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Committee Meetings

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Agency: Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

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Summary

- Planning and funding must be procured for the maintenance of the rails, rail cars and buses.
- It will be easier for riders to get a ticket with EZfare.
- There are still many things that are unfunded but need to be accomplished

Follow-Up Questions

- Where else can money be found for projects?

Notes

The meeting started at 9 a.m.

The meeting opened with the security systems manager for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), Charles Brown. He talked about being ready for inspections and how and where inspections would take place. The fire alarm panels, sprinkler systems, fire pump, jockey pumps, locks and valves and fire alarm peripherals all have separate inspections.

Contract Administrator Anne Marie Prebish said all inspections will be conducted by Johnson Controls, which has prepared for and conducted these inspections for 25 years. Total award given to them: $1.65 million for five years. The contract was approved.

Next was EZfare service renewal. EZfare is a phone app that many Ohio riders can use to buy bus tickets. Josh Miranda, director of Management Information Services, said that in 2024 the app generated $2.77 million in ticket sales by the end of March.

Shawn Becker, a program contract manager, said there is an interagency agreement with NeoRide from the Masabi Company that will be acquired to continue with EZfare. The

recommended award for the program was $1.2 million for two years.

Becker said they are also getting new validators in Tower City. Another official said people who are unhoused, do not have a smartphone, are unbanked or do not have a credit card still need to have a way to buy a bus ticket. It will take 12 months to have the infrastructure in place in order to start using the EZfare program all around. Then the price of fares, etc., must be discussed and approved.

The contract was approved.

Next on the agenda was the garage repair at the main campus.

RTA owns the lower part of the garage. Pinnacle owns the upper floors. They showed photos of the disrepair and what needs to be fixed. The work will be done by JADCO Construction Company for $423,000. It was approved.

The next item on the agenda was the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. The total cost through five years would be $591 million. They have been awarded many grants to reach this goal for funding. Government grants and the Ohio Department of Transportation have covered these expenses. The Infrastructure Investment and Job Act provides $56 million. Total grant awards given are $162 million.

Carolyn Young, manager of the Office of Management and Budget, said maintaining a state of good repair is in the contract and those areas of rail and the rail cars must be adequate and maintained.

Mike Schipper, deputy general manager for engineering and project management, said we have the oldest fleet of rail cars in the country and it requires regular maintenance to be in a "state of good repair." He said the Red Line's west end is in really good shape. He said the end of the Blue Line is a huge project.

The amount needed was approved.

Next was an update on the Real Estate Code Book.

Dawn Tarka, GCRTA associate counsel, said there was a recommendation to repeal the newspaper dispensing box policy. Everything is digital now.

Tarka also recommended approval of a policy allowing GCRTA to remove items left on its

property without its permission. This would allow GCRTA to sell or dispose of the items. An official said they had about 70 bicycles being stored that they only just obtained through legal procurement and have now given to a bike coop to be distributed to people who need a bike.

The changes were approved.

Next was a closed executive session with attorneys present, and the meeting ended following the executive session.

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