

**CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
(CARTA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 25, 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, March 25, 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:** Will Haynie; Brandon Hudson; James Lewis; Pat O’Neil; Michael Seekings; Jimmy Ward

**PROXIES:** Craig Harris for Mayor Belt; Carter McMillan for Chairman Boykin; Robert Somerville for Mayor Cogswell; Jerry Lahm for Councilman Darby; Lt. Reyes for Mayor Rainwater; Kristen Wurster for Councilman Wehrman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marissa Cottrell (WSP); Richard Mitchell (RATP Dev); Steve Sherrer (RATP Dev); Jacquelyn Spence (RATP Dev); Evette Ricketts (RATP Dev); Josh Dix (Hayes Devereaux); Angela Gordon (SCDOT); Jacob Gamble (Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce); Elissa Smith (HDR); Daniel Brock (HNTB); Anna Sharpe (Post & Courier)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ron Mitchum; Andrea Kozloski; Robin Mitchum; Megan Ross; 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: February 18, 2026 Meeting**

***Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.  
Mr. McMillan 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 January 31, 2026. Ms. Mitchum stated that, overall, the agency remains in good shape and ended the month with unexpended funds of \$645,323. 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.
- Auditing is the cost of the FY2025 GASB 75 actuary.
- OnDemand Program is customer transportation cost for same-day service through independent rideshare.
- Other Professional Services include underground utility tank inspection and training.
- 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, a video server replacement at Leeds Avenue, facility engineering for Shipwatch Square and the vehicle lift equipment.

Ms. Mitchum discussed the OnDemand Program, noting that it is 88% complete for FY2026. The Board of Directors received the Financial Status Report and the OnDemand Program Activity Report as information.

**4. Shipwatch Square Transit Center – Request for Approval**

Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, presented the Shipwatch Square Transit Center request. He noted that staff is requesting approval to amend the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. for design and engineering services for the Shipwatch Square Transit Center. If approved, the amendment would increase the contract amount by \$104,088.71. The amendment will fund programming efforts, completion of the furniture design and specifications, bid phase services, construction phase services and preparation of an updated cost estimate.

***Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the Shipwatch Square Transit Center request as presented.  
Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**5. Proterra Battery Electric Bus Parts – Request for Approval**

Mr. Mitchum presented the Proterra Battery Electric Bus Parts request. He noted that CARTA operates several Proterra battery electric buses. In order to maintain a safe and reliable fleet, staff is requesting approval to purchase replacement parts to support ongoing operations. Following bankruptcy of Proterra, and the subsequent purchase of Proterra bus assets by Phoenix EV, parts manufacturing and availability have become an industry-wide issue. A handful of suppliers are offering to sell re-manufactured parts that do not have a guarantee that they can be programmed to operate on Proterra buses and have long lead times. Additionally, transit agencies cannot purchase directly from the manufacturer. Power Parts, LLC has signed commercial agreements with several of the manufacturers to purchase brand new OEM components with authorization to resale to customers. These parts include battery packs, gearboxes, inverters, electronic controllers and various other OEM parts. Mr. Mitchum stated that staff is requesting approval of a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,960,256.97 to purchase Proterra replacement parts from Power Parts, LLC. If approved, this authorization will allow CARTA to procure OEM components on an as-needed basis based on fleet condition, parts availability and operational priorities. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

***Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the Proterra Battery Electric Bus Parts request as presented.  
Mayor Haynie seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**6. RAM Frontrunner Low-Floor Transit Vehicles – Request for Approval**

Mr. Mitchum presented the RAM Frontrunner Low-Floor Transit Vehicles request. He noted that staff is requesting approval to purchase two 2025 RAM Frontrunner low-floor buses from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles, Inc., utilizing the State of Oklahoma Statewide Contract #0797 FY2026 for transit vehicles and related equipment. Mr. Mitchum stated that, if approved, the RAM Frontrunner low-floor buses would replace two Cutaways that are past their useful life. He noted that the RAM Frontrunner is a purpose-built low-floor, ADA-compliant transit vehicle constructed on the RAM ProMaster 3500 chassis. The vehicle provides seating for up to 14 passengers and can be configured to accommodate up to two wheelchair positions. Delivery is anticipated within approximately 30 days following approval. Mr. Mitchum stated that the total cost per vehicle shall not exceed \$207,044, inclusive of required equipment and delivery. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

***Mr. Somerville made a motion to approve the RAM Frontrunner Low-Floor Transit Vehicles request as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**7. Gibbes Museum Bus Wrap Advertising – Request for Approval**

Mr. Mitchum turned the meeting over to the Andrea Kozloski, Deputy Director of Operations and Support. Ms. Kozloski presented the Gibbes Museum Bus Wrap Advertising request. She noted that the Gibbes Museum would like to renew their contract with CARTA for bus wrap advertising. They are requesting a discounted cost. Ms. Kozloski explained, in detail, the normal and discounted production costs as well as the normal and discounted monthly rates. She stated that, if approved, the total cost to the Gibbes Museum would be \$5,000 for a discount of \$4,172. Ms. Kozloski stated that staff is recommending approval and noted that the Gibbes Museum is the only non-profit advertising client to date. Discussion was held and it was recommended that a policy for non-profit advertisement be established. Ms. Kozloski addressed questions and comments.

***Mr. McMillan made a motion to approve the Gibbes Museum Bus Wrap Advertising request as presented. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**8. Beach Reach Service – Request for Approval**

Megan Ross, Transit Planner, discussed Beach Reach Service. It was noted that, in response to the public's request for service to the beach, CARTA implemented a seasonal weekend shuttle between the Town of Mt. Pleasant and the City of Isle of Palms. Along with weekend service, the route also ran during summer holidays (including Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day). The service was promoted via press conferences, media ride-a-longs, social media advertisements and other various methods. Ms. Ross presented detailed information regarding the past five seasons of the service, including ridership trends and cost per season. The Town of Mt. Pleasant, the City of Isle of Palms and CARTA agreed that the cost would be divided among the three for the route to be fully funded. Town Centre in Mt. Pleasant is also allowing passengers to park for free in designated parking spots. Ms. Ross noted that for the 2026 season, staff would like to include Fridays in addition to the weekend and summer holidays service. She detailed staff's projection of the cost for the regular 2026 and the cost projection including operating on Fridays. It was noted that staff's cost projection for the regular 2026 season would be approximately \$38,307 and staff's cost projection with the schedule including Friday service would be approximately \$54,861. Ms. Ross addressed questions and comments. Discussion was held and, due to upcoming Town and City Hall meetings, it was decided to defer the matter to the next Board of Directors meeting.

***Mr. Lewis made a motion to defer the Beach Reach Service request for approval to the next scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. Mayor Haynie seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**9. CARTA Bus Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan Update – Request for Approval**

Mr. Mitchum presented the CARTA Bus Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan Update. He noted that the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan has been updated to reflect the new contractor, RATP Dev. A tracked-change version of the document was included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet for Board Members' review in advance of the meeting. Mr. Mitchum stated that staff is requesting Board of Director approval to the update that reflects the current contractor.

***Mayor Haynie made a motion to approve the CARTA Bus Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan Update as presented. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**10. Project Updates – Andrea Kozloski**

Ms. Kozloski delivered a presentation regarding upcoming events and activities noting the following: MUSC Senior Expo (April 1<sup>st</sup>); MUSC Earth Day (April 16<sup>th</sup>); Ferndale Community Event (April 18<sup>th</sup>); Cinco De Mayo

(May 2<sup>nd</sup>); Light the Night (TBD); Lowcountry Juneteenth Family Festival (TBD); North Charleston Farmers Market (multiple dates); College of Charleston Orientations (multiple dates); and other various pop-up events throughout the season. Ms. Kozloski presented slides depicting Team Member Spotlights, highlighting the following Team Members: Brianna Cooper (Paratransit Operator); Herman Jefferson (Operator); and Kristina Stutts (Paratransit Operator). She also shared a video featuring Chairman Seekings at the CARTA Night at the Stingrays game, which was a big success. Ms. Kozloski stated that the Transit App campaign has begun. The App makes riders aware, in advance, of disrupted service. The campaign has been pushed with MUSC and College of Charleston, among others, and has been very well received. She also shared several commendations received from riders throughout the month, including 120 positive comments regarding appreciation for several bus operators. 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 564 newly branded signs installed. Ms. Kozloski presented information regarding the Transit App, noting that 947 new CARTA riders were welcomed aboard as they downloaded the App for the first time. A total of 7,823 riders opened the Transit App during the month, and an average weekday had 2,062 riders opening the Transit App. She noted that 9,968 GO trips were started by riders to receive step-by-step navigation while helping to improve real-time vehicle locations and that there were 301 new subscribers to service alerts during the month. In addition to the Upcoming Events/Activities updates, also included in the Board Agenda Packet are the Project Updates. 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.

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

Ms. Ross presented the Ridership Report for February 2026. She noted that, for fixed-route ridership trends, passenger trips totaled 199,301 and there were 13.1 customers per service hour. Ms. Ross reviewed safety trends for February noting that there were 3 preventable accidents which were on fixed-route vehicles. There was also one non-preventable accident. She discussed complaints and commendations regarding Customer Service for the month of February, noting that there were 24 complaints (missed service and unsafe driving) and there were no commendations. Ms. Ross reviewed On-Time Performance, noting that fixed-route on-time performance for the month of February was 70.4% and on-time performance for paratransit was 93.8%. She discussed paratransit services in detail for the month of February regarding the breakdown of total passengers, which was 4,034. There were 200 no-shows and 1,644 cancellations. The average ride length was 27.22 minutes and the average ride distance was 9.25 miles. The on-time performance was 93.8%. She then discussed OnDemand trips for February, noting that ridership for the month was 4,290 passengers between both Uber and Lyft. The trip cost averaged \$10.50, which was an increase from January's average cost of \$10.28. Ms. Ross stated that 48% of the overall rides were from Tel-A-Ride passengers. Ms. Ross addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Ridership Report as information.

#### **12. Executive Director's Report – Ron Mitchum**

Mr. Mitchum delivered an update regarding the Union Pier Park & Ride site for the hospitality industry. He noted that additional construction is necessary for buses to be able to maneuver safely in the lot. Mr. Mitchum requested Board approval regarding increasing the spending limit which Mr. Mitchum is currently authorized to spend. Mr. Mitchum noted that he believes increasing the amount to \$125,000 would cover the potential additional changes to the parking lot. He also delivered updates regarding the following projects: Shipwatch Square; Mt. Pleasant Street Park & Ride; Visitor Center Garage Area Improvements; and Transit Signal Prioritization (TSP) for Dorchester Road. Mr. Mitchum also discussed the Charleston County Sales Tax Referendum noting that it is currently proposed at 20%, which includes \$25 million for downtown route study implementation. He also stated that the FTA/PMOC Risk Workshop for the LCRT project will be held at the BCDCOG on April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

***Ms. Wurster made a motion to approve granting Executive Director Mitchum authorization to spend up to \$125,000 for additional construction required for the Union Pier Park & Ride site for the hospitality industry as discussed. Mr. McMillan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**13. Other Business, If Any**

There was no further business to discuss.

**14. Public Comments, If Any**

There were no Public Comments. However, a statement that was submitted by a customer was noted for the record:

- Warren Edward Powell, III, who is a disabled veteran residing in the Greenridge Road corridor and relies entirely on CARTA routes 10 and 12 for transportation needs requested that the Board of Directors take the following actions: 1) prioritize route reliability for routes 10 and 12; 2) address the I-26 interchange barrier; and 3) facilitate ADA compliance.

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

***Mr. Lewis made a motion that the Board of Directors convene into Executive Session. Mr. McMillan 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.***

The CARTA Board of Directors meeting reconvened.

***Mayor Haynie made a motion to request that Charleston County Council pass a Resolution acknowledging their approval of the condemnation proceedings that are being undertaken by CARTA to obtain the Park & Ride site identified at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds located in Charleston County. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**16. Board Comments, If Any**

- Councilman Hudson expressed his appreciation for bus operator training that he has witnessed.
- Mayor O’Neil noted that Carolina Day will be held days leading into the Fourth of July and approximately 10 thousand people will visit Sullivan’s Island during that timeframe.

**17. Adjourn**

Chairman Seekings thanked the Board Members for attending today’s meeting as well as their continued service to the CARTA Board of Directors and the communities they serve. The next CARTA Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Coleman