

**CENTRAL COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
KALAMAZOO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Joint Regular Meeting
October 13, 2025**

Place: Metro Administration Building, Kalamazoo, MI
Time: 11:30 A.M.
Staff Present: Sean McBride, Greg Vlietstra, Keshia Woodson-Sow, Richard Congdon, Vivian Dobbins, Cheryl Pesti, Vera Younger, Rob Branch, Scott Friedrich, Michael Clark, Annette Arkush, Barbara Blissett
Others Present: Jim Ferner, Bruce Schuur, Wayne Gensler, Jesse Ozdamar, Amy Martin, Earl Cox, Sr.

1.) KCTA ROLL CALL

KCTA Members Present: Curtis Aardema, Paul Ecklund*, Dusty Farmer, Aditya Rama, Greg Rosine, Gary Sigman, Tim Sloan**
KCTA Members Absent: James Ayers, Tafari Brown

A motion was made to excuse Brown.

Motion: Farmer

Second: Ayers

Motion carried by voice vote.

**Ecklund left the meeting at 1:00 pm.*

***Sloan left the meeting at 1:15 pm.*

1.) CCTA ROLL CALL

CCTA Members Present: Curtis Aardema, Nicole Beauchamp, Chris Burns, Dusty Farmer, Christyn Johnson, Garrylee McCormick, Jim Pearson***, Greg Rosine
CCTA Members Absent: Lisa Mackie

A motion was made to excuse Ayers and Mackie.

Motion: Farmer

Second:

Motion carried by voice vote.

****Pearson left the meeting at 1:10 pm.*

2.) REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

A motion was made by KCTA and CCTA for approval of the joint CCTA/KCTA meeting agenda for October 13, 2025 with the approval of the CCTA/KCTA meeting minutes from September 8, 2025.

Motion: Rosine/Sloan

Second: Rosine/Beauchamp

Motion carried by voice vote.

3.) PUBLIC COMMENTS – Jim Ferner spoke regarding the time it takes to travel from one location to another such as Kohl's from downtown having to transfer buses and lack of communication on route changes.

Earl Cox, Sr. thanked Exec. Dir. McBride for his support for funding of public transportation while in Lansing during the State's budget negotiations. He said the unions had been lobbying for approximately two years for public transportation. Cox said it was nice to know they had additional support from MPTA.

4.) PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Rama reported that the Performance Monitoring Committee was presenting to the Boards the extension of the Via Transportation, Inc./Metro Link contract for an additional 21 months.

On-Demand Services Manager Richard Congdon commented that additionally when Via and Metro are working on initiatives that include stop locations, no-show procedures, and weather cancellation policies.

He said in the updated agreement will be provisions that detail requirements that include uniforms and on-time performance.

A motion was made by KCTA and CCTA to approve Via Transportation, Inc. contract extension for 21 months from January 1, 2026 through September 31, 2027 at an estimated cost of \$5,028,893. This approval authorizes the Executive Director to sign all related documents.

Motion: Sloan/Farmer

Second: McCormick/Pearson

Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Aardema, Ecklund, Farmer, Rama, Sigman, Sloan, Rosine

Nays: None

Absent: Ayers, Brown

Ayes: Aardema, Beauchamp, Burns, Farmer, Johnson, McCormick, Pearson, Rosine

Nays: None

Absent: Mackie

5.) EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Exec. Dir. McBride reported the status of jurisdictional presentations with multiple outreach meetings having been completed and feedback from the Legislative Breakfast. He thanked those who had completed their assignments. He noted that there were still three jurisdictions that needed a Boardmember to be assigned.

6.) BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Aardema said the Board Operations Committee met and reviewed the October 13th agenda and was currently working on the Executive Director's evaluation.

7.) EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Exec. Dir. McBride shared that the State budget had been approved with a positive outlook for funding public transit as part of the road funding package. He said that strong advocacy for public transit was provided by unions, ridership groups and transit systems.

Exec. Dir. McBride stated that the Federal shutdown hadn't really had an impact on transportation operations at this time. He said grants were currently on hold but, Metro was in a good place with purchases having already been completed.

Exec. Dir. McBride reported it was a busy time of year for staff and participating in community events as listed in his report.

Jesse Ozdamar from Via presented an overview of Metro Link's Pilot Project performance and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included with the minutes.)

Exec. Dir. McBride provided an update on the following topics:

- Outreach
- Human Resources
- State Budget Update
- Federal Shutdown

(A copy of the report is filed with the meeting minutes.)

8.) SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Pension Board – McCormick and Burns shared that the first quarter returns were in good standing.

KATS Policy Committee – Rama reported on the KATS meeting that the TIP Amendment had been approved. Chair Aardema added that discussion took place regarding the Sprinkle Road corridor and Portage Road relating to non-motorized traffic.

Local Advisory Committee (LAC) – Did not meet.

On-Demand Ambassador Report – Sloan reported on personal experiences with Metro Link services. (A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.)

9.) CHAIRPERSON REPORT – Chair Aardema commented on the recent completion of West Main Street East and West of Drake Road.

10.) PUBLIC COMMENT – Bruce Schuur requested a bus stop to be located on Drake Road closer to the Social Security Office.

11.) MEMBERS TIME -

Sloan announced that there would be a Disability Network event taking place in Schoolcraft.

12.) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Burns introduced Amy Martin from Four Nines who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Metro Fare Study.

Amy Martin provided some background information on the Fare Study which began in 2024. She said Metro had gathered information of data and information on ridership, technology fare types according to Metro policy. Four Nines then conducted a multi-week survey for riders.

Martin then shared that working with Metro, the following information provided would help determine the future of Metro's goal for the project as a whole including:

- Fixed Route Options
 - Fare Structure
 - Fare Level Options
 - Fare Technology
- Metro Connect Fare Options
- Metro Link Fare Options
- Next Steps and Timelines

Discussion by Boardmembers followed with concerns about raising fares and how much, technology updates that were needed, farebox longevity and eliminating cash fares.

Chair Aardema thanked Amy Martin for and in-depth presentation giving Boardmembers a lot to digest and discuss.

13.) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by KCTA and CCTA to adjourn the KCTA/CCTA meeting.

Motion: McCormick


Support: Sigman

Motion carried by voice vote.


The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.




Curtis Aardema
CCTA Chairperson



Barbara Blissett
CCTA Clerk



Curtis Aardema
KCTA Chairperson



Barbara Blissett
KCTA Clerk