Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD)
Wednesday, September 30, 2026 – 3:00 pm
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	Caitlin Kelly
Cade Whitt	

MTD Staff

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

Others Present

Valerie Johnson, Dave Banks, Merlin Maley, Tejashri Varpe

Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present (6)-Brown, Fiscella, Friedman, Nudo, Ullah, Barnes

Absent (1)-Bleill

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. Brown.

The MOTION CARRIED.

4. Audience Participation

Valerie Johnson of Champaign requested later evening service on the Lavender route and requested better traction on bus ramps.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Board Meeting (Open Session) – August 26, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the open session minutes of the August 26, 2026, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

B. Board Meeting (Closed Session) – August 26, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the closed session minutes of the August 26, 2026, MTD Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Mr. Friedman. Upon vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

6. Communications

None

7. Reports

A. Managing Director

Mr. Gnadt reviewed statistics for August 2026. August 2026 ridership was up 10.1% compared to August 2025. Year-to-date ridership for FY2027 was up 7.3% compared to FY2026.

August 2026 operating revenue was 0.2% below August 2025. Year-to-date operating revenue was 1.5% below FY2026. Monthly operating expenses were up 12.9% from FY2026. Year-to-date operating expenses were up 11.4% from FY2026. August 2026 operating revenue was $181,430 below budget and operating expenses were $1,239,608 below budget.

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Merlin Maley and Tejashri Varpe from Stantec, the Architectural & Engineering firm for the Illinois Terminal Expansion project. Mr. Maley and Ms. Varpe provided an overview of their roles as well as a tentative timeline for the expansion work.

8. Action Items

A. Update to the MTD Safety Sensitive Drug & Alcohol Policy

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Brendan Sennett, Safety & Training Director. Mr. Sennett provided an overview of the recent FTA Drug & Alcohol Program audit and summarized the need for the revision of the Safety Sensitive Drug & Alcohol Policy.

MOTION by Mr. Nudo to approve the Update to the Safety Sensitive Drug & Alcohol Policy and authorization for staff to make non contextual/substantive changes after Board approval; seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

The MOTION CARRIED

B. Transit Asset Management and State of Good Repair Policy

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Ashlee McLaughlin, External Affairs Director. Ms. McLaughlin provided an overview of the Transit Asset Management and State of Good Repair Policy and stated this is a requirement of the FTA Transit Asset Management Plan noting MTD qualifies as a Tier 1 Agency due to the number of buses needed during peak service.

MOTION by Mr. Fiscella to approve the Transit Asset Management and State of Good Repair Policy as written and authorize the Managing Director to sign and uphold it, seconded by Mr. Friedman.

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

The MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 2026-13 – Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant Application for Transit Related Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Ashlee McLaughlin, External Affairs Director, who provided an overview of the grant application process and noted that, if approved, this grant application will either provide funds for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for the Illinois Terminal Expansion Project or the Downtown Urbana Transfer Station project.

MOTION by Mr. Ullah to approve Resolution 2026-13, seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

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

D. FuelMaster Upgrades

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Josh Berbaum, Maintenance & Facilities Director. Mr. Gnadt noted this project was approved by the Board with the FY2027 budget. Mr. Berbaum provided an overview of the current FuelMaster system along with the features that will be implemented with the cloud-based upgrades.

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to approve the FuelMaster Upgrades, seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

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

E. Ordinance 2026-15 – INB Loan Authorization

Mr. Gnadt was joined by Michelle Wright, Finance Director. Ms. Wright provided an overview on the current taxable and tax-exempt lines of credit. Ms. Wright summarized the evaluation process that lead to INB's selection as the winning proposal.

MOTION by Mr. Ullah to approve Ordinance 2026-15, seconded by Mr. Fiscella.

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

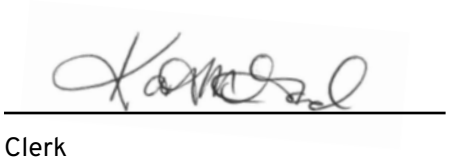
Next Meeting

Regular Board of Trustees Meeting– Wednesday, October 28, 2026– 3:00 pm – at Illinois Terminal, 45 East University Avenue, Champaign.

9. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Friedman to adjourn into closed session to discuss the potential sale or lease of real property followed by adjournment, seconded by Mr. Ullah.

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting at 3:41 pm.



Clerk

Approved: 10/28/26



Board of Trustees, Chair