



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

MINUTES – Approved

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
 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	
	Christopher Walton

MTD Staff: Karl Gnadt (Managing Director), Amy Snyder (Deputy Managing Director), Katie Good (Executive Assistant and Clerk), Michelle Wright (Finance Director), Josh Berbaum (Maintenance and Facilities Director), Ashlee McLaughlin (External Affairs Director), Jacinda Crawmer (Human Resources 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, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah  
  
 Absent (1) – Delgado  
  
 The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.
  
3. Approval of Agenda  
  
 MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the agenda as distributed; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

4. Audience Participation  
There was no audience participation.

5. Approval of Minutes  
Board Meeting (Open Session)– January 29, 2025

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the open session minutes of the January 29, 2025, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

6. Communications  
None

7. Reports  
A. Managing Director

Mr. Gnatd reviewed statistics for January 2025. The January 2025 ridership was up 1.8% from January 2024. Year to date ridership for January 2025 was up 19.33% compared to January 2024. It was noted there were three fewer U of I weekdays and one fewer U of I Saturday than in 2019, explaining the modest growth.

January 2024 operating revenue was 3.7% below January 2024. This is a result of the reduction in current interest rates. Year to date operating revenue was 0.5% above FY2024. Monthly operating expenses were up 5.8% from FY2024. Year to date operating expenses were up 6% from FY2024. January 2025 operating revenue was \$1,616,943 above budget and operating expenses were \$2,291,601 below budget.

Mr. Gnatd stated Market Place Mall has asked MTD to vacate their property. Beginning with the new service year in August, buses will no longer enter the mall property. Service to the area will continue with a stop at Center Drive and Neil Street.

B. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Presentation

Mr. Gnatd was joined by External Affairs Director, Ashlee McLaughlin, to provide an overview and discuss the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, which is updated every three years.

Ms. McLaughlin provided an overview of the program and explained some of the recent changes including a federal update from April 2024 and clarifications to design build contract performance plans. The DBE goal has been updated for fiscal years 2025-2027, which is 1.84% in federally funded contracts. This number has decreased from previous years due to removing the Illinois Terminal Expansion construction from the three year plan owing to construction delays.

C. Committees of the Whole – Chair and Vice-Chair Assignments

Mr. Barnes assigned the following committee positions:

Administration—Nudo (Chair); Friedman (Vice-Chair)  
Facilities—Ullah (Chair); Debevec (Vice-Chair)  
Service Delivery—Fiscella (Chair); Delgado (Vice-Chair)

8. Action Items  
A. MTD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the MTD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025; seconded by Mr. Debevec.

Roll Call:  
Aye (6) – Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes

Nay (0)  
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 2025-2 – Setting a Public Hearing for an Annexation in Boulder Ridge Subdivision, Champaign

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve Resolution 2025-2; seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Roll Call:  
Aye (6) – Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes  
Nay (0)  
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 2025-3 – Setting a Public Hearing for an Annexation in Northwest of I57, Champaign

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve Resolution 2025-3; seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Roll Call:  
Aye (6) – Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes  
Nay (0)  
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

D. Approval of Bus Procurement Purchase Order

Mr. Gnadt stated this purchase order is for expansion buses, not replacement buses. One of the reasons MTD is asking for this approval is to accommodate future additional services plans. This includes the Carle Clinic on Curtis which would require two additional buses. It was noted that bus orders take between 18-24 months; therefore, taking a proactive approach is essential.

Mr. Gnadt was joined by External Affairs Director, Ashlee McLaughlin, and Maintenance Director, Josh Berbaum. Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the purchase order memo and explained the purchase of eight diesel-electric hybrid buses would allow for an increased spare bus ratio of 20%. The current spare ratio is 15%. A higher spare ratio allows for more vehicles to be available for routine and unexpected maintenance at any given time as well as to accommodate training needs.

Mr. Berbaum explained MTD has been operating at a deficit at the 15% spare ratio mark. This has been challenging at times due to long lead times on vehicle part orders. The Maintenance Department has been proactive by keeping spare parts on hand when possible. Adding the additional eight buses would put MTD at the 20% allowable mark for spare buses per the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will help with the future service expansion plans of the District. Mr. Berbaum provided an overview of the current hydrogen fuel cell bus performance along with a hydrogen station performance update.

Mr. Gnadt clarified this purchase order is for hybrid buses, not hydrogen fuel cell buses, so that they can be immediately incorporated into the fleet once received. Once the current hydrogen fueling station has been expanded, allowing for more fueling capacity, more hydrogen fuel cell buses may be incorporated into the fleet.

MOTION by Mr. Ullah to approve the Bus Procurement Purchase Order; seconded by Mr. Debevec.

Roll Call:  
Aye (6) – Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes  
Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Ullah left the meeting at 3:36 pm.

E. Harassment Policy Update

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Human Resources Director, Jacinda Crawmer to discuss minor changes made to MTD's Harassment Policy.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the Harassment Policy update; seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Roll Call:

Aye (5) – Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Barnes

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

- A. Annexation Public Hearing – Tuesday, March 18, 2025– 4:00 pm – at First Baptist Church, 3311 South Philo Road, Urbana.
- B. Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – Wednesday, March 26, 2025– 3:00 pm – at Illinois Terminal, 45 East University Ave, Champaign.

10. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to adjourn into closed session to consider the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a Public Official followed by adjournment, seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Roll Call:


Aye (5) – Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Barnes

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting at 3:48 pm.

  
Clerk

Approved: 03/26/25

  
Board of Trustees, Chair