CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
(CARTA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 23, 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, September 23, 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: Joe Boykin; Daniel Brownstein; Christopher Emde; Dwayne Green; Brandon Hudson; Craig Logan; Pat O'Neil; Michael Seekings; Robert Wehrman

PROXIES: Craig Harris for Mayor Belt; Michael Mathis for Mayor Cogswell; Jerry Lahm for Henry Darby; Chief Gebhardt for Mayor Rainwater

OTHERS PRESENT: Elissa Smith (HDR); Tom Hiles (WSP); Josh Dix (Hayse Devereaux); Jacob Gamble (Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce); Sharon Broderick (Local Union #610 President/RATP Dev); Ed Remly (RATP Dev); Stanley Lacey (RATP Dev); Brandon Maybank (RATP Dev); Brandon Neff (RATP Dev); Roger Calesa, Jr. (RATP Dev); Janell Jacobs (RATP Dev); Cassandra Larry (RATP Dev); Maurice Lewis (RATP Dev); Quanita Mack (RATP Dev); Laurence Rivers (RATP Dev); Kristen Smith (RATP Dev); William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit); TV News Media Personnel

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Mitchum; Robin Mitchum; Jason McGarry; 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. Chairman Seekings recognized Bus Operator, Roger Calesa, for his heroic actions in response to the August 31st shooting that occurred on the bus. Mr. Calesa ensured passengers exited the bus safely and he escorted a visually impaired rider to safety. Chairman Seekings noted that the shooting suspect has been arrested. Chairman Seekings announced that the Board of Directors will hold an Executive Session during today's Board Meeting.

2. **Consideration of Board Minutes: August 13, 2026 Meeting**

   Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the August 13, 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 July 31, 2026. Ms. Mitchum stated that, overall, the agency remains in good shape and ended

the month with capital expenditures in balance with the budget. The reported ending balance includes an appropriated fund balance of $1,287,203. 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. Also included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet was an 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 and title paperwork.
- Dues/Membership is the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce membership.
- Equipment Rental includes the monthly battery lease for the electric buses, leased cutaway buses and facility maintenance equipment.
- 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, Chargepoint electric charging system, Angeltrax management and system viewer, 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 and the annual audit.
- Legal is Lowcountry Rapid Transit (LCRT) legal fees associated with the proposed condemnation of the Park & Ride facility.
- 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 are the contracted security services provided at the SuperStop by the City of North Charleston Police Department and by Extra Duty Solutions.
- 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 directors and officers insurance and 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 and six 2014 Vanpools.
- 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. FY2027 CARTA Budget – Request for Approval – Robin Mitchum

Ms. Mitchum presented the FY2027 CARTA Budget. She provided detailed explanations of line-item changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Capital Expenditures. Ms. Mitchum noted that the FY2027 proposed preliminary budget was initially approved during the May 20, 2026 CARTA Board of Directors meeting and stated that the final adoption of the FY2027 Budget was approved by all member governments during their respective Council meetings. She noted that the budget will continue to be monitored to ensure revenues and expenditures remain aligned and that any recommended revisions will be made to the Board of Directors as necessary. Ms. Mitchum requested final Board of Directors approval of the FY2027 Budget and addressed questions and comments. Chairman Seekings commended the staff regarding delivery of budget presentations and for obtaining unanimous approval from member governments.

Mr. Mathis made a motion to approve the FY2027 CARTA Budget as presented. Mr. Logan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Low-Floor Transit Bus – Request for Approval**

Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, presented the Low-Floor Transit Bus request. He noted that staff is requesting approval to purchase two 27ft. ARBOC Spirit of Freedom low-floor buses from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles, Inc. utilizing the State of Georgia Department of Administrative Services cooperative purchasing contract 99999-SPD-SPD0000212-0005 for Public Mass Transit Vehicles and Related Options, Equipment and Accessories. The ARBOC Spirit of Freedom is a low-floor, ADA-compliant shuttle bus constructed on the Ford E-450 chassis. The vehicle provides seating for up to 18 passengers and can be configured to accommodate up to three wheelchair positions. Mr. Mitchum stated that the price per vehicle shall not exceed $185,000. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Logan made a motion to approve the Low-Floor Transit Bus request as presented. Mr. Brownstein seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. **Transit Bus Video Mirror System – Request for Approval**

Mr. Mitchum discussed the Transit Bus Video Mirror System. He noted that the Selection Committee met on September 17, 2026 and reviewed three proposals for the Transit Bus Video Mirror System RFP. Proposals were received from Luminator Technology Group, Safe Fleet and Safety Vision. The Selection Committee recommends that CARTA award a contract to Safety Vision based upon the overall score sheet rankings. Discussion was held regarding the video mirror system's safety features. Mr. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Green made a motion to approve the Transit Bus Video Mirror System request as presented. Mr. Mathis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. **Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services: Shipwatch Square and Workforce Development Center – Request for Approval**

Mr. Mitchum presented the Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services for the Shipwatch Square and Workforce Development Center RFP. He noted that the Selection Committee met on September 18, 2026 and reviewed two proposals for CEI Services for Shipwatch Square and Workforce Development Center RFP. Proposals were received from Michael Baker International, Inc. and Soil Consultants, Inc. The Selection Committee recommends that CARTA negotiate a contract with Michael Baker International, Inc. based upon the overall score sheet rankings. Mr. Mitchum and Ms. Mitchum addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Lahm made a motion to approve the Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services for the Shipwatch Square and Workforce Development Center RFP as presented. Mr. Emde seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. **Project Updates – Andrea Kozloski**

In Andrea Kozloski's absence, Matthew Spath, Communications Director, delivered a presentation regarding upcoming events and activities noting the following: North Charleston Farmers Market (9/24 & 10/22); Charleston Latin Festival (10/4); Veterans Stand Down Event (10/8); Ferndale Fall Festival (TBD); Northwoods Fall Festival (TBD); Holiday Parades (December). Mr. Spath presented PowerPoint slides depicting the Fiesta on the Peninsula and North Charleston Farmers Market events as well as newly installed bus wraps. He discussed this year's Beach Reach Shuttle results noting that, overall, ridership was up 20.05% over previous years' results and that adding Fridays to the service had a positive impact on ridership. Mr. Spath highlighted a CARTA Bus Operator, Leon, noting that a satisfied rider commended his service. He discussed Free Ride Days to the polls on Election Day and for Veterans and Active-Duty Service Members on Veterans' Day. Mr. Spath also highlighted Bus Operator, Charles Frasier. Mr. Fraiser is affectionately known as "The King of Route

20." He has committed over 50 years of service to CARTA. He is a Charleston native who joined CARTA in 1974. Mr. Fraiser has dedicated his career to serving the community and has driven an incredible 4 million miles throughout his tenure. In recognition of his remarkable career, CARTA honored him with a proclamation and a commemorative plaque that was installed at Stop 461 near the Charleston Visitor Center in 2024. Mr. Spath discussed CARTA Amenities, noting the shelters and benches in progress: 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. Mr. Spath delivered information regarding the Transit App, noting that 1,916 new CARTA riders were welcomed aboard as they downloaded the app for the first time. A total of 9,538 riders opened the Transit App during the month and an average weekday had 2,197 riders opening the Transit App. He noted that 11,533 GO trips were started by riders to receive step-by-step navigation while helping to improve real-time vehicle locations. In addition, there were 359 new subscribers to service alerts during August. Mr. Spath stated that users purchased tickets during the month of August which valued $31,859. He noted that the most purchased pass was the one-trip ticket and the most popular routes were Routes 10 and 12. Mr. Spath addressed questions and comments. In addition to the Upcoming Events/Activities updates, also included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet were the Project Updates. Board Members were encouraged to contact staff with questions, comments or concerns regarding the Project Updates report. Mr. Green commended the Beach Reach Shuttle Service noting that his family enjoyed utilizing the service and that delegates from Barbados commented on the cleanliness and convenience of the shuttle. The Board of Directors received the Project Updates and Activities/Events Reports as information.

9. Ridership Report – Megan Ross

In Megan Ross' absence, Ben Cochran, Transit Planner, delivered brief remarks regarding Ridership for August 2026. For fixed-route ridership trends, passenger trips totaled 245,075 and there were 14.3 customers per service hour. This was an increase of 6.2% and 6.5%, respectively, over July 2026. Detailed Ridership information was included in the Board Meeting Agenda Packet for Board Member review prior to today's meeting. The Board of Directors received the Ridership Report as information.

10. Executive Director's Report – Ron Mitchum

Mr. Mitchum noted that he will deliver his report during Executive Session. However, he commended Senator Sutton regarding earmarks for shelters.

11. Other Business, If Any

There was no further business to discuss.

12. Public Comments, If Any

There was one Public Comment noted for the record:

- William Hamilton (Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit): Mr. Hamilton expressed his gratitude for the dual-sided bus stop and shelter signs as well as for the Beach Reach Shuttle Service. He expressed his concerns regarding the massive disruption of the fuel industry. Mr. Hamilton thanked the Board of Directors for their service.

13. Executive Session – Legal and Contractual Matters

Mayor O'Neil made a motion that the Board of Directors convene into Executive Session. Chairman Boykin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Non-Board Members, Guests and Non-Essential Staff Members were excused.

An Executive Session was held.
Chairman Boykin made a motion to reconvene the Board of Directors meeting.
Mr. Brownstein 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.

14. Board Comments, If Any

Mr. Brownstein recognized CARTA, the City of Isle of Palms and the Town of Mt. Pleasant regarding the success of the Beach Reach Shuttle. Chairman Seekings thanked the Board of Directors for their invaluable service to the Board and the communities they serve.

15. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Seekings adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Coleman