

SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES – January 23, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 2:06 PM. The meeting was held at the Buhl Building, 535 Griswold, Suite 600, Detroit, MI 48226.

ATTENDANCE

SMART Board of Directors: Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers
Mr. Abdul Haidous (via conference call)
Mr. Royce Maniko (via conference call)
Mr. Bret Rasegan
Ms. Vicki Wolber

Absent Board Members: Vice-Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal
Mr. John Paul Rea

SMART Board Secretary: Ms. Tiffany Martin-Patterson

SMART General Manager: Mr. John Hertel

SMART Staff Present: Ms. Beverly Anderson
Mr. Fred Barbret
Ms. Haley Barrett
Mr. Ronald Beier
Mr. Robert Cramer
Mr. Melvin Evans
Mr. Avery Gordon
Mr. Dustin Hagfors
Mr. Ian Holme
Ms. Lynn Hurt
Ms. Carol Jones
Mr. Michael Patten
Ms. Michelle Roaf
Mr. David Sabuda
Ms. Kirsten Silwanowicz
Ms. Vickie Sturgis
Ms. Leeya Sutter

Mr. Darrell Taylor
Mr. Andrew Thorner
Mr. Tony Vinson
Ms. Shannon White

Public Registered: Passenger

Mr. Jim Lang

1. Call to Order

A) Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers, Mr. Abdul Haidous (via conference call), Mr. Royce Maniko (via conference call), Mr. Bret Rasegan, and Ms. Vicki Wolber

Absent: Vice-Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal and Mr. John Paul Rea

A quorum was present.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Vicki Wolber, seconded by Mr. Bret Rasegan, to approve the Agenda for the January 23, 2020 meeting.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. Certification of Public Notice

The Secretary read the Public Notice into the record.

5. Minutes

A. Board Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2019

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Royce Maniko, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, to approve the Board meeting minutes for December 12, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

B. 1st Executive Session Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2019

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Bret Rasegan, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, to approve the 1st Executive Session meeting minutes for December 12, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

C. 2nd Executive Session Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2019

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Bret Rasegan, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, to approve the 2nd Executive Session meeting minutes for December 12, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. Public Participation

Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers declared the meeting open for Public Participation.

DISCUSSION:

None

7. Chairperson's Report

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers said she is looking forward to working with everyone and serving on SMART's Board as Chairperson.

8. General Manager's Report

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers voiced her concerns with the difficulty nationwide of recruiting drivers.

Mr. Robert Cramer, Deputy General Manager, informed the Board that SMART has reached out to Goodwill and many other employment programs to try and recruit more drivers.

Mr. John Hertel, General Manager, reported on the following:

FAST is now in its third year. When looking back to December of 2019 and comparing it to before FAST started, the two-year weekday ridership numbers are really amazing:

- Michigan Avenue corridor increased 68%
- Woodward Avenue corridor increased 96%
- Gratiot Avenue corridor increased 40%
- All three FAST corridors increased 61%
- On average, there were 5,000 additional riders every weekday on the FAST corridors compared to pre-FAST
- SMART's overall system ridership over the two year period is up over 20%

The SMART Path Plan you've been hearing about over the last 18 months is nearly complete. SMART is planning to bring the final plan to the Board for consideration at the February Board meeting. The final adjustments made based on the last public input period included altering the microtransit phase one zones to add additional zones along Hall Road in Macomb County and the Fairlane Mall area in Wayne County. Other changes included:

- Changing Route 580 (Harper) in Macomb and Wayne Counties to a new I-94 based Park and Ride Route
- Reverting initial recommendations for Route 400 in Southfield to keep the current routing in response to feedback from Beaumont on Northwestern Highway
- SMART is taking a prominent role in the RTA-led Coordinated Services Plan project that will guide future decision making, such as FTA's Section 5310 projects like those that the Board will be considering for approval today. More information is available, if desired.

- **Human Resources** Contract negotiations with UAW, ATU Clerical, and ATU representatives remain ongoing
- SMART is continuing efforts to staff open driver and mechanic positions

Filled Positions:

- 1 Mechanic
- 1 Customer Service Operator
- 1 Senior Purchasing Agent
- 1 Schedule Writer
- 1 Office Supervisor

Retirements in December, 2019:

- 2 Fixed Route Operators retired in December, 2019

9. New Business

A. Resolution: SMART FY 2018-2019 5310 Program of Projects

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Abdul Haidous, seconded by Mr. Bret Rasegan, that the Board of Directors of SMART authorizes the General Manager of SMART to submit the Program of Projects for FY 2018-2019 to FTA in compliance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. Section 5310, as amended.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers asked if there were requests submitted to SMART that SMART could not fund. Mr. Robert Cramer stated that SMART was not able to fund all of the replacement vehicles requested. This consisted of 31 requests for small buses and 11 requests for vans. SMART was only able to fund 8 small buses and 7 vans.

VOTE: Board members in attendance voted in the affirmative. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Resolution: Authorization to Award a Contract for an Employee Benefits Consultant

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Vicki Wolber, seconded by Mr. Royce Maniko, that the General Manager of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to award a contract for an Employee Benefits Consultant to Cornerstone Municipal Advisory Group located at 50 W. Big Beaver, Suite 200, Troy, Michigan 48084. The Contract is for a three-year term with two, one-year renewal options. The cost for the three-year contract is \$280,000.00. The five-year term cost is \$500,000.00.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Ms. Hilarie Chambers asked if Cornerstone Municipal Advisory Group was a new benefits consultant for SMART. Mr. Robert Cramer confirmed it was.

VOTE: Board members in attendance voted in the affirmative. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

10. Board Member Business

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Royce Maniko congratulated SMART staff on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion made by Ms. Vicki Wolber, seconded by Mr. Bret Rasegan, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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