



Proposed Meeting Summary

Board of Directors

September 18, 2025

1:00 PM

1. Call to Order at 1:06 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	P
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	P
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	P
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
Helaine Zack	Oakland County	P

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

Treasurer Wheeler Smith arrived at 1:04 PM. Member Lee arrived at 1:05 PM. Member Robertson arrived at 1:12 PM.

RTA Representatives Present:

Ben Stupka, Rachel Schmuhl, Julia Roberts, Corri Wofford, Mshadoni Smith-Jackson, Kristin Caffray, Isaac Constans, Dasia Mack, Jonathan Shead, Rebecca Donnelly-Lasecki, Kameron Bloye

Other Meeting Participants:

Michelle Hodges – Rehmann
Ryan Bridges - MMA

3. Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Secretary Hendrix and supported by Member Moore. The agenda for September 18, 2025, was approved. 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
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)*

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Executive Directors Report

- Big News
 - QLINE Survey
- Administration
- Communications
- Core Business – Planning
- Initiatives
- QLINE Performance
 - Ridership
 - On-time
 - Delays
 - Secretary Hendrix: What are you referring to when you mention scheduling system? Are the operators alerted when a car ahead of them is stopped and are subsequently instructed to stop? Is the Monday through Friday schedule for time between stops listed anywhere? Is there an app?

- Executive Director Stupka: QLINE has a new scheduling software, called ETA, and yes, there is more live information that operators can access. Yes, Transit (app) [will be launched in early November].
- Rachel Schmuhl: This new software includes messaging software features. The 15-minute headway is standard. On Monday through Saturday, the last streetcar leaves northbound from Congress at midnight. On Sunday, the final vehicle leaves at 9 PM northbound from Congress.
- Member Zack: Will the Transit App have the time until the next train?
 - Executive Director Stupka: Yes, it does, (along with a lot of other information).
 - Safety
 - Surveys
- D2A2/DAX
- Strategy

6. Presentations

There were no additional presentations.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of August 2025 Board Meeting Summary**
- b. **Approval of August 2025 Financial Report**
- Moved by Member Zack and supported by Member Robertson 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
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)*

8. Regular Agenda

a. Adoption of FY 2026 Budget & Business Plan

- Moved by Member Zack and supported by Member Moore to approve the Adoption of the FY 2026 Budget & Business 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
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 D2A2 & DAX Express Bus Services Vendor Award

- Secretary Hendrix: Who is providing marketing for this service?
 - Executive Director Stupka: InVerve Marketing.
- Member Robertson: Why was there only one bid? How do we know it is competitive?
 - Executive Director Stupka: There are not a lot of other vendors in Michigan that are able to provide this service. A few [other vendors] reached out to inquire, and it is a part of our procurement procedure to reach back out to these vendors to ask why they did not end up [submitting a proposal].
 - On gauging proposal competitiveness, we have pricing from the last several years. We are able to compare past pricing with current proposal pricing, showing us that it is in line with what we've paid previously. Along with that, we conducted an independent cost estimate to compare our pricing with other similar services around the country.

- Moved by Member Robertson and supported by Member Moore to approve the D2A2 & DAX Express Bus Services Vendor Award. 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
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. D2A2 Express Bus Analysis

- Planning & Innovation (P&I) Director, Julia Roberts, presented the D2A2 Express Bus Analysis.
- Member Robertson: What goes into SEMCOG's modeling?
 - Executive Director Stupka: SEMCOG is charged with demographic modeling for the next forty years for this region. They are looking at every input you could possibly come up with to figure out where the region is changing and shifting, considering population, travel patterns, etc., and we go to them to figure out what that modeling means.
- Treasurer Wheeler Smith: What has SEMCOG's modeling reliability proven to be over time?
 - Executive Director Stupka: That's a great question. We could have them come in and give a presentation to discuss that with [this Board].
 - P&I Director, Julia Roberts: To follow up on what KC was saying, population projects are the [basis] of these models and projections.
- Member Zack: Have we ever looked at (or helped facilitate) employer-paid van travel to connect with regional transit options?
 - Executive Director Stupka: Only at the highest levels have we looked at this. SEMCOG handles vanpooling with the State of Michigan, and this could be something that we consider when updating our master plan (RTMP).

- P&I Director, Julia Roberts: On this vanpooling topic, MichiVan is operated by SEMCOG, and VanRide is operated by TheRide.
- Treasurer Wheeler Smith: What is the significance of 2028 with respect to this service? If we don't have a [stable funding source], will we lose this service? Will Transit (app) help improve connectivity and streamlined travel? What has the RTA done in terms of the implementation of transit options in Livonia and Canton, specifically regarding coordination with SMART and TheRide?
 - P&I Director, Julia Roberts: [CY 2028] is the end of our grant funding for the services that we are currently operating. Yes, if we do not have stable funding source, we will lose our D2A2 service, along with others. Transit (app) should absolutely help streamline all transit options throughout the region (from all providers at all levels of service).
 - Executive Director Stupka: We have had some preliminary conversations with Wayne County (and TheRide) about expanding services into certain opt-out communities, including Canton and Livonia. They are very preliminary, but there is interest in expanding services.
 - P&I Director, Julia Roberts: Also, part of TheRide's long-term plan is looking at some of these types of express services connected to Ann Arbor, and the Canton/Plymouth area.
- The report was received by the Board. 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
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)*

d. Regional Community Survey Results

- The Regional Community Survey Results were received by the Board. 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	A
Jon Moore	Macomb County	Y
Don Morandini (Vice Chair)	Macomb County	A
Dr. Erica Robertson	Wayne County	Y
Alma Wheeler Smith (Treasurer)	Washtenaw County	Y
Ned Staebler	Washtenaw County	V
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. New Business

- Secretary Hendrix: On the QLINE, how do we find out about shelter repairs? Do we wait for riders to call it in?
 - Executive Director Stupka: We have a maintenance of way crew that is always monitoring shelters, looking at the tracks, and the overhead catenary system, etc. to make sure these elements are safe and operating properly. If there is not a crew out on the route, we almost always have a route supervisor in an RTA owned-pick-up to monitor the system.

10. Meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.