

SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES – August 26, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 2:01 PM. The meeting was held at 535 Griswold, Suite 600, Detroit, MI 48226 and via a digital public video conference.

ATTENDANCE

SMART Board of Directors:	Chairperson	Mr. Khalil Rahal
	Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Vicki Wolber
		Mr. Abdul Haidous
		Mr. Bret Rasegan
		Mr. John Paul Rea
Absent Board Members:		Ms. Hilarie Chambers
		Mr. Royce Maniko
SMART Board Secretary:		Ms. Tiffany Martin-Patterson
SMART General Manager:		Mr. Dwight Ferrell
SMART Staff Present:		Ms. Truvae Adams
		Ms. Melinda Arndt
		Ms. Beverly Anderson
		Mr. Fred Barbret
		Mr. Darren Beach
		Mr. Ryan Byrne
		Ms. Sabrina Clay
		Mr. Robert Cramer
		Mr. Melvin Evans
		Ms. Beth Gibbons
		Mr. Avery Gordon
		Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz
		Mr. Dustin Hagfors
		Mr. Ian Holme
		Ms. Lynette Hurt
	Ms. Carol Jones	
	Ms. Vicki Jordan-Strugs	
	Mr. Joe Kim	
	Ms. Anika Parker	

Mr. Michael Patten
Ms. Nichole Peters
Mr. Konner Petz
Mr. Sean Riopelle
Ms. Lacey Shepard
Ms. Leeya Sutter
Mr. Darrell Taylor
Mr. Andy Thorner
Ms. Madonna Van Fossen
Mr. Tony Vinson
Mr. Mark Watson
Ms. Patty Wailing

Public Registered:

HRC
KL2 Connects
Passenger
Passenger
Passenger
Passenger
Passenger

Mr. Patrick Haire
Dr. Robert Babbitt
Mr. Larry Burch
Mr. Cunningham
Ms. Marie Donigan
Ms. Marguerite Maddox
Mr. Robert Pawlowski
Mr. Thomas Yazback
Motor City Freedom Riders

1. Call to Order

A) Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal, Vice-Chairperson Ms. Vicki Wolber, Mr. Abdul Haidous, Mr. Bret Rasegan, and Mr. John Paul Rea

Absent: Ms. Hilarie Chambers and Mr. Royce Maniko

A quorum was present.

3. Public Notice and Rules of Order

The Secretary read the Public Notice and Rules of Order into the record.

4. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Bret Rasegan, to approve the amended Agenda for the August 26, 2021 Board meeting which includes removing Item J, Authorization to Enter into a Partnership Agreement for FTA AIM Research Grant with Highland Park.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

5. Minutes

A. Regular Board Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2021

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Abdul Haidous, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, to approve the Board meeting minutes for July 22, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

B. Special Board Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2021

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, to approve the special Board meeting minutes for August 11, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. Public Participation

Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal declared the meeting open for Public Participation.

➤ **Mr. Cunningham** - Passenger

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cunningham requested the following changes be made by SMART:

- Additional FAST bus stops.
- Plexiglass replacing glass at SMART's bus shelters.

- Additional advertising on buses.
- Links to SMART and DDOT Board meetings be added to Facebook.

➤ **Mr. Robert Pawlowski** - Passenger

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pawlowski said he is looking forward to phase two of SMART' plans. He thanked SMART for the service changes and public hearings. He also welcomed Mr. Dwight Ferrell, new General Manager, to SMART.

➤ **Mr. Larry Burch** – Passenger

DISCUSSION:

- He requested plexiglass replace glass at SMART's bus shelters.
- Electrical outlets be installed at bus shelters.
- FAST bus stop added to Woodward and McNichols.
- Utilize the American Rescue Plans Act funding (ARPA) for bonus to attract bus drivers as a signing bonus.

➤ **Mr. Thomas Yazback** – Passenger

DISCUSSION:

- Requested alterations to the route on Crooks and Campbell including:
 - Extend bus service to 10:00 p.m.
 - Buses should pull into the Troy Civic Center.
- He also thanked SMART for all the good work.

7. Chairperson's Report

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal stated the Board had asked Mr. Dwight Ferrell, SMART's new General Manager, to attend the Board meeting because of the recent news articles to explain his tax delinquency. Mr. Ferrell explained the delinquent taxes were due to the hospital care for his mother and the college tuition for his son. The taxes were paid in full in 2017. He received a release of lien and a copy of the release was provided to SMART's General Counsel, Mr. Avery Gordon, and SMART's Board of Directors.

Mr. Abdul Haidous asked if Mr. Ferrell received any convictions or felony charges. Mr. Ferrell informed the Board there were no convictions or felonies. The lien was filed and paid in full in 2017.

Mr. John Paul Rea asked Dr. Robert Babbitt from KL2 Connects, Inc. why Mr. Ferrell's delinquent tax issues were not brought up during the interview process. Dr. Babbitt stated their normal process was conducted as they have done for many recruitments. The TransUnion shareable for hire process did not disclose anything regarding an IRS tax lien and they were not informed of the delinquent taxes. Dr. Babbitt stated that due to the taxes being paid in full in 2017, if he personally were a candidate that he would not have thought it was necessary to disclose it. Mr. Ferrell stated he has been and is transparent with the Board. He has no issue with discussing any of these concerns and his tax issues have not impacted his ability to perform any of his prior jobs. Mr. Ferrell said he is excited and looking forward to working at SMART.

8. Deputy General Manager's Report

Mr. Robert Cramer, Deputy General Manager, reported on the following:

- General Updates
- Project Updates
- MPTA Annual Conference
- Wayne State/DART (kickoff Sept 1)
- Fueling/Macomb Pavement success
- Dream Cruise
- Highland Park Shuttle + partnership with Stellantis
- Flex Ridership by zone
- MetroPark Express

9. New Business

A. Resolution: Authorization to Award a Contract for Wide Area Network (WAN)

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to approve a three-year contract for wide area network project in the amount of a \$282,192.00 and two, one-year renewal options in the amount of \$103,320.00 for each year, with total cost of \$488,832.00 with Crown Castle.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Rea asked Mr. Robert Cramer to explain what the difference was between level two and three of the network project. Mr. Cramer informed the Board level three provides additional security and support.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

B. Resolution: Authorization to Award a Contract for Oakland Terminal Bus Charging Station Project

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Vicki Wolber, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to award a contract for Oakland Terminal Bus Charging Station Project in the amount of \$217,506.25 to J. Ranck Electric.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

C. Resolution: Authorization to Award a Contract for Hein Building Construction for Bus Simulator

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Bret Rasegan, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to award a contract to The LaSalle Group, Inc. in the amount of \$396,498.00 for Hein Building Construction for Bus Simulator.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Vicki Wolber confirmed the construction for the bus simulator is temporary. Mr. Robert Cramer agreed.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

D. Resolution: Authorization for Purchase Order Change Action (POCA #1) for LETC Site Improvement Project

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Bret Rasegan, seconded by Mr. John Paul Rea, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to approve a POCA #1 in the amount of \$80,922.51 to FH Martin Construction.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

E. Resolution: Authorization for a Purchase Order Change Action (POCA #1) for Automated Passenger Counter System

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Vicki Wolber, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to approve a POCA #1 in the amount of \$64,666.00 to Urban Transit Associates Inc.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

F. Resolution: FTA CARES Act Program: Revised Recommendations Supporting Community and Agency Based Transit Programs

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, that the Board of Directors of SMART authorizes SMART to adopt revised funding amounts to be made available to its transit partners and for the information to be submitted as a revision to the Program of Projects for CARES Act funding to the FTA in compliance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. Section 5307, as amended.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

G. Resolution: CRRSAA Act Program of Projects

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Abdul Haidous, seconded by Mr. John Paul Rea, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to submit to Program of Projects for CRRSA Act funding to FTA in compliance with requirements of 49 U.S.C. Section 5307, as amended.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Khalil Rahal asked how long will the funding be available to SMART. Mr. Ryan Byrne, Director of Finance, explained the funding is available until 2029 but it has to be obligated by 2023. Mr. Rahal requested the Board receive financial reports of the expenses of the \$18.6 million over the next 18 months.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

H. Resolution: Agreement for Park and Ride Area at OCC-Orchard Ridge Campus

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Abdul Haidous, seconded by Mr. Bret Rasegan, that the Board of Directors of SMART authorizes SMART to complete negotiations and enter into an Agreement for a Park and Ride Area at OCC-Orchard Ridge Campus at a 5-year total cost of \$140,000.00

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Rasegan asked if there was a fee for the OCC Park and Ride area in the past. Mr. Robert Cramer said no but informed the Board of the benefit to have a more secured Park and Ride agreement to ensure longevity in the future.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

I. Resolution: Participation Agreement for Vehicle Signal System with Macomb County Department of Roads

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is authorized to complete negotiations and enter into a Participation Agreement with Macomb County Department of Roads for a Connected Vehicle Signal Project for a total of \$300,000.00.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

J. Resolution: Approval of Nominating Committee Appointments

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, that the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) hereby approves the appointments to the Nominating Committee.

DISCUSSION:

The SMART Board selected Ms. Hilarie Chambers, Oakland County, Mr. John Paul Rea, Macomb County, and Mr. Abdul Haidous, Wayne County, for the Nominating Committee.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

10. Board Member Business

DISCUSSION:

Mr. John Paul Rea informed the Board of the reconstruction of Mound Road. He thanked SMART's staff for their support and help.

Mr. Abdul Haidous thanked staff for all their hard work and the public for their positive compliments about SMART.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion made by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Martin-Patterson

Tiffany C. Martin-Patterson
Secretary to the Board of Directors