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Committee Meetings

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

Date: Jan. 7, 2025

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Summary

- The paratransit system is set to get 17 new vehicles/coaches to replace coaches that have exceeded their useful life. There are no major differences in the new coaches, but the new ones will have seven cameras versus five cameras. RTA aims to increase the overall fleet size to 100 to support the growing public need. It's currently at 80, according to Dan Kerg, manager of RTA's Fleet Planning & Engineering. After the purchase the fleet size would be 84.
- RTA aims to enhance overall paratransit demand response operations with the PASS mobile app. This mobile app will be compatible with Android and iOS and allow paratransit customers to book, track and cancel trips without using the web browser or paratransit dispatch staff. The aim is to enhance the customer experience.
- The Light Rail Shelter Project is intended to increase ridership by improving comfort, convenience and service image through new shelters, lighting, informational signage, seating, bicycle parking and landscaping.

Follow-Up Questions

- Is compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel safer for the environment or more sustainable than diesel fuel?
- Does the production of CNG fuel lower the overall operating costs compared to diesel fuel in the long run?

Notes

I attended today's Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) committee meetings in person at the RTA Main office boardroom in downtown Cleveland.

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube. The video is embedded on the [event page for this meeting](#), along with the presentations referenced below. The meeting packet is

also posted on this website:

<https://www.riderta.com/sites/default/files/events/2025-01-07CommitteePackage.pdf>.

There were a total of four committee meetings held. *[Editor's note: Members of the [RTA Board of Trustees](#) serve on these committees. Committee members are listed in the meeting packet linked above.]*

RTA ORGANIZATIONAL, SERVICES & PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

-Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

-Four of five committee members were present and a [quorum](#) was met.

There were three items presented:

- 1.) Non-competitive procurement: A presentation of a negotiated procurement for CNG operation and maintenance services for the Triskett Bus Garage. Trillium Transportation Fuels LLC (doing business as Trillium CNG) specializes in providing core fueling facility design, construction and station operations and maintenance. The resolution would authorize RTA to issue a contract to provide Triskett CNG operations and maintenance service for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$1,080,000. This company manufactures the gas and operates the fueling stations. The presenters reviewed the cost components and scope of services in their presentation. The Triskett Garage bus fleet is transitioning from diesel fuel to CNG. The contracting company Trillium provides and maintains services in more than 25 states.

After the presentation, several board members had questions that were answered by the presenters. Committee Member Emily Garr Pacetti asked what would happen in the event of a catastrophic loss of service. The buses could be rerouted and fueled at the Hayden Station, according to RTA's chief operating officer and deputy general manager, operations, Floun'say Caver.

RTA Board of Trustees Member David Weiss asked about the pricing of contracts by year, and Board Member Stephen Love asked if there would be environmental monitoring included with Trillium services. Environmental monitoring is taken care of under the vendor's contract, and Trillium is the current contractor at the Hayden Station, according to Tom Allen, RTA's energy manager.

Board and Committee Member Jeffrey Sleasman asked what would happen if there was a catastrophic loss at Hayden Station, which serves as backup for the Triskett fleet. The Hayden Station has been running since 2015 and the Triskett Garage for the past three years without any preventable service interruptions, according to Shawn Becker, RTA program contract manager. Becker added that the contractor performs preventative maintenance.

RTA CEO India Birdsong Terry spoke to the longevity and reliability of the company, noting that there is always a chance for failure of some kind but everything has been evaluated so she doubts the probability. The contractor comes recommended by RTA engineers for their responsiveness, Terry said, adding that they haven't missed a day of services to date even with [widespread power outages in 2024](#).

Caver said that each gas “farm” has backup generators that are run on diesel fuel and not CNG.

Motion to approve was made by Committee Chair and Seven Hills Mayor Anthony Biasiotta. It was seconded and voted on. The motion was passed by the committee.

- 2.) State contract: A presentation of a competitive procurement for 17 paratransit coaches from the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program. RTA plans to purchase 17 paratransit vehicles, according to the project overview in the meeting packet. RTA plans to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life. They are used to provide paratransit service. The resolution would authorize the purchase of 17 Endera Paratransit coaches from American Bus & Accessories Inc. at a price of \$150,208 each for a total contract price not to exceed \$2,553,536. Biasiotta said that he is happy for this purchase for a growing department. He made a motion to approve. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved by the committee.

- 3.) Non-competitive procurement: a presentation of a negotiated procurement from Trapeze Software Group Inc. for the PASS mobile application module. With this app, paratransit customers would be able to track vehicles, said Nick Davidson, paratransit district director. The app would improve the customer experience. There are several hundred calls asking for vehicle locations and arrival times daily, and this app will help with that, Davidson said.

There are 11 top concerns of customers and this app addresses three of these concerns, Davidson added. It also frees up dispatchers to be more efficient and eases the means of scheduling trips.

Biasiotta noted that nothing brings more peace of mind regarding safety than knowing when the paratransit will arrive. He asked how much different is navigating this app from today's? Davidson said there is not currently one but it would look and feel similar to the website scheduling. Biasiotta also asked if the app is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) friendly regarding access to the information. There are push notifications, and it will be ADA compliant, Davidson said.

Sleasman asked if customers will still have the option to call for updates. Yes, said Davidson.

Board Member Anastasia Elder asked if there will be calling capability within the app. Davidson was unsure. Biasiotti asked presenters to follow up on that. Elder also asked if push notifications would give delay alerts in the example of something like a car accident slowing traffic. Tracking is real-time and the ETA will be updated, Davidson said. Biasiotti's motion to approve was seconded, voted on and approved by the committee.

-Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

RTA OPERATIONAL PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

-Meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m.

-All committee members were present

There were nine items presented; all were approved by the committee:

- 1) Invitation for bid (IFB) procurement - a presentation of a competitive procurement to repair the West 65th Street Station stairway and platforms.

- 2) IFB procurement - a presentation of a competitive procurement to provide and install a new modular traction power substation (TPSS) at East 120th Street. The old TPSS was constructed in the 1960s. This would aim to improve ride efficiency for the Little Italy community.

[2025-01-07E120SubstationPresentation.pdf \(riderta.com\)](#)

3) Request for proposal (RFP) procurement - a presentation of a competitive negotiated procurement for on-call surveying services to augment RTA's internal engineering staff for a 24-month period.

4) RFP procurement - a presentation of a competitive negotiated procurement to replace 36 shelters along RTA's light rail stations. There were some questions and discussion for this item before it was passed.

Committee Chair and Board Member Lauren Welch said she appreciates that feedback was heard and the shelters will be weather protective. Elder asked if there would be real-time updates for only the westbound shelters. Mandy Metcalf, a senior planner for RTA's Programming & Planning, said there would be real-time updates for some key eastbound stations at key transfer points. Love asked if these shelters would replace existing shelters. Metcalf said that they are replacements and they can be moved if necessary to accommodate the [platform modifications project](#). Mike Schipper, RTA's deputy general manager for Engineering & Project Management, chimed in about the real-time updates for the eastbound stations and said that the decisions were made according to traffic and the destinations of riders. Terry told RTA staff to make sure the paneling can accommodate digital marketing in the future.

[2025-01-07LightRailShelterReplacementPresentation.pdf \(riderta.com\)](#)

5) RFP procurement - a presentation of a competitive negotiated procurement to provide electronic signage along various RTA light rail stations. Welch asked if RTA has such signs already out. Yes, Connectpoint Inc. previously completed a pilot project for RTA, installing three real-time update signs across downtown and University Circle. Welch also asked about the shelf life of the pilot program and about updates to those signs included in this new proposal. Metcalf said the pilot is four to five years old and there have been upgrades.

Sleasman asked if the signage is backlit. Metcalf said the signs can be seen at night. Welch motioned to approve. It was seconded, voted on and approved.

6) IFB procurement - a presentation of a competitive procurement for modifications of shelters along the authority's light rail system.

7) RFP procurement - a presentation of a competitive negotiated procurement

for on-call signal engineering services.

8) Proposed change order - a presentation of the proposed change order to the track bridges and platform rehabilitation over West 117th Street contract and reinstatement of the GM/CEO signing authority. It was unforeseen that lead-based paint was discovered on concealed surfaces of track bridges after concrete decks were removed. Abatement of lead-based paint was required to remove this hazard.
<https://www.riderta.com/sites/default/files/events/2025-01-07W117COPresentation.pdf>

9) Proposed change order - a presentation of the proposed change order to the Tower City East Portal Rehabilitation contract and reinstatement of the GM/CEO signing authority.

-Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

AUDIT, SAFETY COMPLIANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE MEETING

-Meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m.

-All committee members were present

There was one item on this agenda:

Sale of property: a presentation on the sale of excess land to Flaherty & Collins Properties for the transit-oriented development project known as the "[Depot on Detroit.](#)" Mayor of Shaker Heights David Weiss, who is a committee and board member, commended RTA for moving this project forward. Motion was approved.

-Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

-Meeting was called to order at 10:52 a.m.

-Six members were present and a quorum was met.

CAC operating guidelines: proposed revisions to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) operating guidelines can be found here -
[2025-01-07CACGuidelinesPresentation.pdf \(riderta.com\)](https://www.riderta.com/sites/default/files/events/2025-01-07CACGuidelinesPresentation.pdf)

The committee moved it forward to the full board for future consideration.

Executive session: 10:57 a.m. - 11:38 a.m.

-Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The full meeting recording can be found on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/KTrIkXmGPRI?si=Ppm1yo18ZYLUVrrZ>

Find the board meeting archive here: [Board Archive | RideRTA](#)

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