



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

MINUTES – Approved

DATE: Wednesday, October 30, 2024
TIME: 3:00 pm
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	
Tomas Delgado	
Paul Debevec	
Phil Fiscella	
George Friedman	
Alan Nudo	
	Sharif Ullah

Advisory Board:

Present	Absent
	Averhy Sanborn
Jamie Singson	
Caitlin Kelly	

MTD Staff: Karl Gnadt (Managing Director), Amy Snyder (Deputy Managing Director), Katie Good (Executive Assistant and Clerk), Michelle Wright (Finance Director), Jay Rank (Operations Director), Jacinda Crawmer (Human Resources Director), Brendan Sennett (Safety and Training Director), Josh Berbaum (Maintenance and Facilities Director), Ashlee McLaughlin (External Affairs Director), Ryan Blackman (Technology Services Director), and Alyx Parker (MTD Attorney)

Others Present:

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present (6) – Barnes, Debevec, Delgado, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo

Absent (1) –Ullah

The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve the agenda as distributed; seconded by Mr. Fiscella. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

4. Audience Participation

Mr. Jacobs of Urbana spoke about issues with the Northeast Connect on-demand service users are experiencing.

5. Approval of Minutes

Board Meeting (Open Session)– September 25, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the open session minutes of the September 25, 2024, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

6. Communications

None

7. Reports

A. Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2050 Presentation

Susan Burgstrom, Planning Manager, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, reviewed the goals of the LRTP over the next five years and spoke about the community outreach RPC has conducted to ensure the needs of the community are taken into consideration for future projects. Ms. Burgstrom noted federal and state grant funding will not come to the community unless the LRTP is approved and in place, emphasizing the importance of the plan and working with member agencies, such as MTD, to ensure their needs are met. Mr. Gnadt also spoke to the importance of the LRTP stating it is how much of the federal and state funds are received by MTD and is a critical piece of work.

B. Volkert Presentation

Mr. Gnadt invited the primary members of the Volkert team MTD will work with on future real estate projects to introduce themselves. Teresa McClure, Roger Osthoff, Mark Bushnell, Jodi Griffel, and Cindy Largent introduced themselves and spoke about their area of expertise.

C. Managing Director

Mr. Gnadt reviewed statistics for September 2024. The September 2024 Ridership was up 27.1% from September 2023. It was stated that the increase in ridership may not be as dramatic next month due to the mild weather the community is experiencing. Year to date ridership for September 2024 was up 14% compared to September 2023. MTD ridership levels this month surpassed the September 2019 pre-pandemic levels by 10%.

September 2024 operating revenue was 5.8% above September 2023. Year to date operating revenue was 5.1% above FY2024. Monthly operating expenses were up 9.9% from FY2024. Year to date operating expenses were up 7.4% from FY2024. It is important to note that MTD is now back to 100% service levels which is a 20% increase in expenses, not including cost of living increase on wages. September 2024 operating revenue was \$470,613 above budget and operating expenses were \$1,129,773 below budget.

Mr. Gnadt noted MTD is offering free rides on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, for election day to help break down barriers for civic involvement. Discussion regarding funding challenges with the Downstate Operating Fund occurred, and how that is a challenge for new service and upcoming annexations. Northeast Connect was also discussed and how MTD is already working on adjusting trip parameters to allow for a more balanced trip experience.

D. 803 Rooftop Solar Array Expansion Update

Mr. Gnadt was joined by External Affairs Director, Ashlee McLaughlin. Ms. McLaughlin summarized the solar array bid process and explained the steps that have occurred for the procurement process thus far including sending out a rebid for the project with an updated scope. Ms. McLaughlin stated MTD is working with the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding limitations and high bid costs for the project.

8. Discussion Items

Trustee Friedman's proposed amendment to the bylaws allowing virtual participation for Trustees was presented. Discussion ensued regarding updating the bylaws in the future, including Trustee Friedman's proposed amendment. Trustees are interested in working with staff members and corporate council to review and possibly update MTD's bylaws. A refined version of the proposed amendment to allow virtual participation will be brought to the Board at December's meeting.

9. Action Items

A. Resolution No. 2024-3, Termination of Former ITE Development Agreement

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Guy Hall, MTD's counsel for the Illinois Terminal Expansion project. Mr. Hall provided a background of the agreement with Core Champaign Hockey, LLC and explained why the developers have stepped away from the project necessitating the termination.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve Resolution No. 2024-3; seconded by Mr. Nudo. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

B. Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) Intergovernmental Agreement

Mr. Gnadt stated this is an update to the regular intergovernmental agreement that forms the Metropolitan Planning Organization. All participating parties are taking the updated agreement to their respective Boards.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) Intergovernmental Agreement, seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

C. Update to Travel Policy #11

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Finance Director, Michelle Wright, to discuss the update to MTD's Travel Policy #11. Ms. Wright explained how the current policy works and what updates are being proposed for efficiency.

Mr. Nudo recommended the proposed update to the travel policy include the current airfare terminology equivalent of "coach".

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the update to Travel Policy #11 with the amended airfare terminology; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

D. Resolution 2024-4, Determining the Amount of Money Necessary to be Raised by the Tax Levy

Mr. Gnadt noted comments regarding the Tax Levy were made during the Managing Director's report and asked Trustees to keep that in mind. This is the first step in the process for the Board, setting an estimated levy amount. The resolution presented to the Board recommends a 5% increase but that may not accommodate the additional service the Board has advised MTD to undertake both with the areas of proposed annexation and advancing service to Carle Champaign on Curtis.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to amend Resolution 2024-4, Determining the Amount of Money Necessary to be Raised by the Tax Levy, from a 5% increase to a 10% increase; seconded by Mr. Nudo.

Roll Call:

Aye (6) – Barnes, Debevec, Delgado, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo
Nay (0)

The MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve Resolution 2024-4, Determining the Amount of Money Necessary to be Raised by the Tax Levy, as amended; seconded by Mr. Nudo.

Roll Call:

Aye (6) – Barnes, Debevec, Delgado, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo
Nay (0)

The MOTION CARRIED.

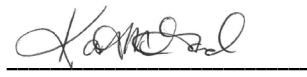
10. Next Meeting

- A. Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – Wednesday, December 4, 2024– 3:00 pm – at Illinois Terminal, 45 East University Ave, Champaign.

11. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Nudo.

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.



Clerk

Approved 12/04/24:



Board of Trustees, Chair