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Board of Trustees

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Agency: [Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority](#)

Date: Jan. 23, 2024

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Summary

- The board authorized a variety of contracts, including an agreement to spend up to about \$650,000 for a barrier-to-transit study.
- The transit authority's secretary treasurer gave updates on finances and ridership levels.
- The board honored recent retirees.

Follow-Up Questions

- I'm left wondering what plan the RTA has in mind to increase the number of riders.
- I'm also left wondering what happens if the percentage of riders falls to the point that there's more money going out than coming in. Will they shut it down all the way?

Notes

The meeting started at 9:16 a.m. Eight board members were in attendance:

- Board President: Rev. Charles P. Lucas, pastor emeritus, St. James AME Church
- Board Vice President: Paul A. Koomar, mayor, City of Bay Village
- Anthony D. Biasiotta, mayor, City of Seven Hills
- Stephen M. Love, program director, Cleveland Foundation
- Calley Mersmann, senior strategist, Transit & Mobility, City of Cleveland
- Jeffrey W. Sleasman, senior director, The Fund for Our Economic Future
- David E. Weiss, mayor, City of Shaker Heights
- Lauren R. Welch, assistant director of communications, Say Yes Cleveland

The board approved minutes from the Dec. 19 meeting.

Public comments

In person: None

Phone: Someone called but there was a problem with the phone line

Web form: None

Committee reports

- a. The Civilian Oversight Committee has two openings. If interested in applying, **visit** rideRTA.com
- b. Vice president pushes for audit forms to be filled out by board members.

Introduction of new employees and promotions

There were more than 30 new hires in the fourth quarter of 2023, and there were eight promotions in January. Visit rideRTA.com to see the presentation with names and more information.

Executive session

The board entered an executive session to consider GCRTA security arrangements and emergency response protocols.

Resolutions ([find the full agenda here](#))

2024-1

To express congratulations to retirees from the fourth quarter of 2023

Approved

2024-2

With GIRO Inc. to provide software for a period of one year to not exceed \$207,516 from the Information Technology Department budget.

Approved

2024-3

Authorizing a contract with Lake Business Products for digital color printing equipment and support services for a period of five years not to exceed \$287,821 from RTA development general funds to support the services department budget.

Approved

2024-4

Authorizing a contract with Michael Baker International Inc. to provide design services for the MetroHealth line transit project in an amount not to exceed \$2,353,751 from the RTA development fund, Engineering and Project Development Department budget.

7 yes votes, Mersmann abstained.

Approved

2024-5

Authorizing a contract with HDR Engineering Inc. to conduct a transit access barrier study for an amount not to exceed \$649,640.95 from RTA development fund programming and Planning Department Budget

Approved

2024-6

Authorizing a contract with Great Lakes Construction Co. for Tower City east portal rehabilitation in an amount not to exceed \$15,739.633 from the RTA development fund Engineering and Project Development Department budget

7 yes votes; Mersmann abstained. For more information on this project, visit [RTA - Greater Cleveland - rideRTA.com](https://www.rta.com)

Approved

2024-7

Authorizing a contract with Buckeye Power Sales Co. to provide generator maintenance for three years in an amount not to exceed \$174,550 with two one-year amounts not to exceed \$60,850 and \$61,350 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$296,750 for a period of five years from the general fund Service Management Department budget.

Approved

2024-8

Authorizing contract with Parsons Transportation Group for Brook Park Rail Shop modifications in an amount not to exceed \$283,739 From RTA development fund Engineering and Project Development Department budget.

7 yes votes, 1 Mersmann abstained.

Approved

2024-9

Authorizing contract with Government MLO Supplies USA for the furnishing of chemical ice melt for a period of two years not to exceed \$135,700 from general fund Fleet Management Department budget.

Approved

2024-10

Authorizing a contract with Oracle America Inc. to provide Oracle software licenses, maintenance and support services for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$648,690.77 from general fund Management Information Services Department budget.

Approved

2024-11

Authorizing a contract with Ultramain Systems Inc. for support and hosting services not to exceed \$1,766,631 for a period of three years from general fund Information Technology Department budget

Approved

2024-12

Authorizing the general manager and chief executive officer to enter into an updated

[memorandum of understanding](#) with the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI for continued participation in the organized crime task force

Approved

2024-13

Authorizing the RTA to enter into an option agreement with Flaherty and Collins Development LLC for the proposed sale of property adjacent to the West Park Rapid station

Approved

7 yes; Mersmann abstained.

Secretary treasurer report by Rajan D. Gautam

Topics discussed were:

- a. Economic conditions
- b. Ridership
- c. Passenger fares revenues
- d. Sales tax

General manager and CEO report by India Birdsong Terry

Topics discussed were:

- a. Temporary promotional programs
- b. Results of promotional programs
- c. Agreements with the Fraternal Order of Police
- d. An appearance by the transit police honor guard
- e. Congratulations to Casey Blaze for being recognized by Railway Magazine (fast trackers 25 under age 40 award)
- f. Congratulations to William Nix Sr. for retiring as president of a transit workers union

For more information on the reports above visit, check out the [presentation](#).

Public comments

Speaker #1

Voiced concerns about the lack of communication about removing transit stops and what he said was a growing population of people experiencing homelessness at transit stations

Next board meeting scheduled for Feb. 27.

Meeting adjourned

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at cleDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.