



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

### MINUTES – Approved

DATE: Wednesday, May 28, 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	
Laura Bleill	
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), Ryan Blackman (Technology Services Director), Jay Rank (Operations Director), Brendan Sennett (Safety and Training Director), Jacinda Crawmer (Human Resources 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 (5) – Barnes, Bleill, Debevec, Fiscella, Friedman

Absent (2) – Nudo, Ullah

The Clerk declared that a quorum was present.

##### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Barnes proposed a motion to amend the distributed agenda. The proposal was to move the Action Item-Proposed Changes for the 2025-2026 Service Year to follow the Managing Director's report. The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation would then take place after the action item discussion has concluded.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Roll Call:

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

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

**4. Audience Participation**

Captain Kenyon Sivels of Champaign had concerns about the proposed 2025-2026 Service Changes affecting Market Street.

Jennifer Valade of Champaign had concerns about the proposed 2025-2026 Service Changes affecting Market Street.

Matthew Peyton of Champaign had concerns about the proposed 2025-20256 Service Changes affecting Market Street.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

A. Board Meeting (Open Session)– April 30, 2025

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve the open session minutes of the April 30, 2025, 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 statistics for April 2025. April 2025 ridership was up 15.8% from April 2024. Mr. Gnadt noted this was a 6% increase from April 2019 ridership stating the increase in 2025 is significant when compared to a pre-pandemic number. Year to date ridership for April 2025 was up 18.92% compared to April 2024.

April 2025 operating revenue was 0.5% below April 2024. Year to date operating revenue was 0.1% above FY2024. Mr. Gnadt noted the decrease in operating revenue is a result of the reduction in current interest rates. Monthly operating expenses were up 3.5% from FY2024. Year to date operating expenses were up 6.2% from FY2024. April of last year MTD was at an 82% service level, MTD is now at a 100% service level resulting in this increase in operating expenses. April 2025 operating revenue was \$2,009,070 above budget and operating expenses were \$3,270,854 below budget.

Mr. Gnadt introduced Kurt Buckley, Assistant Safety & Training Director.

**8. Action Items**

A. Proposed Changes for the 2025-2026 Service Year

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Amy Snyder, Deputy Managing Director, and Jay Rank, Operations Director, to discuss the Proposed Changes for the 2025-2026 Service Year. Mr. Gnadt noted the service changes for this discussion are relative to the changes on north Market Street that are a direct response to Market Place Mall's demand that MTD buses cease operation on their property. Two new options were presented in response to public input.

Mr. Rank discussed the public hearing process for fall service changes and why the need arose to take a second look at the Yellow routing. Mr. Rank discussed the current Yellow routing and the

original proposal for the 2025-2026 route service changes. Mr. Rank reviewed alternative routing for the Yellow that would use Wood Duck Lane and Twins Drive. It was noted this option was not a consideration initially due to street parking on Twins Drive. Mr. Gnadt noted The City of Champaign agreed to remove parking on Twins Drive to allow better access for bus traffic should this route modification be approved. This route option would require an evening and weekend route variation that would return to Marketview Drive.

The second alternative Yellow route option presented uses Marketview Drive as originally proposed and incorporates a diversion to Apollo Drive mid-route. This alternative option does not require an evening or weekend route variation. Mr. Rank noted the preferred of the two proposed alternative Yellow routing suggestions would be to use Marketview Drive with the diversion to Apollo as this allows for service to continue to commercial properties on Marketview Drive that are popular amongst riders. Ms. Snyder noted this option also allows for a safer passenger stop to Market Place Mall with a controlled intersection at Neil & Center Dr. and avoids riders crossing through busy traffic on Market Street.

MOTION by Ms. Bleill to approve the second Alternative Yellow routing proposal using Marketview Drive; seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Roll Call:

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

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

**9. Reports Continued**

**B. FY2026 Draft Budget**

Mr. Gnadt noted the budget is a plan with many variables and stated it is adjustable. The current Federal and State funding climate remains uncertain, Mr. Gnadt stated MTD is moving forward with the assumption that access to these funds will remain in place. Mr. Gnadt discussed the highlights of the proposed FY2026 budget that will begin on July 1, 2025, and end on June 30, 2026. The tentative budget has been available for public review on MTD's website since May 23, 2025, and the public hearing on the budget will be held at the next Board meeting on June 25, 2025.

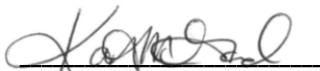
**10. Next Meeting**

- A. Regular Board of Trustees Meeting and Public Hearing on the FY2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance– Wednesday, June 25, 2025– 3:00 pm – at Illinois Terminal, 45 East University Ave, Champaign.

**11. Adjournment**

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

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

  
Clerk

Approved: 06/25/25

*Richard St. Barnes*

Board of Trustees, Chair