Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD)
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.
Illinois Terminal, North Banquet Room, 4th floor – 45 East University Avenue, Champaign
Approved | Recording available at youtube.com/@RideMTD

Attendance

Board of Trustees

Present	Absent
Dick Barnes – Chair	
Laura Bleill	
Mark Brown	
Phil Fiscella	
George Friedman	
Alan Nudo – Vice Chair	
Sharif Ullah	

Advisory Board

Present	Absent
Jamie Singson	Grayson Hodson

MTD Staff

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

Others Present

Mark Friedman, Jan Carter Niccum, Al Hagen, Ryan Tiarks

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present (7) – Barnes, Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah

Absent (0)

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

Mark Friedman of Urbana thanked MTD and the Board of Trustees for providing free rides to Veterans with the Veteran Pass. Mr. Friedman shared concerns regarding issues booking returns trips on the Northeast Connect.

Jan Carter Niccum of Savoy opposes the annexation of Liberty on the Lake Subdivision.

Al Hagan of Champaign opposes the annexation of Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Board Meeting (Open Session) – February 25, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve the open session minutes of the February 25, 2026, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Fiscella. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

B. Board Meeting (Closed Session) – February 25, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the closed session minutes of the February 25, 2026, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

C. Annexation Public Hearing – March 17, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the annexation public hearing minutes from March 17, 2026, as distributed; seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

6. Communications

None

7. Reports

A. Managing Director

Mr. Gnadt reviewed statistics for February 2026. February 2026 ridership was up 0.06% compared to February 2025. Year to date ridership for FY2026 was up 3.78% compared to FY2025.

February 2026 operating revenue was 1.70% above February 2025. Year-to-date operating revenue was 0.40% above FY2025. Monthly operating expenses were up 5.8% from FY2025. Year-to-date operating expenses were up 2.90% from FY2025. February 2026 operating revenue was $1,734,012 above budget and operating expenses were $3,266,632 below budget.

8. Action Items

A. Ordinance 2026-5 – Annexing Certain Territory – Cherry Hills

Mr. Gnadt noted no downsides to this annexation for the Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, reminding Trustees and audience members that churches are exempt from property taxes. Mr. Gnadt noted that should the ordinance pass, the area is immediately eligible for ADA service to qualifying passengers.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve Ordinance 2026 -5; seconded by Mr. Nudo.

Roll Call:
Aye (7)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes
Nay (0)
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

B. Ordinance 2026-6 – Annexing Certain Territory – Illinois Power-Ameren Services Tract

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve Ordinance 2026-6; seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

Roll Call:
Aye (7)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes
Nay (0)
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

C. Ordinance 2026-7 – Annexing Certain Territory – Carle-Liberty on the Lake

Mr. Nudo summarized the discussion that occurred at the March 17 Annexation Public Hearing. Mr. Gnadt noted several homeowners participated in alternate route discussions. The original proposal and two alternate routing proposals were shared with Trustees. Mr. Gnadt noted work on routing would continue and is not locked in should the ordinance pass. Discussion followed regarding governing bodies and what living within a community involves.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve Ordinance 2026-7; seconded by Mr. Ullah.

Roll Call:
Aye (7)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes
Nay (0)
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

D. Resolution 2026-5 – Downstate Operating Assistance Grant – FY2027

Mr. Gnadt noted this is an annual resolution that is a requirement of the Downstate Operating Assistance Program grant application.

Mr. Ullah left the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve Resolution 2026-5; seconded by Ms. Bleill.

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

The MOTION CARRIED

E. Mid Illinois Concrete & Excavation Contract for Shop Grates Phase II

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Josh Berbaum, Maintenance & Facilities Director. Mr. Berbaum provided an overview of the multi-phase shop grate project. Mr. Berbaum noted this project was accounted for in the approved FY2026 budget.

MOTION by Ms. Bleill to approve the Mid Illinois Concrete & Excavation Contract for Shop Grates Phase II; seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

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

The MOTION CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – 3:00 p.m. - at Illinois Terminal, 45 E University Ave, Champaign.

10. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to adjourn into closed session to consider salary schedules for one or more classes of employees followed by adjournment, seconded by Ms. Bleill.

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

The MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Clerk

Approved: 4/29/26

Board of Trustees, Chair