



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD)
Wednesday, May 27, 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

Laura Bleill

Mark Brown

Phil Fiscella

George Friedman

Alan Nudo – Vice Chair

Absent

Dick Barnes – Chair

Sharif Ullah

Advisory Board

Present

Caitlin Kelly

Jamie Singson

Absent

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), Josh Berbaum (Maintenance & Facilities Director), and Alyx Parker (MTD Corporate Counsel)

Others Present

Village of Savoy Planning Intern

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Nudo called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present (5) – Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo

Absent (2) – Barnes, Ullah

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. Brown. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

4. Audience Participation

None

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Board Meeting (Open Session) – April 29, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the open session minutes of the April 29, 2026, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Brown. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

6. Communications

None

7. Reports

A. Managing Director

Mr. Gnadt reviewed statistics for April 2026. April 2026 ridership was up 4.20% compared to April 2025. Mr. Gnadt noted that April 2026 and April 2025 had the same number of school days, weekdays, and weekend days, which offers a pure year-over-year comparison. Year-to-date ridership for FY2026 was up 4.07% compared to FY2025.

April 2026 operating revenue was 6.3% below April 2025. Year-to-date operating revenue was 0.40% below FY2025. Mr. Gnadt noted the predominate reason for the decrease in revenue is due to the reduction in interest revenue. Monthly operating expenses were up 10.7% from FY2025. Mr. Gnadt noted the predominate reason for this increase is due to the dramatic increase in fuel prices from last April. Mr. Gnadt noted that MTD purposefully budgets for fuel fluctuation to accommodate market variations. Year-to-date operating expenses were up 3.90% from FY2025. April 2026 operating revenue was \$1,613,704 above budget and operating expenses were \$3,573,338 below budget.

Mr. Gnadt shared that *Travel and Leisure Magazine* published an article titled *9 U. S. Cities With the Best Public Transportation – Besides New York City*, listing Champaign-Urbana, IL as number two. The article

noted that “Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District is an excellent example of how small cities can offer high-quality transit”.

Mr. Nudo pointed out that ridership to Marketplace Mall has drastically decreased with their decision to deny transit access to their property.

B. FY2027 Draft Budget

Mr. Gnadt noted the budget is a plan for the year ahead and accounts for both expected and anticipated items. Notable impacts to the FY2027 budget are the anticipated 17 Cherry route, insurance rate increases, and software implementation processes. The tentative budget has been available for public review on MTD’s website since May 22, 2026. The public hearing on the FY2027 budget will be held at the next Board meeting on June 24, 2026.

8. Action Items

A. City of Urbana Letter of Support – Enterprise Zone Technical Correction

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Michelle Wright, Finance Director, and noted the City of Urbana currently abates property taxes for five years on newly constructed homes with the existing program ending in FY2027. Amending the abatement would allow homes built in FY2027 to receive the full five-year benefit. Ms. Wright noted the Enterprise Zone is set to expire in 2030 and the City plans to apply for a ten-year extension. Ms. Wright stated MTD has been asked to amend its resolution so abatements may continue for the duration of the program rather than ending with the Enterprise Zone expiration, and to provide a letter of support for a technical correction to be submitted to the State.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve amending the District’s Urbana Enterprise Zone resolution and to provide the City of Urbana Letter of Support – Enterprise Zone Technical Correction; seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

Roll Call:

Aye (4)– Bleill, Brown, Friedman, Nudo

Nay (0)

Abstain (1)- Fiscella

The MOTION CARRIED

B. Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software & Implementation Services Contract

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Josh Berbaum, Maintenance & Facilities Director. Mr. Berbaum summarized how EAM software is used and its importance in the Maintenance & Facilities Department. Upgrading to a new EAM system will reduce manual processes and allow for enhanced data management and reporting.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve the Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software & Implementation Services Contract; seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

Roll Call:

Aye (5)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo,

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 2026-9 – Low or No Emission Grant for the Purchase of Eight 40 Foot Diesel-Electric Hybrid Buses

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Ashlee McLaughlin, External Affairs Director. Ms. McLaughlin noted the three grant applications on the agenda are anticipatory and approval of the resolutions will allow for timely submission once the application process opens. Ms. McLaughlin stated this resolution would allow MTD to apply for grant funds towards the purchase of the eight replacement 40-foot diesel-electric hybrid buses ordered in February 2026 and, if approved, allows for the 5307 formula funds currently committed to this procurement to be utilized for other District needs.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve Resolution 2026-9; seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

Roll Call:

Aye (5)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

D. Resolution 2026-10 – Resolution 2026-10 – Bus and Bus Facilities Grant for Construction of a Maintenance Annex in Urbana

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Ashlee McLaughlin, External Affairs Director. Ms. McLaughlin noted Resolution 2023-3 was passed in March 2023 committing local funding for a maintenance annex at 1209, 1211, and 1213 East University Avenue in Urbana. It was noted this project was paused as other priorities took precedence. Ms. McLaughlin stated MTD is now ready to proceed with the grant application process for this project when it opens, noting that the fleet size has expanded and the current body shop and storage space are inadequate.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve Resolution 2026-10; seconded by Ms. Bleill.

Roll Call:

Aye (5)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo

Nay (0)

Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

E. Resolution 2026-11 – Bus and Bus Facilities Grant for Construction of a Bus Transfer Center in Urbana

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Ashlee McLaughlin, External Affairs Director. Ms. McLaughlin noted there is some uncertainty about the desired site. Should the Urbana Civic Center be deemed a historic landmark, MTD will not proceed with a grant application for construction of a bus transfer center at this location. If there is no landmark status awarded, MTD will submit a grant application when the process opens.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve Resolution 2026-11; seconded by Ms. Bleill.

Roll Call:

Aye (5)– Bleill, Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo

Nay (0)
Abstain (0)

The MOTION CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

Annexation Public Hearing – Monday, June 22, 2026 – 5:00pm – at Curtis Road Church of God – 2406 Curtis Road, Champaign.

Regular Board of Trustees Meeting – Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 3:00 p.m. - at Illinois Terminal, 45 E University Ave, Champaign.

10. Adjournment

MOTION by Ms. Bleill to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Friedman.

Mr. Nudo adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.



Clerk

Approved: 6/24/26



Board of Trustees, Chair