FY24 GASB 75 Actuary.
- Custodial Services are the cost of janitorial services at the Melnick Park & Ride location.
- OnDemand Program is customer transportation cost for same-day service through independent rideshare.
- Other Professional Services include bus wash inspection services.
- Shared Contract Services (IGA & Management) is the extensive services the BCDCOG provides to CARTA.
- Fixed-Route Service is the cost of fixed and commuter service provided by National Express Shuttle and Transit.
- Money Transport is the cost of the armored guard service to transport cash deposits to the bank.
- Security Services is the contracted security service provided at the SuperStop by the City of North Charleston Police Department and by Extra Duty Solutions at the Mary Street bus stop.
- Vehicle Maintenance is the cost to maintain the fleet.
- Facility Repair & Maintenance is the cost to maintain facilities.
- Operating Fees & Licenses include credit card transaction fees and vehicle title and registration fees.
- Insurance includes the cost of liability insurance provided by the Insurance Reserve Fund. The insurance policy renews January 1. CARTA will add and remove items on the policy throughout the year, but this is the majority of the cost for the fiscal year.
- Paratransit is the cost of paratransit transportation provided by National Express Shuttle and Transit.
- Interest is the interest on the Melnick Park & Ride loan.

Capital Expenditures:

- Rolling Stock is the purchase of the Hometown Trolley Villager.
- Bus Facilities/Charging Stations is the Leeds Avenue parking lot repairs and charging infrastructure.
- Bus Shelter Construction/Bench Install is the installation of shelters and benches.
- Security/Cameras & Equipment is the purchase of cameras, radios, access control equipment and AVL equipment.
- Facilities Construction is Shipwatch Square engineering.
- Capital (IT, Facility Repairs, Maint.) is the purchase of bike racks.

Ms. Mitchum reviewed the activity of the OnDemand Program as of January 31, 2025. She noted that the FY25 total cost is \$175,285 at 84% completion with an available balance of \$119,084. The Board of Directors received the Financial Status Report and the OnDemand Program Activity Report as information.

4. Beach Reach Service – Request for Approval – Megan Ross

Megan Ross, Transit Planner, discussed the Beach Reach Service. She delivered a presentation regarding the service noting the partnership with CARTA, the Isle of Palms, the Town of Mt. Pleasant, and the Mt. Pleasant Town Centre. She reviewed the timing of when the beach reach service will be offered and she discussed funding since its inception in 2021. Ms. Ross discussed ridership totals since 2021 and reviewed the cost prediction for 2025. She noted that the cost estimate is based on the current hourly rate for the operating contractor as well as projected fuel and insurance costs. Ms. Ross stated that the total cost should be approximately \$30 thousand for the 2025 service period. She stated that beach reach marketing and communications support will be strong. Mr. Brownstein inquired about the possibility of the service being offered on Sullivan's Island. It was noted that he and Mayor O'Neil will hold a discussion following today's meeting. Ms. Ross addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Brownstein made a motion to approve the Beach Reach Service as presented.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Transportation Network Contract Renewal (Uber) – Request for Approval

Chairman Seekings requested a motion to combine the review and approval of the Transportation Network Contract Renewals for both Uber and Lyft (Agenda Items 5 and 6).

Mr. Lamb made a motion to combine the review and approval of the Transportation Network Contract Renewals for Uber and Lyft. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, presented the Transportation Network Contract Renewal. He noted that staff is requesting approval to amend the Uber Technologies, Inc.-Transportation Network Company contract for an additional year pursuant to the terms outlined in the contract. The contract was awarded on April 22, 2023 as a two-year contract with three options to renew annually. If approved, the amendment will extend the contract from April 22, 2025 – April 21, 2026.

6. Transportation Network Contract Renewal (Lyft) – Request for Approval

Mr. Mitchum presented the Transportation Network Contract Renewal. He noted that staff is requesting approval to amend the Lyft, Inc.-Transportation Network Company contract for an additional year pursuant to the terms outlined in the contract. The contract was awarded on April 11, 2023 as a two-year contract with

three options to renew annually. If approved, the amendment will extend the contract from April 11, 2025 – April 10, 2026. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Wehrman made a motion to approve the Transportation Network Contract Renewals for Uber Technologies, Inc. and Lyft, Inc. as presented.

Mr. Boykin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Project Updates – Andrea Kozloski

Andrea Kozloski, Deputy Director of Operations and Support, delivered a report regarding upcoming events and activities noting the following dates: Driver Appreciation Day on March 18th; CARTA Night at the Stingrays on March 23rd; MUSC Senior Expo on March 27th; City of Charleston Small Business Expo on April 1st; and MUSC Earth Day on April 17th. She also delivered an update on CARTA Amenities, noting shelters in progress; 30 new solar lights installed; and benches in progress. Ms. Kozloski presented a slide depicting a bus-stop sign with built-in seats on either side of the pole. Staff will research purchasing additional units if this amenity is well-received by riders. She then highlighted paratransit operator, Roberta Franklin, who is a proud member of the Million Mile Club having driven over one million miles as well as another operator, Shelly, who received several commendations from multiple riders. Ms. Kozloski presented slides depicting a Black History Month Celebration at Leeds Avenue and photos of new bus wraps. She then shared a brief video regarding Driver Appreciation Day. Ms. Kozloski delivered a report on Project Updates, briefing the Board of Directors on the following projects: Service Planning Initiatives; Downtown Route Study; US 52 BRT Study; CARTA OnDemand; Shelter Improvement Program; Shipwatch Square Transit Center; Transit Oriented Development Study; LCRT; Dorchester Transit Signal Priority (TSP) Pilot Project; Mt. Pleasant Street Park & Ride; Fairgrounds Park & Ride; O&M Facility - LCRT; and Mobile Ticketing Sales and Use. Ms. Kozloski addressed questions and comments and noted that Sharon Hollis will be available following today's Board Meeting if any Board Member would like more detailed information regarding the LCRT. The Board of Directors received the Upcoming Activities & Events Report and the Project Updates Report as information.

8. Ridership Report – Megan Ross

Ms. Ross presented the Ridership Reports for February 2025. She noted that passenger trips totaled 160,193 and there were 9.8 customers per service hour (9.4 last month). Ms. Ross stated that overall ridership when comparing February 2025 to January 2025 increased by 10.1%, overall ridership when comparing February 2025 to February 2024 decreased by 15.5%, and overall ridership when comparing 2025 YTD to 2024 YTD decreased 17.6%. She stated that Tel-A-Ride ridership for February 2025 was 4,213 (a decrease of 22.7% when comparing 2024 YTD to 2025 YTD). Ms. Ross reviewed safety trends for February 2025 noting that there were six preventable accidents which were mirror clips (5 on fixed-route vehicles and 1 on a paratransit vehicle). There were also two non-preventable accidents. She discussed complaints and commendations regarding Customer Services for the month of February noting there were seven complaints (operator issues and a pass-by) and there were two commendations. Ms. Ross reviewed On-Time Performance noting that the fixed-route on-time performance for February 2025 was 73% and 95% for paratransit. She noted that missed trips for February 2025 resulted in 359.87 service hours missed, which was 2.30% of total scheduled monthly revenue hours. Ms. Ross discussed paratransit services in detail regarding the breakdown of total passengers per hour, trips requested, no-shows and cancelations, the average ride length and distance as well as on-time performance. She then discussed OnDemand trips for February 2025, noting that the ridership for the month of February was 3,902 passengers between both Uber and Lyft. The trip cost averaged \$11.49, higher than January's average of \$10.56, and that 39% of the overall rides were from Tel-A-Ride passengers. Ms. Ross delivered an update on the APC that was reported for the month of February 2025 noting the totals based on operator counts and partial Genfare numbers as well as based on 100% of the trips surveyed in February. Ms.

Ross and Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Ridership Report as information.

9. Executive Director's Report – Ron Mitchum

Mr. Mitchum briefly discussed SCDOT's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan, "Momentum 2050," noting the 30-day review period. He stated that the Plan as well as a link will be emailed to the Board of Directors following today's meeting. Mr. Mitchum discussed potential Park & Ride opportunities, noting that the former HOP space may become available for temporary use. He noted that the LCRT's 90% review continues and agreements are being addressed regarding construction. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Executive Director's Report as information.

10. Other Business, If Any

There was no further business discussed.

11. Public Comments, If Any

There was one Public Comment noted for the record:

- William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit): expressed concerns regarding politics in relation to supporting public transit and a missed service on a paratransit vehicle. Mr. Hamilton stated that BFLT will support the Beach Reach Service with the pirate theme again throughout the upcoming season.

12. Executive Session – Legal Matters

Mr. Boykin made a motion that the Board of Directors convene into Executive Session.

Mr. Hudson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Non-Board Members, Guests and Non-Essential Staff Members were excused.

Mr. Brownstein made a motion to reconvene the Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Seekings reconvened the Board of Directors meeting noting that no action was taken related to legal matters discussed during Executive Session.

13. Board Comments, If Any

Mr. Lewis thanked Executive Director Mitchum and staff for continuing to look out for senior riders and employees using transit to get to their place of employment, medical appointments, etc. as the need for senior services grows in the Downtown Charleston area.

14. Adjourn

Chairman Seekings thanked the Board of Directors for their continued dedicated service to the Board and the communities they serve. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Coleman