

**TWIN CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Special Board Meeting**

December 16, 2025

I. Welcome and Opening:

1. Call to Order: The meeting of the Twin City Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors was held at the Benton Harbor City Hall Building, 200 E. Wall Street, Room: Commission Chambers, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

2. Roll Call of Persons Present:

Ron Singleton, Trustee Chair
Virgil Hatcher, Trustee

Dayrl Jackson, Trustee
Cora Robinson, Trustee Board Secretary

Persons Absent: Trustee Nesbitt.

Roll call: Trustee Singleton, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Robinson. A quorum was established, and Board Trustee Chair Singleton called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

3. Approval of Agenda: Trustee Robinson made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Trustee Hatcher. Roll Call: Trustee Jackson, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Singleton, Trustee Robinson. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

4. Approval of November Minutes: Hearing no questions or objections to November Minutes: Roll Call: Trustee Jackson, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Singleton, Trustee Robinson. The Board unanimously approved the November minutes.

II. Financial Updates: Executive Director Shurn advised that due to rescheduling TCATA Board Meeting from its regular date of December 23rd to today's date, Ryan, from Hungerford, was not able to attend. Advised that a financial report will be sent out by email next week.

III. Director Updates: Presented by Executive Director Shurn and Deputy Director Greschak.

5. November Ridership: Report prepared but paperwork need to be drafted. Behind on paperwork. Do not have fares, they come from accounting.

6. November Fuel Report: Paperwork also behind. Nicholas Fort advised paperwork corrections are being made. Director Greschak advised she can have the updated report made available by January meeting or as soon as corrections are made.

7. BHHS Blue Route Flex Stop: Executive Director Shurn advised that Dr. Griffin, school principal, is onboard with the idea but have not had opportunity to make final call due to more urgent school business. To possibly have resolved in next week or so.

8. MDOT – Alex Simonetti: Introduced as new MDOT representative, replacing Fred Featherly. Him and his family relocated in the area.

IV. Old Business:

- 9. Automatic Garage Doors:** - Still in process. Expecting it to be completed by next board meeting.

Motion made by Trustee Robinson to approve the Director Updates as submitted, seconded by Trustee Hatcher. Roll call: Trustee Jackson, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Singleton, Trustee Robinson. The Board unanimously approves the Director Updates.

- 10. Berrien County Transit Consolidation:** Not addressed.

V. New Business:

- 11. 2026 TCATA Board Member Introduction:** Executive Director Shurn introduces Alex Little as new TCATA board member. Mr. Little expressed will try to fill in the shoes he's following and do his best to help continue the organization into the future.

- 12. Turnkey Mobile Services Contract:** Presented by Mark Epps. Recently completed procurement process for Turnkey Transit Management Services. Yearlong endeavor. Began in February with the RFP. Received seven responses in October. Selection process began. Procurement conducted in full compliance with Federal Transit Administration Procurement Policy Procedures. After thorough evaluations, the committee determined that VIA Transportation Services was the highest ranked proposer and it's TCATA's intent to enter into contract with VIA Transportation Services.

Comments by Trustee Singleton, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Robinson.

Motion to accept contract with VIA Transportation Services made by Trustee Hatcher, seconded by Trustee Jackson. Roll call: Trustee Jackson, Trustee Singleton, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Robinson. The Board unanimously accepts contract with VIA Transportation Services.

VI. Chair's Report: None.

- VII. Public Comments:** Mr. Sarish Kasat, Director, Territorial Lead of VIA Transportation Services. Thanking the Board for having trust and faith in their organization to run the services to the community. Important. Goals are meeting people where they are and making sure no rider is left behind. VIA works with nearly 20 transit agencies across the state of Michigan. Focused on modernizing and strengthening transit networks. Excited about the partnership with TCATA. Looking forward to community input.

Mayor Muhammad. Reads prepared statement. Commends the Board on their leadership. He dispels rumors concerning TCATA being taken over, or losing connection with the community due to different management coming in. VIA was vetted to form a partnership; will not lose community transportation system. There are mandates, though, from the FTA, MDOT, State of Michigan stating TCATA can no longer function as it has in the past; this is a transformation.

Ms. Yolonda Taylor. Concerns with appointment of Mr. Little by Board last night to Dial-A-Ride due to past event of being fired from this position. Don't understand why the Mayor and Commissioners

have so much trust in him. She does not share. Believes if Mr. Little is involved, the Board is tainted. Someone needs to look into this.

Mr. Oliver Lindsey. Share and agree and say that this has been a long time coming. Four years ago, he was in that seat. Still doing finance compliance work for FTA. Talked about mobility services. Did research selections well. He didn't believe they would get VIA because they're the best. Dr. Shurn worked in negotiations and got a good, fixed price. Hoping to see increase in riders to receive more money from FTA to provide more transportation to the community. Impressed with the process. With Dr. Shurn leaving at the end of the year, TCATA will definitely need a new Executive Director. There will be a restructuring with new management. Mr. Lindsey will be leaving April 1st when VIA comes in. Will need new liaison.

Ms. Appolonia Williams. She previously had a 3-year tenure as a board member, worked with Mr. Oliver. There were rumors about why board members were fired. Focus was being in compliance with FTA. Worked hard on making corrections. When she left, they were in compliance. Problems came when faced with challenges of her integrity because she was not a puppet to what was going on. Have concerns with Mr. Little's appointment on the Board. This needs to be looked into. From her understanding, if a person is fired for embezzlement, not sure why it would be a good idea to rehire that person. Don't understand why commissioners now want to be involved with TCATA Board when in the past they said they do not get involved with the Board. Asking for transparency going forward.

Mr. Alex Little. Commending Board in taking the steps they've taken. Look at the bigger picture. The city is moving forward. Will be hosting the highest highspeed internet in the nation; addressing infrastructure issues; probably cleanest water in United States due lines being replaced; streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks being repaired; housing developments, (push for single family duplexes, quads). Reliable transit is essential. When he was on the Board in 2017, it had 32 violations to be corrected from FTA. When he left, all violations had been corrected. The reason management was sought was due to unreasonable insurance costs and TCATA could not continue this way. This issue had to be resolved. VIA will be good for the system, the city, and eventually the entire region, he believes. Commends the Board.

Ms. Loralie Adams. A driver. Question for Mr. Little and the mayor. Excited about company moving forward. Concerns with improvement of the streets. Icy streets causes facility to be closed; causes hazards and time delays in picking up riders. Go across the bridge and the streets are wet and clean, no icy roads. Trees on the sidewalks. If money is coming in for the upkeep and the city is steady declining, something is happening. Taking this as a promise to do better with the upkeep of the city so that they can keep moving. If the city is going to grow, it needs to grow full circle.

Mr. Little. That is a fair and reasonable concern. We are doing better than what was done in the past. Seeing more streets reconstructed and rebuilt... all over the city. Regarding ice and snow, they can't control the weather. Benton Harbor does not have the same level of resources that neighboring communities do. Why? One, we don't have the tax base. (Audience blurting out questions and comments)

Ms. Greschak. Excited about partnership with VIA. Will come with many benefits for the community: Better access to transportation. Will continue to serve passengers as they've always been served. Will still be able to make phone calls to TCATA. Will still be able to pay in cash. Partnership transition. Concerns regarding fare increases, transportation shifts. Agreement include the Board will be in charge of any fare increases, approve expansions, and service changes.

Although VIA is not local, it is committed to serve the Benton Harbor community. Acknowledges current TCATA staff members, drivers, dispatchers, maintenance, everybody, for a job well done during this transition.

Further comments of appreciation regarding Dr. Shurn by Trustee Robinson, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Hatcher, with final and farewell comments by Trustee Singleton.

VIII. Adjournment: With no further action taken and no further business, Trustee Chair Singleton entertains Motion to adjourn. Trustee Hatcher made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Jackson. Roll call: Trustee Singleton, Trustee Hatcher, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Robinson. And the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Attested:

Trustee Ron Singleton
Chair

Trustee Cora Robinson
Board Secretary