SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES –July 23, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) met on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Macomb Terminal, located at 22900 E. 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035.

ATTENDANCE

SMART Board of Directors:	Chairperson	John Paul Rea
	Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Eli Cooper
		Ms. Sheila Cote
		Dr. Curtis Ivery
		Ms. Diana McBroom
		Mr. Assad Turfe
Absent Board Members:		Mr. Royce Maniko
General Manager:		Ms. Tiffany J Gunter
Deputy General Manager		Ms. Harmony Lloyd
SMART Board Administrator:		Ms. Tiffany Martin -Patterson
SMART Staff Present:		Mr. Caleb Barrett
		Ms. Laura Bieniek
		Mr. Norman Buhagiar
		Mr. Ryan Byrne
		Mr. Andray Clarke
		Ms. Traci Davis
		Ms. Erika DeLange
		Mr. Andrew Dodt
		Mr. Nate Ford

Ms. Beth Gibbons
Mr. James Henderson
Mr. Ian Holme
Mr. Paul Johnson
Ms. Monica Jordan
Ms. Vickie Jordan-Strugs
Ms. Tianna Leapheart
Mr. Quincy Lewis
Ms. Bonnie McInerney
Ms. Kesha McKinney
Ms. Amie May
Ms. Jacqueline Owens
Mr. Bernard Parker
Mr. Sean Riopelle
Mr. Corey Rowe
Mr. Devin Street
Mr. Jordan VonZynda
Mr. D'Andrae Whitley
Ms. Shannon White
Mr. Danny Whitehouse
Ms. Cassandra Whitfield

Public Registered:

Brother Cunningham
Nikki Nolan
Antoine Moore

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

   Present: Chairperson Mr. John Paul Rea, Vice-Chairperson Mr. Eli Cooper, Ms. Sheila Cote, Dr. Curtis Ivery, Ms. Diana McBroom, Mr. Assad Turfe

   Absent: Mr. Royce Maniko

   A quorum was present.

4. **Adoption of Agenda**

   MOTION: Moved by Dr. Curtis Ivery, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, to adopt the Agenda for the Thursday, July 23, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.

   DISCUSSION
   None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

5. **Certification of Public Notice**

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

6. **Minutes**

A. Board Meeting Minutes for SMART's June 25, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Sheila Cote, seconded by Mr. Eli Cooper, to approve the minutes for the Thursday, June 25, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.

DISCUSSION:
None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

B. Board Meeting Minutes for SMART's June 25, 2026 Board of Directors Executive Session

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Diana McBroom, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, to approve the minutes for the Thursday, June 25, 2026 Board of Directors Executive Session.

DISCUSSION:
None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. **Public Participation**

Chairperson Mr. John Paul Rea declared the meeting open for Public Participation.
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The following participants voiced their concerns and made comments in person:

Nikki Nolan of Macomb County extended thanks to SMART for opening their facility to outside viewers; as a fan of transit, seeing the inner workings of a facility is interesting. Nolan wished SMART luck in the Wayne and Macomb County elections.

Brother Cunningham of Wayne County mentioned SMART did not have anyone outside to help attendees locate the Macomb Terminal's Hein Building. He, along with his older cousin who is visually impaired, had difficulty walking to the building. For off-site meetings, he would like to have someone to guide him to the

exact location.

Cunningham expressed a desire to ensure meetings were on FAST bus routes. He thanked SMART for providing the flyer for the sounding board and for the Board meeting, while also allowing him to assist. He also gave gratitude for the cooling coaches and the oncoming Wi-Fi. Finally, he mentioned having SMART Sounding Board meetings being hybrid would be a boon.

Duane Vosber, speaking on behalf of Veterans of Foreign Wars, stated SMART placed a bus in front of our property in the past year. VFW requests that the Board authorize placing a weatherproof structure at this location similar to those located on Gratiot southeast of 23 Mile Road. Currently, there's a concrete pad and sign between the sidewalk and road; because it is exposed to the elements, riders use the front lawn to seek relief in uncomfortable weather and while waiting. The problem with this is that they usually occupy spaces on VFW property, which the veterans find offensive. They also occupy a gazebo placed in front of the entrance to honor veterans, but that structure will be removed soon. VFW requests SMART provide a bench and structure to help riders, while also allowing veteran monuments to be respected.

DISCUSSION:
None

8. Chairperson's Report

DISCUSSION:
Chairperson John Paul Rea thanked all in attendance for coming to see changes in the Macomb County Service Center. He also announced the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, at its 3:00 meeting, would be debating the public transit millage. He thanked Tiffany Gunter and SMART staff for drafting a proposal which would be up for consideration. Lastly, Rea introduced Antoine Moore, a student from River Rouge High School.

Antoine Moore thanked the Board of Directors and SMART staff for introducing free fares for students. He regarded being able to show his student ID to receive a ride to his destination as "amazing." Moore recapped his meeting with first few meetings Tiffany Gunter while riding to his father's house; because of his interest in becoming a bus driver, she encouraged him to speak to everyone at the meeting.

9. General Manager's Report

MOTION: Moved by Sheila Cote, seconded by Dr. Curtis Ivery, to receive and file the General Manager's Report.

DISCUSSION:
Tiffany J. Gunter, SMART's General Manager and CEO, thanked all who attended and toured the facility, with special thanks to Senator Hertel for testing the simulation machines.

She also addressed Antoine Moore, explaining how they met, and offered encouragement regarding his career.

Ms. Gunter was appointed as General Manager one year ago as of the July Board Meeting. There were a multitude of issues prior to her assuming the role, who has worked with staff to address and resolve them. This has restored public trust and improved internal relations.

She explained why the Macomb Terminal was selected to host the Board meeting: the simulation machines, which the other terminals do not have.

Gunter recapped some notable victories for. The authority received a 25 million dollar build grant to improve SMART's infrastructure. Serving as Co-chair for Mayor Sheffield's Transition Team allowed SMART to fit into the city's vision. The three counties have come together to prioritize transit. In addition, SMART hosted the Transit Board Members and Transit Board Administrators Seminar. She thanked staff and partners for their assistance.

Through the Think SMART Campaign, Fare Talk, the SMART podcast, and SMARTie, the mascot, the authority is also reshaping how people see and connect with transit. The public largely witnesses just the riding aspect of transit. However, the simulators allowed visitors to see everything which happens behind the scenes.

Because of expanded service, faster service, and shorter wait times, ridership numbers have increased by 30% on some routes. Ghost buses have been cut on the transit app. In June, there were 4,900 new users of the transit app. Bus shelters were inspected and upgraded, Wi-Fi will be added to the entire fleet by the end of the year. As of the July Board meeting, SMART has a 77.9% on-time performance rating. Facilities have been and currently are receiving upgrades, as they are critical to provide good service.

Finally, Tiffany Gunter mentioned the Heart of SMART is its employees. In partnership with ATU, SMART launched a mentorship program for employees. The prior year, SMART held its first Bus Roadeo, which is taking place again in August. Gunter also recapped Breast Cancer Month, food delivery with Meals and Wheels, and warming and cooling buses. Lastly, SMART introduced its Regional Youth Program, offering free fares for students.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

10. Nominating Committee Appointment

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Curtis Ivery, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, that the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), hereby approves the appointments to the nominating committee: Ms. Sheila Cote of Macomb County as Chairperson, Dr. Curtis Ivery of Wayne County, and Ms. Diana McBroom of Oakland County.

DISCUSSION:
None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

11. Audit Committee Appointment

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Assad Turfe, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, that the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, hereby approves the appointment of the Audit Committee for the 2025-26 term: Ms. Diana McBroom of Oakland County as Chairperson, Ms. Sheila Cote of Macomb County, and Mr. Assad Turfe of Wayne County.

DISCUSSION:
None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

12. New Business

A. Resolution: Authorization to Award a Contract for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System Upgrade Consultant

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Curtis Ivery, seconded by Mr. Eli Cooper, that the General Manager of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to award a contract for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System Upgrade Consulting Services with Intueor Consulting, Inc. for a contract term not to exceed three (3) years for an amount not to exceed $1,144,550.00

DISCUSSION:
None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED

B. Amendment to the FY2026/27 General Operating Budget – Contracted Maintenance Expenditures

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Eli Cooper, seconded by Ms. Diana McBroom, that the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation hereby approves the budget amendment outlined in the agenda item dated July 23, 2026, and hereby increases the line items as noted.

DISCUSSION:
Tiffany Gunter further expounded on this item. To comply with Federal Transit Administration standards, SMART is allocating additional funds for preventative maintenance.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

C. Resolution: Authorization to Approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to Non-Warranty Engine Repair

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Diana McBroom, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, that the General Manager of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to the Non-Warranty Cummins Engine Repair Contract, which will consolidate both non-warranty engine repair and the replacement engine contract into a single contract and increase funding by an amount not to exceed $2,100,000.00 during the base contract period, $800,000.00 during Option Year 1, and $800,000.00 during Option Year 2, for an aggregate approved not to exceed amount of $4,750,000.00.

DISCUSSION:
Chairperson John Paul Rea thanked Nate Ford for assuming responsibility during restructuring of SMART's maintenance department. Tiffany Gunter mentioned the fleet is aging, and costs will decrease as preventative maintenance is done. The resolutions allows for the current fleet to be maintained while awaiting new vehicles.

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

D. Resolution: FY2026 5310 Program of Projects

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Eli Cooper, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, that the Board of Directors of SMART authorizes the General Manager of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation to submit the Program of Projects for FY 2026 for $4,587,847.00 to FTA in compliance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. Section 5310, as amended.

DISCUSSION:
None

VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.

13. Board Member Business

DISCUSSION:
None

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 P.M. upon a motion made by Ms. Diana McBroom, seconded by Ms. Sheila Cote, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Martin-Patterson
Board Administrator