



Proposed Meeting Summary Board of Directors

Thursday, July 17, 2025

1:00 PM

1. Call to Order at 1:01 PM.

2. Roll Call:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Attendance Status
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	P
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	P
June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	P
Jon Moore	Macomb County	P
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	P
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	P
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	P
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

Absent (A); Present (P); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)

RTA Representatives Present:

Ben Stupka, Rachel Schmuhl, Melanie Piana, Julia Roberts, Corri Wofford, Mshadoni Smith-Jackson, Kristin Caffray, Isaac Constans, Dasia Mack, Kameron Bloye

Other Meeting Participants:

Michelle Hodges – Rehmann

Ryan Bridges - MMA

3. Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Treasurer Wheeler Smith and supported by Member Bradshaw. The agenda for July 17, 2025, was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y
June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)

4. Public Comment

Robert Pawlowski – Robert introduced himself as the Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and mentioned that this would be his last RTA Board meeting. Robert acknowledged the accomplishments of the RTA in the last few years, including the D2A2 and DAX pilots, along with the QLINE acquisition [ownership transfer].

Lucas Lasecki – Lucas introduced himself as a representative from TRU and spoke in strong support for the RTA's contract with Transit App.

5. Executive Directors Report

- Executive Director Stupka presented the following topics:
 - Big News – Annual QLINE Survey
 - Administration
 - Culture, Team Evolution, Modernization of Procurement and Financial Procedures, Developing an Effective Compliance Program
 - Communications
 - Core Business – Planning, Initiatives
 - QLINE Performance – Ridership, On-time, Delays, Safety
 - Secretary Hendrix asked what problems the operator shortage poses.
 - Executive Director Stupka noted that this is a persistent problem and that there are two primary challenges in this respect. First, salaries are on-par with the bus providers in

the region, but slightly lower. Like the bus providers, they are union positions. The second challenge is that many drivers are taking FMLA at a rate higher than expected (Family and Medical Leave Act). Stupka explained that QLINE has trained four classes of drivers since January, with around 16-18 drivers per class.

- Member Bradshaw asked about retainment issues and working conditions.
 - Executive Director Stupka noted that the standard retainment issue is the early change over. Furthermore, because QLINE does not require CDLs, some applicants are not familiar with working on these types of vehicles and/or in these types of environments.
- D2A2, DAX Ridership
 - Member Staebler asked about potential alternate routes for D2A2.
 - Executive Director Stupka mentioned that the RTA is working with its consultants to analyze route and ridership data to determine optimal alternate routes.
- Overall Strategy & Strategy Plan Schedule

6. Presentations

- There was an added presentation to this Agenda. Executive Director Stupka presented the July 2026 Board Budget Briefing, titled, “Building Momentum: Advancing Strategic Board Direction,” which included:
 - Annual Budget Cycle Calendar
 - Strategic Board Direction
 - FY2026 Budget
 - Overview
 - Key Expense Drivers
 - Budget Realities
 - Revenue Projection
 - Solutions for Closing the Gaps
 - Member Bradshaw expressed concern for the pulling of ARPA funding from the federal government.
 - Executive Director Stupka introduced Brittany Galisdorfer from Bridgeport Consulting, who gave an overview of their firm’s experience and role in facilitation of RTA’s Strategic Planning initiative.

- Secretary Hendrix asked about the team’s size at Bridgeport Consulting and the team size for this project.
 - Galisdorfer explained that Bridgeport has a team of six, not including its partners, and that a team of four would be working on this project with the RTA.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of May 2025 Board Meeting Summary

b. Acceptance of Summary of Contracts

- Moved by Member Bradshaw and supported by Vice Chair Morandini. Treasurer Wheeler Smith abstained. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y
June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- *Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)*

8. Regular Agenda

a. Approval of May & June 2025 Financial Reports

- Michelle Hodges from Rehmann presented the May & June 2025 Financial Reports.
- Moved by Member Moore and supported by Member Bradshaw. The regular agenda was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y

June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- *Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)*

b. Approval of Transit App Contract

- Executive Director Stupka briefed the Board of Directors on the Transit App Contract and offered background on the application's capabilities.
 - Vice Chair Morandini asked about payment options for Transit App.
 - Executive Director Stupka explained that payment options on Transit require a credit or debit card. However, all regional providers in the region have a cash option. RTA's Mobility Wallet pilot is being designed with this payment limitation in mind, as it hopes to facilitate easier access to transit payment options, including those who are unbanked.
 - Member Bradshaw asked what Transit App plan/membership the RTA has purchased.
 - Executive Director Stupka explained that the RTA agreement includes access to the "Guide, Inform, Listen" package of Transit Royale.
- Moved by Member Bradshaw and supported by Treasurer Wheeler Smith. The Transit App Contract was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y

June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)

c. Approval of Updated RTA Drug and Alcohol Policy

- Executive Director Stupka briefed the Board of Directors on the RTA Drug and Alcohol Policy update.
 - Treasurer Wheeler Smith asked about the differentiation between the QLINE and RTA Drug and Alcohol Policies.
- Moved by Treasurer Wheeler Smith and supported by Secretary Hendrix. The Transit App Contract was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y
June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)

d. Approval of QLINE Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

- Executive Director Stupka briefed the Board of Directors on the QLINE PTASP.
- Moved by Treasurer Wheeler Smith and supported by Vice Chair Morandini. The QLINE PTASP was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y
June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- *Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)*

e. Approval of RTA Express Bus PTASP

- Executive Director Stupka briefed the Board of Directors on the RTA Express Bus PTASP.
- Moved by Vice Chair Morandini and supported by Treasurer Wheeler Smith. The RTA Express Bus PTASP was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Board of Directors members	Government Entity	Vote
Jeannette Bradshaw	Oakland County	Y
Freman Hendrix (Secretary)	City of Detroit	Y
June Lee	Wayne County	A
Dave Massaron (Chair)	State of Michigan	Y
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	Y
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	A

- *Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)*

9. New Business

- There was no new business.

10. Meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM.