***CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY***
***(CARTA)***
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
**May 20, 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, May 20, 2026.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christopher Emde; Dwayne Green; Brandon Hudson; James Lewis; Pat O'Neil; Michael Seekings; Jimmy Ward; Robert Wehrman

**PROXIES:** Craig Harris for Mayor Belt; Carter McMillan for Chairman Boykin; Ron Brinson for Mayor Burgess; Michael Mathis for Mayor Cogswell; Jerry Lahm for Councilman Darby; Chief Gebhardt for Mayor Rainwater

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marissa Cottrell (WSP); Richard Mitchell (RATP Dev); Sharon Broderick (RATP Dev-ATU President); Samuel Hart, Jr. (RATP Dev); Leisa Barleston (RATP Dev); Loretta Stewart (RAPT Dev); Maritza Simon (Tel-A-Ride); Elissa Smith (HDR); David Kinard (HDR); Daniel Brock (HNTB); Josh Dix (Hayse Devereaux); Makisa Simmons

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ron Mitchum; Andrea Kozloski; Robin Mitchum; Sharon Hollis; 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: April 15, 2026 Meeting**

   ***Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the April 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Wehrman 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 March 31, 2026. Ms. Mitchum stated that, overall, the agency remains in good shape and ended the month with unexpended funds of $553,859. 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 FY2026 thus far:

**Revenues:**

- Farebox is the fares collected on the revenue vehicles.
- Passes & Mobile Ticketing are bus pass fares sold to customers.
- Local Contributions are local capital contributions for shelters.
- 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 and lost & found cash.

**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.
- Postage is shipping costs to return parts for the Genfare system.
- 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, Angeltrax management and system review, 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 inspections and on-site inspection and technical advisor 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 and RATP Dev USA, Inc.
- 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, shelter, HVAC, backflow device and lock 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 and RATP Dev, USA. Inc.
- Interest is the interest on the Melnick Park & Ride loan.

**Capital Expenditures:**

- Rolling Stock is the purchase of two 2009 Vanpool Transit Buses.
- Bus Shelter Construction/Bench Install is shelters, shelter equipment and shelter design and engineering services.
- Facilities Construction is facility engineering for Shipwatch Square and vehicle lift equipment upgrades.
- Security/Cameras & Equipment is AVL system equipment, security cameras and access control equipment.
- Capital (IT, Facility Repairs/Maint.) is the purchase of bike racks, shelving for inventory storage, video server replacement, in-line boiler pump at Leeds Avenue, and a chill water pump replacement at Leeds Avenue.

Ms. Mitchum discussed the OnDemand Program, noting that it is 83% complete for FY2026. The Board of Directors received the Financial Status Report and the OnDemand Program Activity Report as information.

**4. FY2026 Budget Revision – Request for Approval – Robin Mitchum**

Ms. Mitchum presented the FY2026 Budget Revision. She reviewed the line-item revisions in detail and stated that the budget will continue to be monitored to ensure revenues and expenditures remain aligned. Ms. Mitchum noted that staff will make recommended revisions as necessary. Ms. Mitchum and Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

***Mr. Brinson made a motion to approve the FY2026 Budget Revision as presented. Mayor O'Neil seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**5. FY2027 Proposed Budget – Request for Approval – Robin Mitchum**

Ms. Mitchum presented the FY2027 Proposed Budget. She reviewed, in detail, the proposed line-item changes in revenue, expenditures and capital expenditures. Ms. Mitchum stated that the budget will continue to be monitored to ensure revenue and expenditures remain aligned and that revisions will be recommended as necessary. She noted that the proposed budget will be presented to member governments for their approval during their respective Finance Committee and Council meetings. The FY2027 Proposed Budget will then be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval during the September Board of Directors meeting. Ms. Mitchum and Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

***Mr. Mathis made a motion to approve the FY2027 Proposed Budget as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**6. Project Updates – Andrea Kozloski**

Andrea Kozloski, Deputy Director of Operations and Support, delivered a presentation regarding upcoming events and activities noting the following: North Charleston Farmers' Market (May 14th, June 25th & multiple dates); Beach Reach Kickoff Press Conference (May 21st at 11:00 a.m. on the Isle of Palms); Beach Reach Season Launch (May 22nd); Fiesta on the Peninsula (May 23rd); Senior Free-Ride Day (National Senior Health & Fitness Day/Older Americans Month-May 27th); Dump the Pump Free-Ride Day (June 18th); Lowcountry Juneteenth Family Festival (Weekend of June 19th); College of Charleston Orientations (multiple dates-TBD).

Ms. Kozloski noted that events were held this past weekend at MUSC and the College of Charleston and were well attended and well received. She presented slides depicting MUSC Earth Day, Ferndale Midterm Meetup, MUSC Senior Expo as well as "Now & Next" public meetings regarding LCRT, which were also well received. Ms. Kozloski stated that everyone is invited to attend the Beach Reach Press Conference at 11:00 a.m. on May 21st at the Charleston County Isle of Palms Park. News Channel 2 has been running a campaign to promote the service in addition to social media and other advertising. Ms. Kozloski stated that the "Tap to Pay" option will go live on June 1st. She also presented slides depicting new bus wrap advertisements. Ms. Kozloski briefed the Board on the "Now & Next" future transit survey and encouraged everyone to share the survey. She noted commendations from a rider for Tommy, who operates the Express 1 in the mornings and she highlighted Janice Hearn's dedicated work as a dispatcher. 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 76 shelter-mounted solar lights installed. There have been 668 newly branded signs installed and noted that a lot of positive feedback has been received regarding the new double-sided signs from operators and the public. She noted that the ADA Accessibility Stops located at Tobias Gadsden and Paul Cantrell are in the permitting stage with SCDOT. Ms. Kozloski delivered information regarding the Transit App, noting that 1,286 new CARTA riders were welcomed aboard as they downloaded the app for the first time. A total of 8,596 riders opened the Transit App during the month and an average weekday had 2,092 riders opening the Transit App and that riders planned 52,932 trips during the month. She noted that 11,265 GO trips were started by riders to receive step-by-step navigation while helping to improve real-time vehicle locations. In addition, there were 266 new subscribers to service alerts during April. She noted that staff continues to promote signing up for alerts. Ms. Kozloski stated that users purchased tickets during the month which valued $31,425. She noted that the most purchased pass was the one-trip ticket and the most popular routes were Route 10 and Route 12. In addition to the Upcoming Events/Activities updates, also included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet are the Project Updates. Board Members were encouraged to contact staff with questions, comments or concerns regarding the Project Updates report. Ms. Kozloski addressed questions and comments.

7. **Ridership Report – Megan Ross**

Ms. Ross presented the Ridership Report for April 2026. She noted that, for fixed-route ridership trends, passenger trips totaled 246,579 and there were 14.0 customers per service hour. Ms. Ross reviewed safety trends for April noting that there were six preventable accidents (fixed objects) which were on fixed-route vehicles. There were also five non-preventable accidents. She discussed complaints and commendations regarding Customer Service for the month of April, noting that there were eight complaints (missed/late service and rude drivers) and there were five commendations. Ms. Ross reviewed On-Time Performance, noting that fixed-route on-time performance for the month of April was 69.7% and on-time performance for paratransit was 94.0%. She discussed paratransit services in detail for the month of April regarding the breakdown of total passengers, which was 4,542 at 1.55 passengers per hour. The average ride length was 27.9 minutes and the average ride distance was 9.43 miles. The on-time performance was 94.0%. She then discussed OnDemand trips for April noting that ridership for the month was 4,729 passengers between both Uber and Lyft. The trip cost averaged $14.72, which was an increase from March's average cost of $12.13 (primarily due to the increase in fuel costs). Ms. Ross stated that 44% of the overall rides were from Tel-A-Ride passengers and addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Ridership Report as information.

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

Mr. Mitchum delivered updates regarding the following projects/matters:

- The following projects to be initiated within the next six months are: the Shipwatch Square Transit Center; the Mt. Pleasant Street Park & Ride; the Visitor Center/Transit Mall Improvements; and the Union Pier HOP Lot.
- SCDOT is moving forward with the development of a statewide transit plan as we continue to move forward with the COA and plan updates. We will be well-positioned to provide input on the region's transit needs going forward.
- The Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America 250$^{th}$ Act (BUILD America 250 Act) has been released by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Staff will continue to monitor the Act as it passes through the process as there are concerns regarding the future of competitive discretionary funding programs.
- Charleston County Council will be discussing the referendum ballot language during their Council meeting next week and hopefully have the first reading on placing the referendum on the ballot.
- Mr. Mitchum asked Sharon Hollis, Principal Planner, to update the Board regarding the LCRT project. Ms. Hollis noted that the FTA Risk Workshop, which was a 2-day workshop held in April, was well received and no significant problems were identified other than the Park & Ride acquisition (which continues to be addressed). She noted that, overall, the project continues to be progressing on schedule.

Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Executive Director's Update as information.

9. **Other Business, If Any**

There was no further business to discuss.

10. **Public Comments, If Any**

There were four Public Comments noted for the record:

- Sharon Broderick (RATP Dev-ATU President): Ms. Broderick expressed her concerns regarding the VA Building on Rivers Avenue/Hanahan Road bus needing to be ADA accessible as well as the Northwoods Mall northbound bus and the Remount Road/Rivers Avenue northbound and southbound buses needing ramps to reach the ground for passengers' safety; she also expressed her concerns regarding RATP Dev not including operators, Tel-A-Ride drivers and other staff in conversations and plans regarding changes.
- Samuel Hart, Jr. (RATP Dev): Mr. Hart expressed his concerns regarding older drivers' comments not being heard by management. Staff needs improved communications between them and management and would like them to be included in discussions.
- Loretta Stewart (RATP Dev): Ms. Stewart expressed her concerns regarding drivers' safety regarding servicing dangerous areas such as the Siesta Motor Lodge.
- Leisa Barleston (RATP Dev): Ms. Barleston expressed her concerns regarding the Hagood Street/Medical District area flooding and being unsafe to navigate on flooded streets.

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

An Executive Session was not needed during today's Board of Directors meeting.

**12. Board Comments, If Any**

- Mr. Green commented that he appreciated hearing from the drivers and noted their concerns.
- Councilman Wehrman commented that he appreciated hearing the concerns from the drivers and stated that Charleston County is aware of the flooding issues.

**13. Adjourn**

Chairman Seekings thanked the Board Members for attending today's meeting as well as for their continued service to the CARTA Board of Directors and the communities they serve. He stated that the next Board of Directors meeting will be held on June 24th and the August Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13th. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Coleman