



Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) Board of Trustees Meeting

MINUTES – Approved

DATE: Wednesday, August 30, 2023
 TIME: 3:00 p.m.
 PLACE: Illinois Terminal, 45 East University Avenue, Champaign, IL

The video of this meeting can be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/CUMTD>

Trustees:

| Present | Absent |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Dick Barnes | |
| Margaret Chaplan (Vice-Chair) | |
| | Tomas Delgado |
| Bradley Diel (Chair) | |
| Phil Fiscella | |
| Bruce Hannon | |
| Alan Nudo | |

Advisory Board:

| Present | Absent |
|---------|----------------|
| | Maria McMullen |
| | |

MTD Staff: Karl Gnadt (Managing Director), Amy Snyder (Chief of Staff), Michelle Wright (Finance Director), Josh Berbaum (Maintenance/Facilities Director), Jay Rank (Operations Director), Ashlee McLaughlin (External Affairs Director), Brendan Sennett (Safety & Training Director), Drew Bargmann (Customer Service Director), Jacinda Crawmer (Human Resources Director), Beth Brunk (Clerk)

Others Present:

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 Chair Diel called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call
 Present (6) – Barnes, Chaplan, Diel, Fiscella, Hannon, Nudo
 Absent (1) – Delgado

 The clerk declared that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Agenda

 MOTION by Mr. Hannon to approve the agenda as distributed; seconded by Ms. Chaplan. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

4. Audience Participation
 None

5. Approval of Minutes
 A. Board Meeting (Open Session) – July 26, 2023

MOTION by Mr. Hannon to approve the open session minutes of the July 26, 2023, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Fiscella. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

6. Communications

None

7. Reports

A. Managing Director

Mr. Gnadt reviewed the statistics for July 2023 – the first month of the fiscal year. Ridership continues to recover in small steps – it is down 19% from July 2019 (pre-pandemic). The increase in Operating Revenue from last year is due in part to the rise in interest income from higher rates.

Mr. Gnadt is a member of the new Willard Airport Advisory Board whose task is “to advise in the development of a program relative to the administration and management of Willard Airport”. MTD has collaborated with Parkland College to create a new Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship program. An MTD employee will earn paid on-the-job training while also attending classes. When the apprentice has successfully completed the coursework, they will work at MTD as a full-time Maintenance Technician for at least two years.

8. Action Items

A. Bus Procurement Purchase Order

The District would like to exercise an option on the current New Flyer contract for the purchase of 26 40' diesel electric hybrid buses. These new buses would replace 26 buses that were purchased in 2011 and are past their useful life. The cost for each bus is \$786,622 for a total of \$20,452,172. Production is expected to begin in July 2024 and conclude in 2025. Additionally, New Flyer will provide maintenance training at a cost of \$60,455. These purchase requests will be funded through various sources: Federal Low-No grant 32%, Federal ARPA Allocation 23%, State ReBuild IL grant 35%, and MTD capital reserve 10% and are reflected in the FY2024 budget.

MOTION by Mr. Hannon to authorize the Managing Director to issue a purchase order to New Flyer in the amount of \$20,452,172 for 26 40' diesel electric hybrid buses; seconded by Ms. Chaplan. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Hannon to authorize the Managing Director to issue a purchase order to New Flyer in the amount of \$60,455 for maintenance personnel training related to bus components; seconded by Ms. Chaplan. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

B. Market Place Mall Agreement

MTD has operated at Market Place Mall (MPM) since it opened in 1975. In August 2022, MPM management proposed a \$2,500/month maintenance fee to access their property that MTD declined to accept. On August 22, 2023, MPM management proposed another agreement to access their property:

- Initial 5 Year Term: November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2028
- Monthly Maintenance Agreement Fee of \$1,500
- Existing routes would remain with no additional routes/stops added
- Any additional routes require written approval from Management
- Re-routing for any reason requires approval
- MTD maintains Certificate of Insurance
- Ceiling mounted real-time bus tracking monitor maintained by MTD
- If agreement ends, MTD is responsible to remove and restore to original condition

A potential problem with the language advanced by MPM management is the possible violation of the Federal Transit Administration's rules concerning charter service. A third party cannot be in control of MTD service such as dictating the number of bus stops and the frequency of vehicles entering the property. MTD's legal counsel would have to evaluate this possible conflict.

MOTION by Mr. Hannon to approve the Market Place Mall agreement; seconded by Mr. Nudo. Upon vote, the MOTION FAILED.

MTD wants to transport passengers to MPM and will continue to do so unless instructed otherwise by MPM management.

If MPM management decides to deny access to MTD, Mr. Nudo thought that legal counsel should examine this stance that restrains MTD, a public entity, from conducting business without doing the same to others.

MOTION by Mr. Nudo to pursue all legal avenues to protect MTD's rights to provide transportation for their customers to and from Market Place Mall; seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

Mr. Fiscella proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to instruct MTD's attorney to examine the potential existence of an easement from the District's access of MPM property over many years. Mr. Nudo agreed to the friendly amendment.

REVISED MOTION by Mr. Nudo to pursue all legal avenues to protect MTD's rights to provide transportation for their customers to and from Market Place Mall and examine the potential easement from MTD's historical access of MPM property; seconded by Mr. Fiscella. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gnadt noted that MTD will have to use another legal firm other than Meyer Capel as they already represent MPM.

9. Next Meeting

- A. Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – 3:00 p.m. at Illinois Terminal – 45 East University Avenue, Champaign

10. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Hannon to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Chaplan. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Diel adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Submitted by:


Clerk

Approved:


Board of Trustees Chair