



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2026
BOARD MEETING**

PRESENT: Luke Zelley, Nate Henry, Glenn Wilson, Sharon Reeves, Tommie Johnson, Candace Mushatt (8:06 AM)

ABSENT: Scott Bennett, Charles Winfrey, James Avery

GUESTS: Barry Wolf, MTA Attorney, Josh Salazar and Smith Myung, HDR

STAFF: Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Tim Ashley, Corwin Mathews, Ed Burger, Dennis McDonagh, Shawnice Dorsey, Elizabeth Davis, Patrick Tesler, Melinda Johnson, Rod Evans, Kevin Galloway, Michele Loper, Michael Foerster, Lori Lavery, Amani Crain

Chairperson Zelley called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

Comments of the Public

Michael Harris, Johnny Hardiman, and Don Zaharia of AeroBus each spoke regarding their plan to bring manufacturing of electric buses to the Flint area; creating numerous job opportunities and contributing to economic growth in the area.

Luke Zelley thanked the group for their public comments.

Executive Session – Attorney Barry Wolf

Attorney Wolf requested that the board meet in closed session to discuss two cases, #24-120743-NI, and #23-119777-NF. Attorney Wolf stated that both cases are pending litigation and to discuss them publicly may affect the MTA's ability to successfully settle each case.

Glenn Wilson made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose as stated by Attorney Wolf, supported by Nate Henry,

Roll Call Vote:

Luke Zelley, Glenn Wilson, Nate Henry, Candace Mushatt, Tommie Johnson, and Sharon Reeves voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. Regular session suspended: 8:12 A.M.

Luke Zelley called the meeting back onto regular session at 8:27 AM.

Nate Henry made a motion to approve the recommendation of Attorney Wolf as discussed in closed session, supported by Sharon Reeves; motion passed unanimously.

Glenn Wilson moved acceptance of the Agenda, seconded by Nate Henry; motion approved unanimously.

Approval of the March 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Sharon Reeves made a motion to approve the March 26, 2026 board meeting minutes, supported by Nate Henry; motion approved unanimously.

Rescind Resolution #26-19 authorizing the General Manager to take the necessary action to have the Mass Transportation Authority millage renewal proposal submitted to the electorate of Genesee County.

Nate Henry moved, seconded by Sharon Reeves, to rescind resolution #26-19. Motion carried.

Resolution #26-30 authorizing the General Manager to take the necessary action to have the Mass Transportation Authority millage renewal proposal submitted to the electorate of Genesee County.

Ed Benning stated that previously board members approved a resolution to allow us to seek a millage increase of 5/10, we are now recommending to reduce that amount before the proposal is turned over to the county for the ballot for the August election. Mr. Benning stated that in doing so it is necessary to rescind the previous resolution to take action on the new recommendation of 3/10.

Glenn Wilson moved, supported by Candace Mushatt, to approved resolution #26-30. The motion passed with five (5) votes in favor, one (1) opposed.

Resolution #26-31 authorizing the General Manager to utilize the MiDEAL State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program to purchase six (6) Chrysler Voyager Minivans and selected options from Hoekstra Transportation (Grand Rapids, MI) for an amount not to exceed \$422,873.40.

Glenn Wilson moved, supported by Sharon Reeves, to approve resolution #26-31.

Ed Benning stated that the MTA has grant funds that will allow us to move forward to purchase six minivans through the state of Michigan MiDEAL program.

Motion approved unanimously.

Ed Benning introduced Amy Bidwell, Executive Director and Jamie Forbes, Director of External Affairs at Saginaw Transit Authority & Regional Services (STARS). Mr. Benning stated that STARS is partnering with us on the regional transportation study and that is has been a pleasure working with them and their board members on this project.

Regional Transportation Study – Smith Myung and Josh Salazar - HDR, Inc.

Josh Salazar introduced himself and Smith Myung to board members before turning the presentation over to Smith. Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation to board members which included a project overview, several study findings, public survey results, and immediate, and long-term recommendations. Smith ended the presentation by reviewing the recommendations for the various organizational models moving forward.

Micro-Transit Service – Dennis McDonagh, MTA Director Planning & Grants

Dennis presented the newly designed logo for the micro-transit service to board members. Dennis described the new Genesee Connect micro-transit service and provided an overview of how the program will work within the various zones and the initial rollout process for the service, including funding and the next steps for the program.

Glenn Wilson made a motion to move forward with the plans for the micro-transit program, seconded by Nate Henry. Motion approved unanimously.

General Manager Report

Ed Benning shared that staff members have been working with the University of Michigan on a partnership that could include enhancements which would allow the MTA better outcomes for the utilization of hydrogen, the optimization of the batteries, and may also include transportation services to all U of M campuses. Mr. Benning reported on additional potential partnerships, and future sustainability while meeting the needs in the community.

Comments of the Board

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 A.M.

