

**CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
(CARTA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 18, 2026  
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, February 18, 2026.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Brad Belt; Joe Boykin; 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:** Daniel Brownstein; Dwayne Green; Brandon Hudson; James Lewis; Craig Logan; Pat O'Neil; Michael Seekings

**PROXIES:** Craig Harris for Mayor Belt; Kristen Wurster for Chairman Boykin; Ron Brinson for Mayor Burgess; Robert Somerville for Mayor Cogswell; Jerry Lahm for Councilman Darby; Carter McMillan for Councilman Wehrman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marissa Cottrell (WSP); Richard Mitchell (RATP Dev); John Mitchell (STV); Elissa Smith (HDR); William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit); Josh Dix (Hayes Devereaux)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ron Mitchum; Andrea Kozloski; Robin Mitchum; Jason McGarry; John Cooper; Matthew Spath; 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: January 21, 2026 Meeting**

***Mr. Brownstein made a motion to approve the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.  
Mr. Green 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 month ending December 31, 2025. Ms. Mitchum noted that the agency is 25% through the year. She stated that, overall, the agency remains in good shape and ended the month with unexpended funds of \$180,955. She noted that the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as well as the Balance Sheet, and information for the OnDemand Program are included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet. Ms. Mitchum provided a brief overview of the following activities for FY26 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.
- Miscellaneous revenue is the sale of scrap metal.

**Expenditures:**

- Retiree Benefits include the cost of retiree insurance.
- Supplies include office, facility maintenance and signage supplies.
- Printing includes costs of printing passes and map brochures.
- Automotive is the cost to service the 2018 Ford F-150 and replace an engine in the Dodge Ram.
- Office Equipment Rental includes the monthly battery lease for the electric buses.
- Office Equipment Maintenance (OEM) includes Swiftly real time passenger predictions, Swiftly GPS Playback, Swiftly on-time performance, Swiftly run-times service, 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, SC Works 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 lot, the Radio Shop at Leeds Avenue, Medcom Street and the charging stations at Leeds Avenue.
- OnDemand Program is customer transportation cost for same-day service through independent rideshare.
- Other Professional Services include underground utility tank inspection.
- 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 SuperStop and at the Mary Street bus stop.
- Vehicle Maintenance is the cost to maintain the fleet and repair the Proterra electric fleet.
- Facility Repair & Maintenance is the cost to maintain facilities. Facility repairs include bus wash repairs.
- 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.
- 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:**

- Capital (IT, Facility Repairs, Maint.) is the purchase of bike racks, shelving for inventory storage, tablets for the AVL system and a video server replacement at Leeds Avenue.

The Board of Directors received the Financial Status Report and the OnDemand Program Activity Report as information.

#### **4. Project Updates – Andrea Kozloski**

Andrea Kozloski, Deputy Director of Operations and Support, delivered a presentation regarding upcoming events and activities noting the following: Senior Free Ride Day on February 16<sup>th</sup>; Black Expo on March 14<sup>th</sup>; Latin Festival on March 21<sup>st</sup>; CARTA Night at the Stingrays on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also noted the following events and activities for the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: MUSC Senior Expo on April 1<sup>st</sup>; MUSC Earth Day on April 16<sup>th</sup>; Cinco De Mayo on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; Light the Night; Lowcountry Juneteenth Family Festival; North Charleston Farmers' Market; College of Charleston Orientation Sessions dates are TBD. Ms. Kozloski highlighted a CARTA bus operator, Leroy E. as a rider commented on Social Media that Leroy E. went out of his way to assist a rider by finding her special bag that was lost on the bus. Ms. Kozloski also discussed Service Alerts and Service Advisory notices that were posted during the recent cold weather regarding rides to warming shelters and weather-related service disruptions. Ms. Kozloski discussed CARTA Amenities, noting the shelters and benches in progress. She stated that a total of 179 bus stop-mounted solar lights have been installed as well as a total of 75 shelter-mounted solar lights installed. There have been 428 newly branded signs installed. She presented a slide depicting the kick-off with RATP Dev stating that the changeover has been very well-received. Ms. Kozloski delivered information regarding the Transit App, noting that 767 new CARTA riders were welcomed aboard as they downloaded the app for the first time. A total of 8,031 riders opened the Transit App during the month of January and an average weekday had 1,979 riders opening the Transit App. She noted that 10,628 GO trips were started by riders to receive step-by-step navigation while helping to improve real-time vehicle locations. Ms. Kozloski stated that, during the month of January, users purchased tickets valued at \$31,594. She noted that the most purchased pass was the one-trip ticket and the most popular routes were Route 10 and Route 12. In the interest of time, Ms. Kozloski noted that additional Project Updates are included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet. Board Members are encouraged to contact staff with questions, comments or concerns regarding the Project Updates report. The Board of Directors received the Upcoming Activities and Events Report as information.

#### **5. Ridership Report – Megan Ross**

In Transit Planner Megan Ross's absence, Marissa Cottrell, our on-site consultant with WSP, presented the Ridership Reports for January 2026. She noted that for the fixed-route ridership trends, passenger trips totaled 226,021 and there were 13.3 customers per service hour. Missed service hours totaled 893.58. Ms. Cottrell reviewed safety trends for January 2026 noting that there were three preventable accidents (hitting a fixed object/parked car) which were on fixed-route vehicles. There were also nine non-preventable accidents. She discussed complaints and commendations regarding Customer Service for the month of January noting that there were seven complaints (rude operator and late/missed service) and there were seven commendations. Ms. Cottrell reviewed On-Time Performance noting that the fixed-route on-time performance for the month of January was 74.2% and the on-time performance for paratransit was 95%. She discussed paratransit services in detail for the month of January regarding the breakdown of total passengers, which was 4,216. There were 196 no-shows and 1,637 cancellations. The average ride length was 27.08 minutes and the average ride distance was 9.19 miles. The on-time performance was 95.0%. She then discussed OnDemand trips for January, noting that ridership for the month was 4,371 passengers between both Uber and Lyft. The trip cost averaged \$10.28, which was a slight increase over December's average cost of \$10.06. Ms. Cottrell stated that 47% of the overall rides were from Tel-A-Ride passengers. Ms. Cottrell and

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

**6. Executive Director's Report – Ron Mitchum**

Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, discussed the recent *Post & Courier* article regarding CARTA being in the early stages of exploring the idea of including ferry service across the Charleston Harbor. He stated that discussion was recently held at a Charleston County Council meeting to look into possible funding scenarios for ferry service initiatives. Mr. Mitchum also briefed the Board regarding recent meetings with the Town of Kiawah Island, per their request, in relation to looking into possible transit services in the future. He discussed the Charleston County transportation sales tax (TST) program noting that the County is seeking public input. The potential TST program outlines proposed funding allocations with 20% allocated for public transit. Mr. Mitchum stated that work continues with the City of Charleston regarding the HOP Lot (awaiting finalization of the TRC process for Mt. Pleasant Street). Mr. Mitchum is hopeful to learn that all requirements have been met. He discussed the Union Pier project noting that the Board recently approved \$83 thousand for design/upfit; however, adjustments will need to be made in order to create enough space to allow buses to be able to turn around to exit the lot. Mr. Mitchum anticipates that the cost for the adjustments will be approximately \$99 thousand. He noted that he will seek Board approval for the increase. Chairman Seekings then briefed the Board regarding Beemok Capital's master agreement with the SCSPA regarding the undeveloped land. Mr. Mitchum discussed, in relation to the LCRT project, the Appropriations Bill. He noted that the THUD (transportation, housing & urban development) Bill passed in Congress and was signed by the President. The Bill includes the balance of Federal funding for \$275 million. Mr. Mitchum stated that the FTA interview process is complete and went well. Chairman Seekings requested that a motion be made and seconded to grant Mr. Mitchum and Staff authority to increase the amount of spending in order to meet the total of \$99 thousand that is needed for the adjustments of the HOP lot. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Executive Director's Update as information.

***Mr. Brinson made a motion to grant Executive Director Mitchum the authority to increase the amount of spending to total \$99 thousand in order for the appropriate adjustments to be made for the HOP lot project. Mr. Brownstein seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**7. Other Business, If Any**

There was no further business to discuss.

**8. Public Comments, If Any**

There was one Public Comment noted for the record:

- William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit): Mr. Hamilton expressed his appreciation for the improvements as well as the new dual-sided signage at the bus stops and shelters.

**9. Executive Session – Legal and Contractual Matters**

***Mayor O'Neil made a motion that the Board of Directors convene into Executive Session. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Non-Board Members, Guests and Non-Essential Staff Members were excused. Mr. Lewis made a motion to reconvene the Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Lahm 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/contractual matters discussed during Executive Session.***

**10. Transition Costs – Request for Approval**

Chairman Seekings requested that a motion be made and seconded regarding approval of \$113,030.07 to cover costs associated with the transition of operations to RATP Dev USA.

***Mr. Brinson made a motion to approve the Transition Costs of \$113,030.07.  
Mr. Brownstein seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**11. Board Comments, If Any**

There was no further business to discuss.

**12. Adjourn**

Chairman Seekings thanked the Board Members for attending today's meeting and for their continued dedicated service to the CARTA Board of Directors and the communities they serve. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Coleman