

# SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### APPROVED MINUTES – September 28, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM. The meeting was held at 535 Griswold, Suite 600, Detroit, MI 48226 and via a digital public video conference.

#### ATTENDANCE

<b>SMART Board of Directors:</b>	Chairperson	Mr. Khalil Rahal
	Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Vicki Wolber
		Ms. Hilarie Chambers
		Mr. Abdul Haidous
		Mr. Bret Rasegan
		Mr. John Paul Rea
<b>Absent Board Members:</b>		Mr. Royce Maniko
<b>SMART Interim Board Secretary:</b>		Mr. Dustin Hagfors
<b>SMART General Manager:</b>		Mr. Dwight Ferrell
<b>SMART Staff Present:</b>		Ms. Truvae Adams
		Ms. Melinda Arndt
		Ms. Beverly Anderson
		Mr. Fred Barbret
		Mr. Darren Beach
		Mr. Ryan Byrne
		Ms. Sabrina Clay
		Mr. Robert Cramer
		Mr. Melvin Evans
		Ms. Beth Gibbons
		Mr. Avery Gordon
		Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz
		Mr. Ian Holme
		Ms. Lynette Hurt
	Ms. Carol Jones	
	Ms. Vicki Jordan-Strugs	
	Ms. Anika Parker	
	Mr. Michael Patten	
	Ms. Nichole Peters	

Mr. Konner Petz  
Mr. Sean Riopelle  
Ms. Lacey Shepard  
Ms. Leeya Sutter  
Mr. Darrell Taylor  
Mr. Andy Thorner  
Ms. Madonna Van Fossen  
Mr. Tony Vinson  
Mr. Mark Watson  
Ms. Patty Wailing  
Mr. D'Andrae Whitley

**Public Registered:**

Passenger  
Passenger  
Passenger  
Passenger

Ms. Patty Fedewa  
Ms. Laila Malik  
Mr. Robert Pawlowski  
Mr. Thomas Yazback  
Motor City Freedom Riders

**1. Call to Order**

A) Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal, Vice-Chairperson Ms. Vicki Wolber, Ms. Hilarie Chambers, Mr. Abdul Haidous, Mr. Bret Rasegan, and Mr. John Paul Rea

**Absent:** Mr. Royce Maniko

**A quorum was present.**

**3. Public Notice and Rules of Order**

The Secretary read the Public Notice and Rules of Order into the record.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, to approve the Agenda for the September 28, 2021 Board meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

None

**VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Minutes**

**A. Board Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2021**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, to approve the Board meeting minutes for August 26, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Public Participation**

Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal declared the meeting open for Public Participation.

- **Ms. Patty Fedewa** - Passenger

**DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Fedewa requested that SMART return to the full service that was provided pre-COVID. She understands there is a driver shortage and suggested SMART provide bonuses or higher wages to attract more drivers.

- **Mr. Robert Pawlowski** - Passenger

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Pawlowski applauded the SMART Flex service and suggested some further expansion into opt-out communities such as Grosse Isle and Woodhaven as a way to attract them to opt-in to the SMART millage.

- **Mr. Thomas Yazback** – Passenger

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Yazback has some concerns with the trip coverage within the SMART Flex in Pontiac and he would like to see the new Route 430 have longer span of service in the evenings.

## 7. Chairperson's Report

### **DISCUSSION:**

Chairperson Mr. Khalil Rahal wanted to provide a recap on the Mackinac Policy Conference where he saw the new General Manager, Mr. Dwight Ferrell, talking to a lot of people about transit as well as transit being the topic of conversation during many of the presentations that occurred at that event.

## 8. Staff Reports

### **A. General Manager Introduction**

Mr. Dwight Ferrell, General Manager, thanked SMART Board Members and staff for the welcome he has received since starting at SMART. He is excited to see transit grow and thrive in Metro Detroit and lead SMART into the future. He also wanted to applaud Mr. Robert Cramer, Deputy General Manager, for his hard work and gracious introduction into the workings of SMART. Accolades were given to SMART staff for their perseverance during COVID and adjusting to working from home while still getting the job done.

### **B. Deputy General Manager Report**

Mr. Robert Cramer, Deputy General Manager, reported on the following:

- General Updates
- SMART Flex Updates
- Project Updates
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> Job Fair

Ms. Hilarie Chambers requested an update on ridership for the Flex service. Mr. Cramer did not have recent numbers, but did inform the Board that the ridership has been increasing each month since the service was implemented. Ms. Chambers also requested an update on Fixed Route ridership and Mr. Cramer confirmed that SMART has returned to about 75 percent of ridership that was present pre-COVID. Mr. Ferrell also informed the Board that staff is looking at their hiring practices and ways to fill the employment gaps facing the Authority. Ms. Chambers also had some concerns about the marketing strategy with the SMART Flex service and would like to see some better focused marketing in the future. Mr. Khalil Rahal further suggested that social media could be used more to promote the service.

Mr. Abdul Haidous inquired about the overtime situation for the Authority due to the low staffing. Mr. Ryan Byrne, Director of Finance, stated the Authority was in a good place financially with overtime. A follow up discussion about driver shortages and the use of overtime took place.

## **9. New Business**

### **A. Resolution: Authorization for Purchase Order Change Action (POCA #2) for Additional Support Service for the EAM Optimization Project**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wolber, that the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation is hereby authorized to approve a purchase order change action (POCA) for additional support for after the project completion in the amount of a \$26,500.00 to Trapeze Software Group.

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **B. Resolution: Approval of Audit Committee Appointments**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea, seconded by Mr. Abdul Haidous, that the Board of Directors of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) hereby approves the appointments to the Audit Committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

The SMART Board selected Mr. Bret Rasegan, Oakland County, Mr. Khalil Rahal, Wayne County, and Mr. John Paul Rea, Macomb County, for the Audit Committee.

**VOTE: THE MOTION CARRIED.**

## **10. Board Member Business**

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. John Paul Rea provided an update on the Nominating Committee meeting where they nominated Ms. Vicki Wolber, Macomb County, as Chairperson and Ms. Hilarie Chambers, Oakland County, as Vice-Chairperson. These nominations are to be voted on at the next Board Meeting in October.

Ms. Hilarie Chambers wanted to discuss the equity adjustment for Mr. Robert Cramer, Deputy General Manager, for the time that he served as General Manager prior to the hiring of a new General Manager. It was proposed that a resolution be made to support compensating Mr. Cramer through installment payments. Ms. Vicki Wolber questioned why they wouldn't pay a lumpsum as the equity adjustment pertained to work already completed. After some discussion, Mr. Khalil Rahal requested that the conversation be tabled for a future meeting so that some further exploration and analysis can be done on the equity process.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion made by Ms. Vicki Wolber, seconded by Mr. John Paul Rea, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Hagfors  
Interim Secretary to the Board of Directors