CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
(CARTA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 24, 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, June 24, 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: Daniel Brownstein; Christopher Emde; Dwayne Green; 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); Elissa Smith (HDR); Robert Flagler (HNTB); William Hamitlon (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit); *Post & Courier* Personnel

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Mitchum; Andrea Kozloski; Robin Mitchum; Sharon Hollis; Megan Ross; Courtney Cherry; Ben Cochran; Matthew Spath; Kim Coleman

1. **Call to Order**
   Chairman Seekings called the CARTA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. followed by a moment of silence and a quorum determination.

2. **Consideration of Board Minutes: May 20, 2026 Meeting**

   Mr. Emde made a motion to approve the May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Mathis 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 May 31, 2026. Ms. Mitchum stated that, overall, the agency remains in good shape and ended the month with revenues equal to expenditures at 61% of budget. This resulted in a net excess of revenues over expenditures of $0.00. The reported ending balance includes an appropriated fund balance of $1,407, 335. She noted that the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as well as the Balance Sheet, and information for the OnDemand Program (which is 86% expended) 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.
- Interest is interest earned from the SC Department of Revenue for delay of refund of paid fuel excise taxes.
- 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.
- Postage is shipping costs to return parts for the Genfare system.
- Dues/Membership is the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce membership.
- Equipment Rental includes the monthly battery lease for the electric buses and leased cutaway 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.
- Comprehensive Operating Analysis is services provided to develop a comprehensive operational analysis of CARTA services and strategic implementation plan.
- 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.
- Onboarding Costs is RATP Dev USA, Inc. cost for contract service transition from 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 services 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.
- Bust 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 the Leeds Avenue location.

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

4. **CARTA OnDemand Program Changes – Courtney Cherry**
Courtney Cherry, Mobility Manager, presented the CARTA OnDemand Program Changes. She noted that CARTA's OnDemand Voucher Program provides Uber and Lyft vouchers to seniors and individuals with disabilities. As of June 1st, both Uber and Lyft have added a "shared ride" option to the voucher program. The changes now align the program with FTA guidance. Ms. Cherry discussed the updates in detail and noted the current usage patterns. She then reviewed the Program Requirements and Costs noting that on March 1, 2025, CARTA OnDemand increased the age requirements and the voucher subsidy amount. Currently, customers must be 60+ or a Tel-A-Ride client. Seniors pay a minimum of $5 per trip with a maximum $14 subsidy. Tel-A-Ride customers pay $4 minimum with a $30 maximum subsidy. Seniors receive four vouchers per week and Tel-A-Ride customers receive 50 per month. Ms. Cherry noted that OnDemand saw a decrease in cost as a result of these changes for several months but it has since increased in cost due to ongoing application approval and popularity of the program. There is approximately $146 thousand left in the budget for OnDemand which should last another three months before another round of Section 5310 funding is available to apply in July/August. Staff anticipates cost savings with the shared rides and "Wait & Save" options; however, with ongoing approvals, CARTA OnDemand will continue to increase in costs. Tel-A-Ride customers account for approximately 10% of approved customers on OnDemand and spend an average of 45% of the budget each month. Staff recommends reevaluating voucher subsidy amounts for Tel-A-Ride customers to assist in reduction of monthly costs. The Board of Directors received the CARTA OnDemand Program Changes update as information.

5. **Project Updates – Andrea Kozloski**
Andrea Kozloski, Deputy Director of Operations and Support, delivered a presentation regarding upcoming events and activities noting the following: Juneteenth (Week of June 15th); Dump the Pump-Free Ride Day

(June 18th); North Charleston Farmers Market (June 25th & July 16th); College of Charleston Orientation Sessions (June 15th, 18th, 22nd, 25th & July 6th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 20th, 23rd & August 10th & 13th); Backpacks for Brighter Futures (June 25th); Veterans Stand Down Event (TBD). She also noted that details for the upcoming CARTA Night at the Riverdogs will be distributed to Board Members and staff soon. Ms. Kozloski presented slides depicting the Fiesta on the Peninsula event, the North Charleston Farmers Market events, new SC Aquarium bus wrap advertisements and a video of the Beach Reach Shuttle Press Conference. She noted that the Press Conference resulted in a lot of public engagement and positive feedback. Ms. Kozloski discussed the Tap to Pay service and updated the Board regarding the Beach Reach Shuttle service, noting that Friday service has been highly successful to date. She shared a rider's commendation regarding bus operator, Mr. Leon and highlighted a paratransit operator, Theodoshia Spann. Ms. Spann has been with CARTA for eight years and always radiates positive energy. 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 702 newly branded signs installed. Ms. Kozloski delivered information regarding the Transit App, noting that 1,279 new CARTA riders were welcomed aboard as they downloaded the app for the first time. A total of 8,071 riders opened the Transit App during the month and an average weekday had 1,933 riders opening the Transit App. She noted that 9,850 GO trips were started by riders to receive step-by-step navigation while helping to improve real-time vehicle locations. In addition, there were 206 new subscribers to service alerts during May. Ms. Kozloski stated that users purchased tickets during the month of May which valued $32,825. She noted that the most purchased pass was the one-trip ticket and the most popular routes were Routes 10, 11 and 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. Mr. Brownstein thanked staff for implementing the Tap to Pay service. The Board of Directors received the Project Updates and Activities/Events Reports as information.

6. **Ridership Report – Megan Ross**
Megan Ross, Transit Planner, presented the Ridership Report for May 2026. She noted that, for fixed-route ridership trends, passenger trips totaled 225,917 and there were 13.3 customers per service hour. Ms. Ross reviewed safety trends for May noting that there were four preventable accidents (two sideswipes on fixed-route vehicles and two sideswipes on paratransit vehicles). There were also seven non-preventable accidents. She discussed complaints and commendations regarding Customer Service for the month of May, noting that there were 11 complaints (missed service) and there was one commendation. Ms. Ross reviewed On-Time Performance, noting that fixed-route on-time performance for the month of May was 68.8% and on-time performance for paratransit was 95.1%. She discussed paratransit services in detail for the month of May regarding the breakdown of total passengers, which was 4,288. There were 216 no-shows and 1,655 cancellations. The average ride length was 27.7 minutes and the average ride distance was 9.34 miles. The on-time performance was 95.1%. She then discussed OnDemand trips for May noting that ridership for the month was 4,533 passengers between both Uber and Lyft. The trip cost averaged $12.36, which was a decrease from April's average cost of $14.72. Ms. Ross stated that 46% 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.

7. **Executive Director's Report – Ron Mitchum**
Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, delivered updates regarding the Mt. Pleasant Street Park & Ride site and the Shipwatch Square Project. He noted that for the Mt. Pleasant Street Park & Ride site, plans for TRC are being finalized with one slight adjustment to lighting. Permit applications have been submitted to the City of Charleston and SCDES. Preparation of construction specifications are underway. For the Shipwatch Square

Project, Mr. Mitchum noted that the NEPA process is complete as well as the A&E design and City permitting. The NOI has been received and 100% design and bid documents are being finalized for an anticipated bid in 2026. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments. The Board of Directors received the Executive Director's Update as information.

8. **Other Business, If Any**
   There was no further business to discuss.

9. **Public Comments, If Any**
   There was one Public Comment noted for the record:
   - William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit): Mr. Hamilton thanked the Board of Directors for their service. He appreciates the Beach Reach Shuttle service and CARTA OnDemand noting that the more transportation opportunities individuals have, the more positive impact there will be to the community and local economy. He also expressed his appreciation for the new dual-sided bus stop signs.

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

Mr. Brinson made a motion that the Board of Directors convene into Executive Session. Mr. Green seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Non-Board Members, Guests and Non-Essential Staff Members were excused. Mr. Lahm made a motion to reconvene the Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Emde 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 and contractual matters discussed during Executive Session.

11. **Board Comments, If Any**

Mayor O'Neil made a motion to approve moving forward with Eminent Domain of the Fairgrounds Property. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. **Adjourn**
    There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Coleman