



Proposed Meeting Summary Board of Directors

Thursday, August 21, 2025

1:00 PM

1. Call to Order at 1:02 PM.

2. Roll Call:

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

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 Member Moore and supported by Member Zack. The agenda for August 21, 2025, was approved. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

- Absent (A); Yea (Y); Nay (N); Virtual (V) means participating online, yet unable to vote on official business; Abstain (AB)
- Alma Wheeler Smith arrived at 1:04 PM, and June Lee arrived at 1:05 PM. 

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Executive Directors Report

- Big News
- Administration
- Communications
- Core Business – Planning
- Initiatives
- QLINE Performance
 - Ridership
 - On-time
 - Delays
 - Chair Massaron: When can we expect the summer weather/climate impacts to level out with regard to the ridership numbers for QLINE? Regarding heat-related battery issues, when can we see solutions?
 - Executive Director Stupka: Moving into the fall, numbers will look much more normal. August and September numbers will likely still reflect the summer heat impact, but October will likely see a return to normal. We are preparing for next summer right now, as the lead time is 9-12 months.

- Treasurer Wheeler Smith: Can you explain more about the “chillers” for the QLINE batteries? ... When we’ll get them, funding, long-term
 - Executive Director Stupka: Each streetcar has two chillers, and the purpose of the chillers is to keep the batteries cool. Five or six have were sent out for repair in January, and we only received the first two of them back in July.
- Safety
- Surveys
 - Member Zack: Who is conducting the surveys?
 - Executive Director Stupka: We are working with our communications contractor to conduct the online surveys, and our staff is out on the street conducting surveys in-person.
- D2A2/DAX
- Strategy

6. Public Hearing

a. FY 2025 – 2026 Budget Public Hearing

- a. Moved by Treasurer Wheeler Smith and supported by Vice Chair Morandini and approved unanimously by the board. Chair Massaron opened the FY 2025-2026 Budget Public Hearing at 1:16 PM.
- b. Executive Director Stupka presented the FY Business Plan and Budget.
 - i. Public Comment
 - ii. Lucas Lasecki commented on the quality and clarity of the budget document.
- c. Board Questions
 - i. Vice Chair Morandini: Can you explain how old QLINE infrastructural technology is?
 1. Executive Director Stupka: The infrastructure is the same age as the QLINE itself (10-15 years old). Where the agency’s most immediate concern lies is not as much with the fiber under the QLINE as it is with the fiber network on the vehicles themselves.
 2. Program Director Piana: The real opportunity is to incorporate QLINE’s assets into the long-term Capital

Improvement Plan and scheduling long-term maintenance and improvement, including the establishment of a replacement schedule.

ii. Member Lee: Is the goal to completely implement the ERP next year? What is the scale? What is the budget?

1. Executive Director Stupka: We will begin discovery at the beginning of next year. This will likely take between 3 months and 1 year. The project itself will likely start at some point at the end of FY 2026 or at the beginning of FY 2027.

iii. Treasurer Wheeler Smith: We have a small system now. Will we be able to implement the current systems into the new one (with the new ERP)?

1. Executive Director Stupka: Yes, and of course, this depends on where the Strategic Plan is going forward.

iv. Secretary Hendrix: Are we fully staffed (for both the Regional Services and QLINE staff)?

1. Executive Director Stupka: We have two positions pending that will be filled by the end of FY 2026, with an additional position budgeted.

d. Moved by Treasurer Wheeler Smith and supported by Member Zack to close the public hearing, which was approved unanimously. Chair Massaron closed the FY 2025-2026 Budget Public Hearing at 1:36 PM.

7. Presentations

a. Strategic Plan Overview

a. Program Director Piana presented the Strategic Plan Initiative Update kick-off presentation.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of July 2025 Board Meeting Summary

b. Approval of July 2025 Financial Report

c. Acceptance of Summary of Contracts

- Moved by Vice Chair Morandini and supported by Treasurer Wheeler Smith to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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

9. Regular Agenda

a. Approval of Rehmann Financial Services Contract

- Moved by Treasurer Wheeler Smith and supported by Member Moore to approve the Rehmann Financial Services Contract. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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

b. Approval of Amended Abbreviated EEO Program Plan

- Moved by Vice Chair Morandini and supported by Member Staebler to approve the Amended Abbreviated EEO Program Plan.. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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

c. Approval of FY 2026 – 2028 DBE Goal Methodology Update

- Moved by Member Moore and supported by Vice Chair Morandini to approve the FY 2026 – 2028 DBE Goal Methodology Update. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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

10. New Business

- Don Morandini: Is the Strategic Plan Overview slide deck online?
 - Executive Director Stupka: Yes, it is, and we will send it.
- Freman Hendrix: Is the DBE Goal Methodology Update online as well?
 - Executive Director Stupka: Yes, and we will send it.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM